

How To... Cut a Billet



Billets are ideal for use in glass casting as the glass remains transparent after firing, unlike frit or powder. Cutting a billet can seem daunting but just follow these simple instructions for success.

You will need:

- *Billet*
- *Goggles*
- *Gloves*
- *Fine Marker Pen (e.g. Sharpie)*
- *Ruler*
- *Glass Cutter*
- *Hammer (e.g. a 20oz claw hammer)*

1. Always wear goggles when breaking billet.
2. Using the marker pen and ruler, mark where you want to cut the billet. If you want to cut it into pieces smaller than half the billet, it is best to cut it in half, then half again etc. to ensure a clean break each time.
3. Using the glass cutter, score *once only* firmly down the line you have drawn.
4. Turn the billet over so the score line is underneath. Hold the billet in one gloved hand.
5. Tap the billet with the side of the head of the hammer over the score mark.
6. The billet should break cleanly in two. If it does not break, tap again more firmly, but do not rescore the billet.

Tip: Break the glass immediately after scoring. Otherwise the score line may heal over slightly making the break more difficult or less clean.