



Northstar Glassworks, Inc.

Boro News Newsletter

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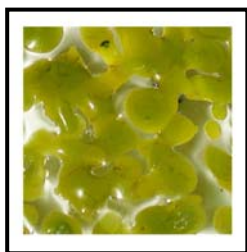
Expansion of the Frit and Powder Palette

Introduction

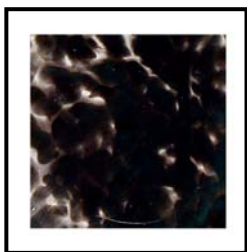
At Northstar, we are continually adding to our frit and powder color line. While not all colors translate well from solid rod to crushed frit and powder, we try to offer as diverse a color palette as possible. With this in mind, we have added three new colors to the frit and powder line up this month.

The Colors

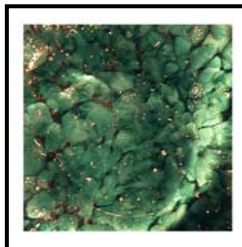
The first new frit and powder color is NS-68 Parrot Green. This bright opaque light green appears slightly similar to NS-63 Canary in powder form. This similarity provides the option of creating some very nice fades when combining the colors. *Remember* that this color does have a tendency to overheat so work the frit and powder in a soft reducing flame or at the very tip of an oxidizing flame.



Our second color is NS-69 Green Amber/Purple. Applied outside with an oxidizing flame, the frit can appear a transparent blue/green with hints of yellow. A reducing flame will yield a hazier blue. Oxidized powder looks a mottled hazy blue/green. A reducing flame will shine it up and bring out some bluish purple. Struck, the oxidized areas turn burnt amber, while the reduced areas turn a hazy purple.



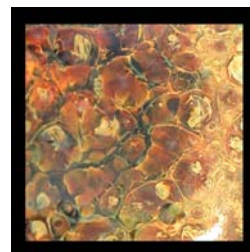
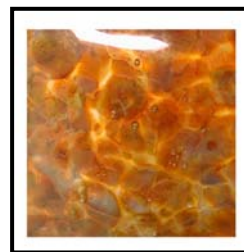
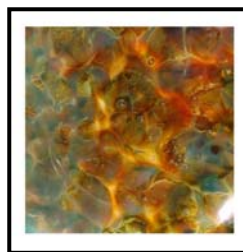
Last, but definitely not least, is NS-76 Onyx, my favorite of our new colors. In both frit and powder it is a very smooth stable color. Thinned out, the color can appear a very dark green, or a smoky dark gray, depending on the lighting. Several layers of powder yield a nice non-reducing black. Inside, the frit can appear to be a very



dark aqua blue. *LEFT- The NS-76 Onyx can appear very green when viewed under certain lighting.*

Closing

With these new additions we hope to add to your creative spectrum. We enjoy adding variety to our frit and powder options. If you would like to see one of our colors as a frit or powder, give us a call at 1-866-684-6986 or e-mail us at customerservice@northstar.com and let us know. We value your input and will take your suggestions into consideration when we release new colors. Happy torching!



ABOVE – Examples of what Green Amber Purple frit can look like when worked differently and seen in varying light. Left- The left side of this piece was worked in a reducing flame and the haze wasn't burnt off, creating a blue/purple tint to the piece. The right side used an oxidizing flame to create the darker amber color with hints of blue. Middle- Same piece, only transmitted light hides the blue/purple tint. Right- On the black background, looking at the back (unencased) side of the pendant, you clearly see the haze on the right, and how purple the frit can be when unencased (left).

New Colors from Northstar

NS-76 Onyx is a new opaque black that works well on its own or encased, inside or out. This is a non-striking non-boily color that works very smooth and creamy. Actually an ultra dark green/aqua, the NS-76 Onyx can appear dark green under certain lighting, and sometimes appears to be a very dark teal when encased. Thinned out, the color looks a smoky gray/green. All in all it is a nice black that lends itself very well to coil potting, and works well for fume and dichro backing. We recommend that you keep your piece fairly hot while shaping, as the NS-76 Onyx can have slight devitrification issues similar to NS-33 Turbo Cobalt (though not NS-33 Turbo Cobalt's reduction problems). The piece below utilizes NS-76 Onyx as a backing (coil pot technique) to the gold and silver fuming.



NS-76 Onyx



Northstar's new opaque blue, **NS-77 Deep Sea Blue**, is a comparable substitute for NS-22 Polaris. An easy working, solid color, NS-77 Deep Sea Blue does not reduce or boil easily. Use NS-77 Deep Sea Blue for solid sculptural work or pull stringers and stripe your tube with it in combination with a contrasting color. Lines of NS-77 Deep Sea Blue look great next to NS-63 Canary or NS-74 Transparent Millennium Moss. This color also looks great coil potted and occasionally it is possible to get some sparkle out of it, especially when working it with a hotter flame. The flower below is unencased NS-77 Deep Sea Blue with NS-63 Canary on the petals and NS-73 Millennium Moss used for the stem and leaf.



NS-77 Deep Sea Blue



Open House

On Friday, August 5, 2002, Northstar once again opened its doors to the public for an Open House. As usual, the glass sale on experimental colors was a great success, with the majority of people coming through the line at least twice, if not more!

Outside, Lef graciously grilled hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and shish kabobs for all. The food vanished with startling speed, and the ice cream and sherbet lasted mere moments before being scooped up!

Josh Sable came up from California to demonstrate the techniques he uses to create his marbles (www.sablemarbles.homestead.com). People eagerly surrounded the table and perched themselves on the chairs in front of the torch to see Josh work his magic. The first marble took Josh well over an hour to create, and I'm sure you can see why in the photos on the right.

After the first marble was finished and annealing in the kiln, everyone gathered around the dart board in hopes of a chance to win prizes including dichro, samples packs, tools, and even a set of Kevlar gloves! Though occasionally the darts would bounce right off the balloons, people still successfully popped balloons and won great prizes (yes, we know that we should have had steel tipped darts instead of the plastic tipped ones, but if anyone had hurt themselves, we would have been in a whole heap of trouble!). The last prize to be given away was the honeycomb marble from Josh's demo, which was won by Mitch Wolford of Portland, Oregon.



Josh returned to the torch for another session, creating a vortex marble with an encased synthetic opal. The die hards of the evening stayed until Josh finished his second amazing marble.

People came from all over to buy glass, watch the demonstrations, and visit with other artists. We even had newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. J Emmett Hollander, stop by on their honeymoon!



Open House Photos



Honeycomb marble won by Mitch Wolford

News at Northstar

August 1st – 4th in Alexandria, Virginia, was an exciting couple of days for those who attended The Gathering. Organized by the International Society of Glass Beadmakers, this fun filled convention was packed with people. The vendor space was gone in a matter of weeks and a limit had to be set on the number of people who could actually attend the demonstrations! Northstar's representatives, Roger Kohler and Paula Sendrowski, braved the masses to demonstrate at the open torch sessions and introduce a large group of soft glass workers to the world of borosilicate glass. Roger and Paula reported that the open torch sessions were so popular that they usually couldn't get away until after 1AM! Now that is the kind of enthusiasm for glass we like to hear about. For everyone interested in attending a Gathering, check out www.isgb.org for information about the Gathering in Lowell, Massachusetts, in 2003.

Ginny Sycuro's Crossover Class (from soft glass to borosilicate) that was scheduled at Glasscraft for August 17th-18th has been rescheduled. It appears that everyone would rather go on vacation! The class will now be held November 2nd-3rd, 2002. For more information, please contact Glasscraft at 1-888-272-3830.

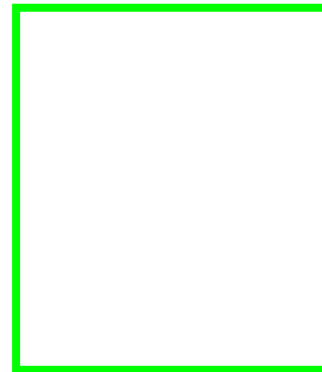
Also, look for Ginny at the Bead Renaissance September 12th-15th in Denver, Colorado. It will be held at the Holiday Inn in Northglenn. For more information, go to www.beadshow.com or call 1-505-894-1293 to obtain information from J & J Promotions.

Bandhu Dunham will be teaching at the Eugene Glass School on October 24th-27th. 'Your Next Step at the Torch' is a 4 day workshop for advanced students. For more information, call 541-342-2959 or check out the schedule on www.eugeneglassschool.org.

The Art of a Budding Boro Enthusiast

On the right are photos of two pendants made by an individual on Northstar's team. Zara is just starting to lampwork with borosilicate glass, experiencing the fun (and frustrations) of learning a new medium. Determination, persistence, and of course, access to glass, are helping her to take steps forward in understanding how to use the glass.

Pendant 1: This was Zara's first attempt at a pendant. Not bad for a beginner wouldn't you say? Sure, the NS-45 Blue Moon was over reduced and the hoop is not exactly straight, but it was her FIRST attempt. The second pendant, created just a few short weeks later, shows marked improvement. The hoop is straight, the colors are melted in, and the shape is much rounder. So what will be next you ask? Stay tuned! We are convinced that anyone with interest, proper direction, and equipment, will become a boro fan.



? What Up?

Commentary by Josh Dunlap

Welcome Northstar enthusiasts. I would like to open up all topics of discussion with you, our valued artists and patrons. Your feedback and constructive criticism is important to all aspects of production and testing here at Northstar. Please send us questions about particular colors, your favorite uses and techniques, or any general comments on use or compatibility when contacting me. Letters/e-mails will be published monthly with our responses.

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