

How to cut out corners in float or laminated glass using a manual method

By Frank Ruzicka

Editor's note: This article is part two of a how-to series on glass processing and finishing. If you have suggestions for topics you would like to see addressed in this article series, please e-mail Jenni Chase at jchase@glass.org.

The following article provides directions for how to manually make a corner cutout in a glass countertop to allow for a protrusion in the wall, pictured, using the Bohle Corner Cut-Out System.



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Safety first

The photos used in this article are for demonstration purposes only. When cutting glass, you must wear the appropriate safety equipment, including safety gloves and glasses. For more information on safety equipment and procedures, visit www.MyGlassClass.com.

1. Use glass cleaner to clean the section of the glass where the cutout is planned.

3. Precisely and securely affix the template to the glass so that it cannot slip out of position.



2. Set the template to the desired distances from the edges—symmetrically or asymmetrically.

4. Adjust the handle position of your glass cutter.



5. When cutting with templates, hold the glass cutter vertically. The cutting head must rotate freely 360 degrees.



6. Using the oil glass cutter included in the cut-out kit, simulate the cut. This causes the cutting fluid to be applied to the glass.



7. To execute the actual cut, exert pressure vertically onto the transverse handle of the glass cutter. Score the glass with controlled pressure and a slow, steady speed. A general rule: always continue the cutting—or scoring—motion beyond the edge of the glass.



8. After completing the cut, remove the template and wipe away the cutting fluid.

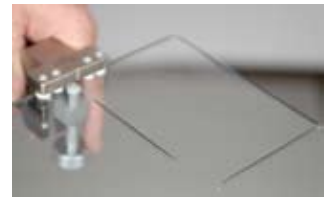


9. Position the cut running pliers at the end of the cut. Exact positioning is important: The mark on the pliers must be perfectly aligned with the cut. The controlled transmission of force allows the cut to be opened delicately.

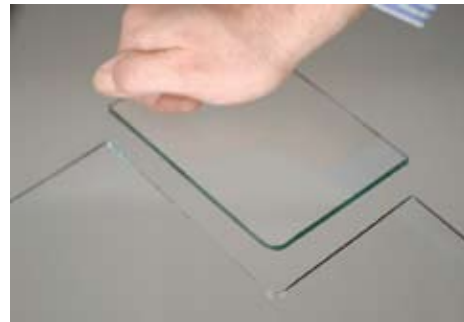
Open the cut from above first, up to the midpoint of the radius (7 millimeters or $\frac{3}{32}$ inch). Attach the pliers to one end of the cut and then to the other end of the cut. Repeat this procedure with the pliers turned upside-down to also open the cut from below. As a general rule, all glass cutouts must always be opened from both sides, from above and below, in order to achieve a clean break. Do not tap the glass.



Note: The same principle is used with laminated glass. However, after opening the cuts, the glass must be heated on both sides with a hot air fan to soften the laminating film where the cut was made.



10. Pull the glass so the cutout extends beyond the edge of the table. With your left hand, secure the glass flat on the table. With your right hand, remove the cutout by pulling it out horizontally. Do not use rocking motions to remove the cutout.



11. The result is a clean, efficiently produced corner cutout with no damage to the glass.

