

How To... Use Vitrigraph Stringer



Top tips for using vitrigraph stringer, from glass artist Becky Wills.

1. Sort your stringer

When your jar of vitrigraph stringer arrives, it is a good idea to tip them carefully out into a tray and sort them. Your jar will contain several very different styles.

2. Using larger pieces

The larger thicker pieces (some may be 12-15mm thick) can be full- or tack-fused onto base glass. I don't recommend tack fusing these thicker pieces onto a **single** base layer of 3mm glass as it may crack the 3mm glass, even when using a very conservative schedule. Bear in mind these are adding a lot of extra thickness to your piece, so ramp up more slowly in Segment 1. An initial ramp of 80C – 150C dph (degrees per hour) would be good for thicker pieces, depending on your kiln size. A smaller kiln (Firebox or Hobbyfuser) will require a slower ramp as the glass is closer to the elements. When tack-fusing different thicknesses use the annealing schedule for twice the thickest section, found on our Basic Programmes sheet (available in the Knowledge Base on our website).

3. Using long curved pieces

The bendy pieces that look like cooked spaghetti can be used directly on a piece, or if you prefer to have an idea how they will flatten out, you can pre-flatten by laying them out onto a kiln shelf and slumping them flat. The initial ramp schedule (depending on your kiln) may be 150C up to 660C with a 10 minute hold. Thicker ones will slump flat before thinner ones so do a visual check to see that they have all got to where you want them to be. Anneal them for around 30 minutes at 482C.

4. Using small curved pieces

Small curved pieces of 1mm-2mm stringer pieces can be flame worked (a candle flame will be hot enough) to create a bead on the end that will resemble grass or flower stamens. We have a tipsheet on candle bent stringers in the How To... Kilnforming Guides section of the Knowledge Base on our website (under Accessory Glass).

5. Using murrine-style pieces (short cross sections of glass)

You will also find some short murrine-style chips in your jar. These can be used as they are as decorative additions to your work, or full fuse them into frit-balls to make stud earring cabochons. We have a tipsheet on making frit balls in the How To... Kilnforming Guides section of the Knowledge Base on our website (under Accessory Glass).

6. Using spirals

The spirals – when fused flat make wonderful glass 'scribbles'. Or you can cut them with small wire nippers and they fuse flat into perfect rings which make great designs interlinked or overlaid.



Looking for tips and advice? Visit the Knowledge Base on our website for a wealth of information.
www.warm-glass.co.uk