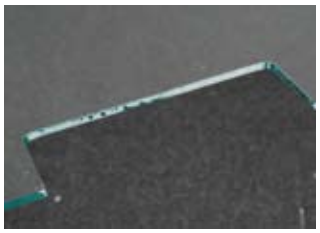
How to cut out lateral notches using a manual method

By Frank Ruzicka

Editor's note: This article is part three 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 on how to manually cut out lateral notches in glass up to ½-inch thick to accommodate a cable channel on the backside of a wall, pictured below, using the Bohle tool kit for lateral cut outs.



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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. Clean the glass to eliminate any potential dirt or grease. This is important because any particle on the glass could interrupt the score.

2. Adjust the template to the desired dimensions of the cut out. The template has suction cups to ensure it affixes precisely and securely to the glass, eliminating any unintentional cutting or slipping. Make sure the template's stoppers rest against a straight breaking edge.

2a

2b

2c

3. Adjust the glass cutter's transverse handle and simulate the cut. Press slightly against the spring to ensure the cutting head rotates freely and the cutting fluid is applied.

3a

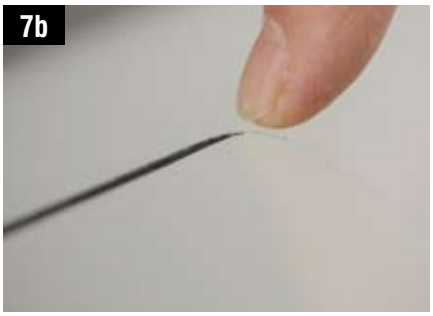
3b

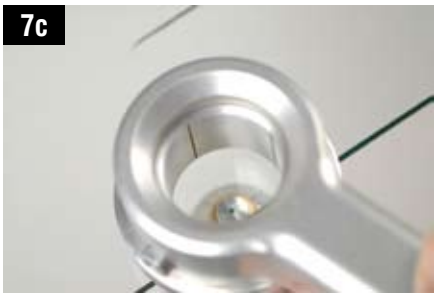
4. Make the cut, guiding the glass cutter along the simulated cut and applying pressure. Note, the glass cutter must be held in an absolutely vertical position during the entire cutting process.

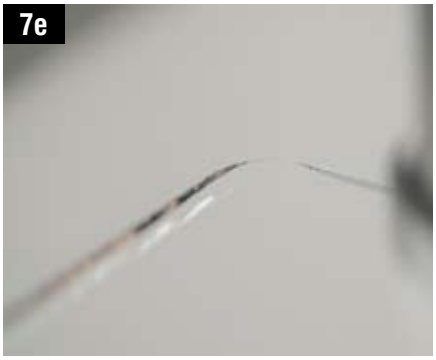
5. Remove the template, and wipe away the cutting fluid.

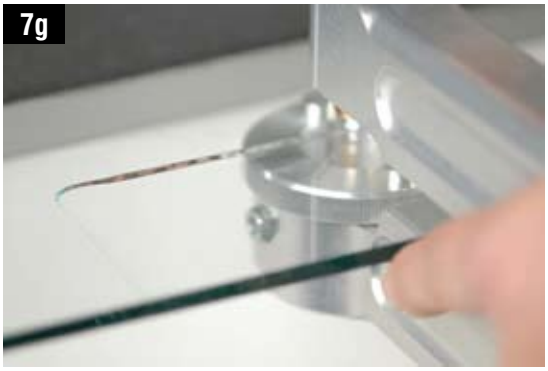
6. Adjust the cut opener to the glass thickness. It has a turning pressure ring and a counter-pressure screw. The single line in the markings corresponds to the cutting line on the glass. The double line corresponds to the pressure points of the three-point system.

7. Open the cut up to both radii, only up to the midpoint of the radius. Then, open both sides—one after the other—until the cut meets in the radius. All glass cut outs must always be broken from both sides, from above and below, in order to achieve a clean break. Only then is the break in the glass complete. Repeat the opening process in its entirety from the opposite side.

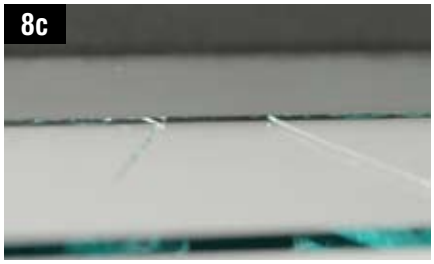






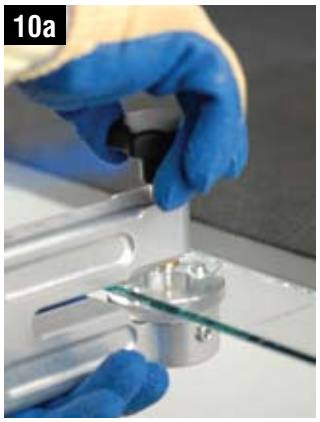


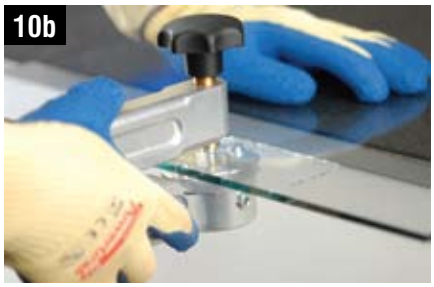
8. To safely remove the cutout, you must make auxiliary cuts. This requires cutting a trapezoid-shaped segment. Put your left thumb in the middle of the shape as a guide and ensure that the glass cutter is in a trailing, freehand position with your right hand.

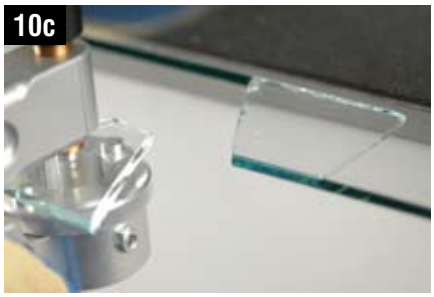


9. Open the auxiliary cuts from both sides.

10. Use the cut opener to grasp the resulting trapezoid and pull the piece out. Do not twist.







11. Pull out the remaining corner pieces.