How to make scrap glass feathers

By Annie Dotzauer

Materials:

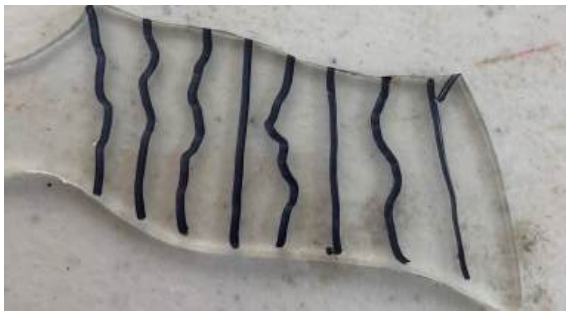
White glass	Clear scrap glass (does not matter if it is 3mm or 2mm or even 6 mm, irid, or other.
Powder frit various colors	Vitrograph

Begin by getting a piece of vitro graph and lay it down on to a white piece of glass. draw out a feather shape beside the vitrograph shape

. My feathers ranged from 6 to 10 inches. This particular feather is about 8 inches.

Next start to get some scrap clear pieces of glass.

When cutting the individual pieces of clear scrap, make one wavy line and one straight light, or use a mosaic nippers to cut the feather parts of the clear glass.



Note: I drew an example of how I used a scrap piece of glass. Of course you do not have to draw your lines in marker, but I did for instructional purposes. The glass should be about the width of one half of the feather. Note it will start by being small at the bottom, gradually get wider, then smaller again.

When glueing them down, start on one side of the vein than the other. Do not worry about the black lines made with a Sharpie pen. They will burn off clean in the kiln.

It does not matter if the length is not exact. As a matter of fact it look more natural if some

the pieces go off the edge of the feather and some stay with in the the width of the feather.

Now, I am ready to start to put on the scrap glass. I cleaned off the outer edges of the glass, but left the

middle line to serve as a a guide when placing the scrap

pieces on to the white glass. I spend a generous amount of glue on to the right half of the feather. Then I begin to place the scrap glass ON EDGE. I am careful to place them in slanted direction. You will notice that I do not start at the bottom of the feather. I like to start below the middle area and then fill in to the top and the bottom of the feather. Below you will notice my progression of placing the scrap glass on to the white glass. Note: I did not clean the black marker area down the middle of the feather since it burns off.

Now is the the time to think of the colors you might want to use for your feathers. To the right illustrates several color choices. However, there are many more more choices.

I am going to explain how I added color to the brown, white and black feather. I started with a generous amount of white on to the feather, hoping for some light and dark areas within the feather. Then I added a light brown or chocolate brown. I added a small amount on the top part of the feather. I am reserving the top for the dark brown.

Then I went down the spine of the feather with the dark brown. I then added a small amount of black to the brown. I sifted a small amount of the brown and black mixture along the edges at the top of the feather as well as at the top of the feather. .

Lastly, added a piece of vitrograph to the top of the feather. In retrospect, I would have chosen the vitrograph piece prior to drawing the feather. I would have then drawn the feather using the vitrograph as my guide. It is often hard to match a piece of vitrograph to the drawn curve. There would have also been an option of heading the vitrograph and bending it to the desired shape.

CONTOUR FIRE. The picture to the left shows the feathers after firing. There is a lot of wiggle room in the placement of the glass, shape of the feather and the colors used. I hope that you have fun with this.

Firing schedule

Contour	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
Rate	250	75	9999	9999	75	300
Temp	1050	1225	1375	950	725	100
Hold	15	30	20	90	0	0

Here is a progression of the process. Note: the last two feathers I tried using opal glass and on another I used transparent glass.

Ideas