

Cool Tips

from Janis Miltenberger
By Laurie Nessel

Many new flameworkers succumb to the allure of the multitude of flameworking tools available today. Mostly, a simple butterknife suffices. But sometimes only a specialized tool will accomplish the task and that is where pattern tools from L & K Tooling come in handy. You can apply different textures to hot glass using a variety of L & K tools including rollers, flat and contoured pads, hot glass shears, hot glass squeeze and cutters and solid brass molds in heart, rock pile, sea shell and turtle shapes, all welded to quality, insulated pliers. Check out their tools at L & K Tooling, 350 Park Street, Waynesboro, PA 17268 Phone/Fax (717) 762-1366 <http://home.comcast.net/~lktooling/> (prepare for slow browsing).

Texture plates, \$41.60 (right) apply texture to both sides of hot glass. Designs are machine-milled into solid brass pads 1/8" x 1 1/4" x 1 1/2" to a depth that will produce a distinct pattern. Textures mesh peak to peak. Pads are silver brazed onto insulated long nose pliers. Both convex and flat file texture pads are available. Use to make fish fins, bird tails, leaves or whatever you can think of.



Lightly roll texture rollers over hot glass to create patterns such as tree bark, fur, cactus pads or parallel lines. The steel Deer and Bear Hair texture roller, \$12.80 (left) is precision ground to produce a clean, sharp pattern. It is mounted onto a 1/4" x 6" brass rod. The cactus leaf texture roller, \$25.65 (right) is made from star dresser wheels, stagger braided in place, and fitted to a striker frame. Rollers are hardened for strength and durability. The handle is flat steel to maintain alignment while rolling.



Beginning boro workers: resist the allure of color and start by working clear only. This allows you to readily assess the structural integrity of your pieces, inspect your seals and analyze defects. It confirms that cracking is due to technique and not incompatibility.

janismiltenberger@yahoo.com