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Laurie Spray **Spiral Cane Flow Tutorial**

What you will need:
stainless steel ring or other containment
1/8" fiber to line
Spiral cane
Clear glass

I find this a quick and easy project that I am happy to share with all of you! Please do not share on line!! :)

First I put thinfire on a shelf and the stainless steel ring that is lined with 1" x 1/8" fiber.

You can use just a freshly kiln washed shelf but you may have to deal with stuck kiln wash which to me is a pain!!

When you cut the 1" fiber roll try to cut it 1/2" longer than you may need. Next place it in the ring and carefully cut it so that the 2 ends

will meet firmly together. Now take a small scrap of thinfire and place it behind that seam. By doing this, if the fiber shrinks a bit the melting glass will not be touching the stainless steel ring.

I find that I can use this fiber for up to 10 firings if I carefully remove the fired glass and leave the fiber in the ring for the next firing.

Always put fresh scrap of thinfire behind that joint.

In my Spiral Flows I am using double thick clear just because I have lots of it. You can use any thickness clear you have.

I am using a 12 1/2" Stainless Steel Ring for this project. I am finding that the original piece comes out nice and thick with no worries about the center being open at the end of the firing.

In each of my stacks I have 4 double thick clear which is 36 pieces (9 stacks). If you are using 3 mm cut 72 pieces of clear.

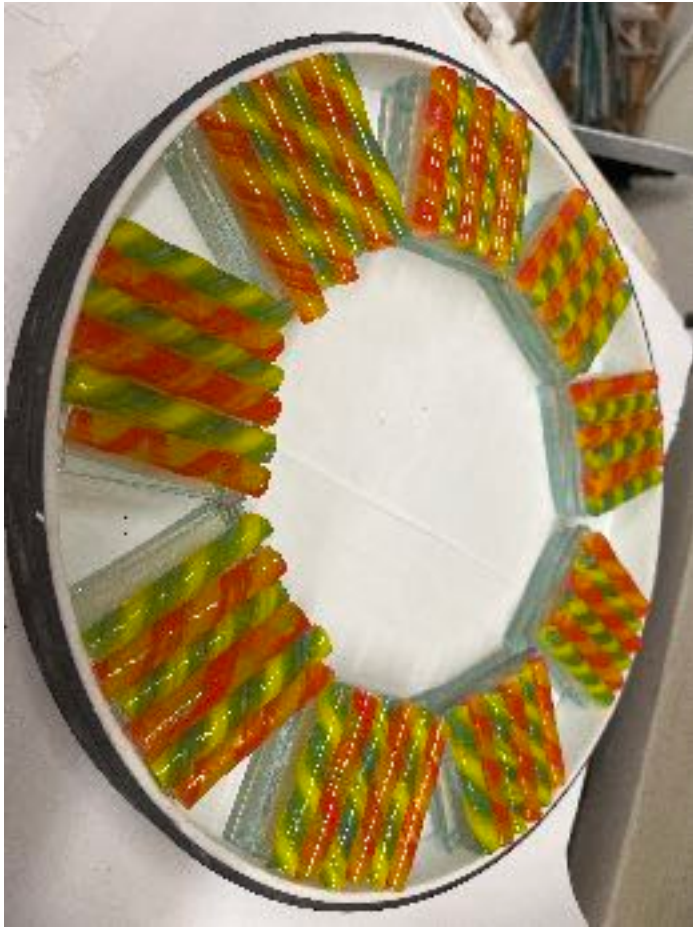
These pieces are 2 1/2" by 2 1/4".

As you build your piece put the 2 1/2" length against the fiber.

Next you will be cutting your cane. I cut them around 2 1/4 to 2 1/2". I then flatten an edge on the 2 outside canes with my grinder (wash well) and place 6 cane on each pile of clear. The 2 flattened pieces on the outside of the pile will keep any from rolling off.

As you can see in this picture I used 2 pieces of scrap thinfire (you can see the line). It will leave a mark on the bottom but it does not matter as we will be refiring a second time.

I fire these fast. In deciding your schedule you need to consider what shelf you are using. I find by using an old 1/2" fiber board right on the brick I have no worries about a shelf. If you are using a clay shelf, consider firing your kiln slower if you are concerned about cracking the shelf. If so.....just change the first rate number from 600 to 350. It does not hurt to slow down but with electricity what it is I know I can fire these fast on a fiber shelf.



My schedule is 600/1520/90
minutes hold
9999/950/3 hrs (900 for Coe 90)
100/700 off
(If your kiln cools very fast take
that last ramp to 600 and then
off.)

The first time you do one of these, because all kilns are different, I would try to be around after the 90 minute hold and take a peek. The glass should be glowing and flat all the way to the center. If it is not then hold another 30 min. In my even heat with a 15" shelf 90 minutes is perfect.

Here is the fired piece after it cooled to 100 degrees. Never peek between 1100 and 200.....and if you really need to peek at 200 make it fast!!

As you can see in this picture there are spikes of glass on the fiber. I always cold work on my large lap grinder so this does not bother me. You can spray your 1/8" fiber with Zyp before firing if you hate spikes as it helps to reduce or eliminate them. After cutting your 1/8" to fit your ring, take it outside and spray it from the top to the bottom holding one end. Put it back in your ring wet. No need to dry. I avoid using Zyp by any means possible as it is so overpriced, but to some it is a necessary convenience.



Next you need to carefully clean up the edge thoroughly. No fiber remnants. Watch your hands on those sharp edges!!

At this point I carefully inspect the top of my piece. If there are any bubbles that are right at the surface I drill them with a dremel and wash carefully.

Place your washed and dried disk onto a new thinfire sheet or fresh kiln washed shelf. This time it is important to use only a solid sheet of thinfire so there is no line on the back. Since this will be a slow firing use the smoothest shelf you have with no worries.

Now we will flow the glass out and finish off the edge in 1 firing. If you have drilled out any bubbles just put little clear chip on them. If you have any devit issues with your firings in general I would sift some clear powder on this firing also.

The 12 1/2" disk is now around 12" after taking it out of the ring and fiber. This disk will flow out to around 14". Make sure you have room. I do this on a 15" shelf. If you want to flow it out on another round of colored glass such as white cut that sheet round 14"

Schedule is slow as this is a thick piece.....

100/800/0

350/1520/90 (you can go 2 hrs if you have space and want it even thinner)

9999/950/3 hrs (900 for coe 90)

100/600 off

Here is a picture of the flowed piece.



Here it is with the original 12 1/2" ring sitting on top so you can visually see how much it flowed.

I hope you all have
fun experimenting
with cane flows!!
Laurie Spray

