



Firing Guide

A basic guide to kiln-firing System 96® products

The charts shown here are guidelines for kilnforming projects up to 3/8" thick. Check system96.com for information on firing thicker projects. These are not strict rules, of course, times and temperatures may vary with equipment.

For faster firing: you may wish to accelerate or simplify firing for small or less consequential projects. If so, in the Fusing Chart, eliminate segments 2 and 6. In the Slumping Chart, eliminate segments 1 and 6.

FUSING CHART (Project thickness up to 3/8")

Segment	Rate	Target Temp	Hold/Soak
	(°F per hour)	°F	Minutes
1. Heating I Moderate ramp up then hold to allow soft glass to settle. Soak even longer to reduce bubbles.	300	1150	30
2. Heating II Slow ramp to squeeze out trapped air.	200	1370	20
3. Heat to Forming Stage Heat glass to forming temperature. Consult Forming Chart.	400	See Forming Chart	Desired effect
4. Anneal I Fast ramp down then hold to thoroughly equalize temperatures.	9999	950	60
5. Anneal II Slow cool through sensitive zone, then hold to equalize.	150	800	10
6. Cool Down Moderate ramp down to minimize thermal shock.	300	100	0

SLUMPING CHART (Project thickness up to 3/8")

Segment	Rate	Target Temp	Hold/Soak
	(°F per hour)	°F	Minutes
1. Heating I Slow ramp up to 300° then hold to equalize temperature of everything in kiln (minimizes thermal shock).	150	300	15
2. Heating II Moderate ramp to 1100 and hold.	300	1100	20
3. Heat to Slumping Stage Heat glass to forming temperature. Consult Forming Chart	150	See Forming Chart	Desired effect
4. Anneal I Moderate ramp down then hold to thoroughly equalize temperatures.	400	950	60
5. Anneal II Slow cool through sensitive zone, then hold to equalize.	150	800	10
6. Cool Down Moderate ramp down to minimize thermal shock.	300	100	0

NOTE: For the **Metric** version of this information, please visit System96.com.

FORMING CHART

Forming Stage	Definition	Forming Temp
Slump	Glass softens and slumps to take the shape of a selected form or mold. Note: small molds may need higher temperatures and/or hold times.	1215° – 1250° F
Tack Fuse	Separate glass layers are fused together with little deformation beyond softening of edges.	1350° - 1370°F
Contour Fuse	Separate glass layers are fused together, edges are soft and rounded, project surface retains the degree of dimension desired by the artist (any degree beyond Tack but not yet Full fused).	1400° – 1450° F
Full Fuse	Separate glass layers are completely fused into a single uniform layer, top surface is smooth and void of dimension or relief.	1460° - 1480°F

NOTE: For the **Metric** version of this information, please visit System96.com.

New to System 96?

What to Expect if You're Used to "90" COE

Test-fire System 96 using the same cycle you would use with "90" COE glasses. If you note any differences in the results, they are likely to be slight. Adjust as you wish for future firings.

Bubble Squeeze

To Reduce Bubbles Between Glass Layers

To reduce bubbles between glass layers, fire to encourage a very slow relaxing of the layers, "squeezing" air outward to the edges for release. As the fusing chart indicates, we recommend a lengthy hold at about 1150° F, then a slow ramp up to 1370° F. Increase the effectiveness of your "squeeze" by lengthening your Hold in Segment 1 and slowing your Rate in Segment 2.

Bubbles are best avoided in the design stage. Large areas of uninterrupted layering invite them. For example, a 10 x 10-inch sheet atop another 10 x 10-inch sheet leaves no easy avenue of escape for the air between glass layers. Alternately, a 10 x 10-inch sheet topped with four 5 x 5-inch pieces provides seams to vent trapped air. Design to avoid bubbles for the best prevention.

Technical Support

Answers, Advice & Assistance

System 96 is the most "fuser friendly" glass ever made. It's easy to cut, exceptionally stable and predictable through the firing cycle, and remarkably consistent from run to run. Still, kilncraft is a many faceted endeavor and there are always questions, concerns and curiosities. The System 96 web site is your first stop (System96.com). We maintain a "Common Questions" page as well as a System 96 *Knowledge Base* where issues and concerns are posted, along with our ideas, advice and suggestions. Still stuck? If the problem is specific to System 96, send us an email at hotglass@system96.com. We'll do everything we can to help.

The Partnership

System 96 is a family of products made by different companies and tested to an identical standard. Spectrum Glass Company and Uroboros Glass Studios are the primary partners.

Coatings by Sandberg (CBS) is the licensed manufacturer of System 96 Dichroic glass products. System 96 products undergo three rigorous test firings before receiving their "Tested" label. Each firing result is measured for color-shift, opacification, devitrification and C.O.E. change. The red System 96 triangle logo is your assurance that a glass has been "Tested Compatible" within the System 96 family.

