

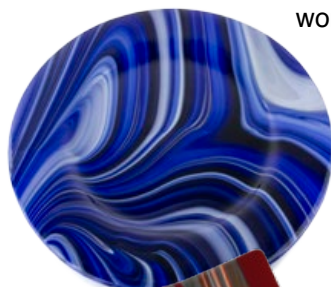
System 96®

FUSERS' RESERVE™

Design Tips

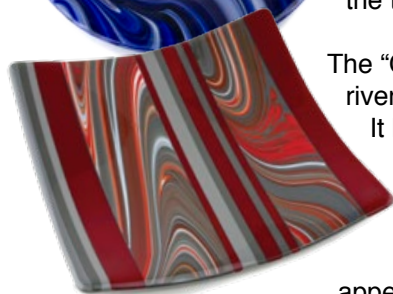


This popular line of limited edition System 96 glass opens up a myriad of possibilities to fusers of all skill levels — each sheet bringing something unique to the design table. Following are a few ‘tips and tricks’ for working with the various stirs and looks the line can deliver.



Bold Stir and Dense Color

Many Fusers' Reserve products have a strong, swirling pattern that we refer to as our “OpalArt™ Stir.” It's a bold look — use it boldly. Let it be the entire piece, or accent it lightly, but allow the motion of the Fusers' Reserve take center stage, as in the two examples at left.



The “OpalArt Stir” is very dynamic and when paired with dense rivers of strong colors, it makes a strikingly beautiful statement. It helps to be very conscious of what's going on with your design when you're using such a bold glass. The Southwest Fusers' Reserve to the right is set off by large areas of solid Peacock and perfectly accented with a small amount of Persimmon. Accenting with colors that appear in the Fusers' Reserve sheet itself is always a safe bet.

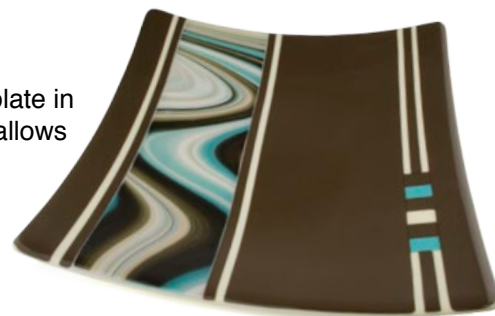


Complementing Colors

Choosing colors to use with a Fusers' Reserve is a big part of the fun in working with the line but sometimes it can be a difficult to choose just what will bring out the very best in the glass. We try to study the glass and let it “talk to us” as much as possible. In the example at left, the rich color in the swirls reminded us of sweet caramel, so pairing it with buttery Vanilla Cream was the perfect recipe.

Balanced Designs

Try to keep elements from competing within a design. The large areas of Chocolate in this example create a quieter canvas that makes the Fusers' Reserve pop and allows the playful Ivory and Turquoise accents to echo the colors of the swirls without vying for dominance in the design.



Wispy Stir

These are definitely more subtle glasses which shine in work where a directional variegation is called for. The lighter leaves in the piece at left were made with a Wispy green mix and carefully cut to capture the visual “grain” of leaves in nature. Wispy glasses can also provide quiet variation in a design using similar colors.

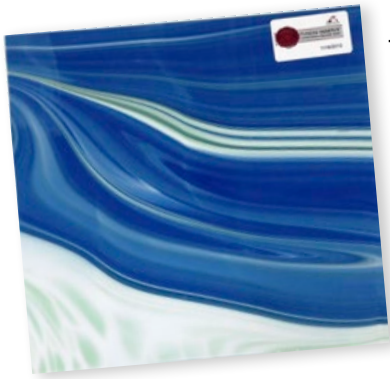


Variety Pack Opportunities

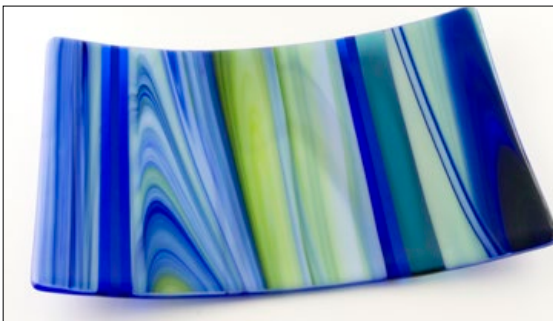
In a full sheet (24" x 48"), you'll see the complete scope of swirls, arcs, and dynamic detail a Fusers' Reserve glass has to offer. When that sheet is cut into eight 12x12-inch sheets for the Variety Packs, only a section of the "whole story" is visible and that can mean unexpected treasures and opportunities. Take a look below.



We came across the sheet shown at left in a Variety Pack – and absolutely loved the unique look of it. We trimmed it a bit to crop in on the coolest part and just let the natural art be the star of the design, accenting it quietly with Dark Opal Green on the very edges.



The sheet at left had some wide variances in it — some of it striped and darker, some spotted and light. We found that these differences could be used as coordinating pieces of 'fabric' in a patchwork quilt design. We fused it flat, added "stitching" with glass paints, and refired to create the quilted look at right.



Less Can Be More

Sometimes you can get a section of glass with an OpalArt stir that is more linear than swirled. We found such a sheet and thought it was so lovely — very "painterly" — that we accented it only minimally and let the artistic lines speak for themselves.

Linear areas of Fusers' Reserve sheets can also be used much like you would use our STRIPES™ glasses to add interest to any design, or take advantage of the "grain" to add direction and flow as seen in the playful Sundae Dishes at right.

