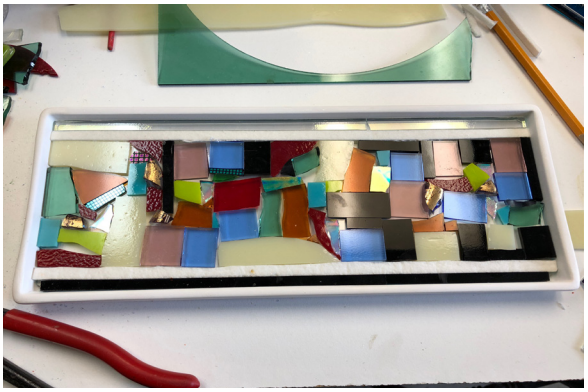
THICK CHANNEL PENDANTS

A wide variety of fired earthenware dam molds are available from Creative Paradise ranging from 4" square to 12" square. The mold used in this tutorial is GM178 Patty Gray Dam which has the interior dimensions of 5" x 12.5".

Materials:Creative Paradise, Inc. mold GM178. Compatible Glass of various colors of your choice. The colors used in the pendants shown are listed in the tutorial below. A suitable glass separator. Tile Saw, Mosaic Nippers. Fired Gold (optional).

Spray the dam mold with Zyp BN spray or MO-RE BN spray (watch for the US flag on the label to indicate the latest batch of MO-RE spray).

Place a 4.75" x 12.25" piece of kiln shelf paper in the bottom of the mold.
Place a 5" x 12.5" piece of Clear sheet glass in the bottom of the mold on top of the kiln shelf paper.
Cut two 1/4" x 12.5" strips of 1/8" thick fiber paper.
Place these strips of fiber paper along the length of the molds allowing 3/8" - 1/2" between the mold wall and the fiber strip.
Place 3/8"- 1/2" wide strips of glass between the fiber paper and the mold wall.



Select various colors and shapes to scatter along and fill the clear piece of glass between the fiber strips. Pale Purple, Pale Blue, Medium Amber, Sea Green, Black Opal, Vanilla Cream Opal, Red Opal, Lemon Grass Opal, Turquoise Blue Opal and several pieces of Dichroic can be seen in Image 2, filling the base layer between the fiber paper strips. Also seen in the image are several pieces of glass that have been fired with liquid fired gold. A mosaic nipper was used on a previously fired project that didn't meet the artists standards. The fired gold rim was removed and used in the project to great effect.

Fill gaps in this layer with Clear or shaded frit.

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Create the next layer of glass using the same shades of glass or add complimentary colors. Interesting effects can be created by adding streaky glass and glass with streamers. Clear pieces of glass also can add a rich dimension. The addition of a "sprinkle" of medium grain frit will also add interest. Be sure to cover the entire fiber paper strip with glass. The fiber paper can cause the glass to roll back if glass running across it isn't making solid contact with additional glass.

Place the dam mold on 1/2" posts on a level kiln shelf fire the project using the full fuse schedule found in table 1.

Table 1			
Seg-ment	Rate	Temp	Hold
1	300	1150	60
2	50	1300	30
3	350	1470	10
4	9999	950	90

After the glass is cooled, remove the fused glass from the mold.

Take a moment to isolate specific areas of the glass that will make interesting pendants. Use an appropriate tile saw or ring saw and begin to cut up sections of the glass. The fiber paper channels will be revealed with a cut along the short ends of the glass. It would be possible to have 3 strips of fiber paper in this mold to make shorter channel pendants. Experiment with various widths and lengths of glass slices and find interesting designs to capture in one slice.

Table 2			
Seg-ment	Rate	Temp	Hold
1	300	1000	30
2	9999	1300	30
3	9999	950	60

Place the sliced pieces in a small vessel filled with water to prevent the ground glass on the cut edge of the glass from drying. If the saw created a rough edge it is a good idea to smooth the edges with a diamond hand pad. Once you have cut your glass pieces, use water and a scrub brush and/or microfiber towel to scrub the ground glass residue from the cut edges of the glass.

Allow the pieces to dry making sure that the fiber paper is dry by visual inspection. Place the pendants with the fiber paper included on kiln shelf paper and fire polish the edges using the firing schedule found in Table 2.

Use a toothpick and water to remove the fiber paper and enjoy!

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