



Northstar Glassworks, Inc.

BoroNews Newsletter

2002 January Issue 2

Volume 2 Issue 2

Exploring the Amber/Purple Family

Welcome to the second issue of the BoroNews Newsletter; part two of nine exploring the Northstar color palette. As explained in the previous issue this nine part series is a way to get to know the vast potential of Northstar colors, in hopes of being a catalyst to broaden your artistic horizon. This newsletter features the Amber/Purple family, and gives information on the working properties of the glass, as well as a glimpse of the range of possibilities this group possess.

Making the Amber/ Purples Work

When working the Amber/Purple family, to yield the optimum effects it is suggested working the piece in a hot flame, “burn off the haze”, and strike the piece in an oxidizing flame or by kiln striking the piece. The technique of “burning off the haze” is the key to the most scintillating effects. To “burn off the haze” it is suggested using a strong very oxidizing or “pushing” flame. Watch carefully and you can see the metallic haze evaporate. Be careful not to redeposit more haze as you proceed. The haze must be removed quickly to prevent the glass from boiling and the artwork from slumping. The reason for “burning off the haze”, is that the haze can act as a filter and mask the vibrant beauty of the color. To bring out the different parts of the color spectrum, which this family can yield, working in different flame settings is the way to do so. To achieve deep purples and blues, work the piece in a strong oxidizing environment. For crimson and vermilion, work the piece in a slightly reducing flame, and for yellows and ambers, work the piece in a heavily reducing flame, then strike in an oxidizing environment. Experimentation is the key to success.

Utilizing the Color

After taking down the basics on how the color works in the flame and the range of effects the Amber/Purple family can yield, here is a short list of suggested color patterns to more fully utilize the colors and enhance the beauty of the Amber/Purples. With the Amber/Purple family, using an Orange or Ruby overlay or backing will produce a unique effect. The entire family’s beauty is enhanced when backed with a layer of NS-54 Star White. Another pleasing effect is to back NS-13 Amber/Purple or NS-26 Double Amber/Purple with NS-09 Yellow, creating a deep amber yellow glow with deep purple highlights. Another beautiful combination is to layer NS-48 Light Blue Amber/Purple over NS-45 Blue Moon.



Figure (1) above, the disc shown in this photo illustrates the difference between with haze and without. The effect achieved by burning off the haze may not be pleasing to all users, but to bring out the deep purples, blues and other existing effects burning off the haze is recommended. As seen here when the haze is left on, it can cloud the vibrancy the color yields.

In figure (2) below, the three bottles are examples of what types of effects that one can achieve by enhancing the beauty of the Amber/Purple family with the technique of multi layering. The leftmost bottle in the photo was made by coiling NS-69 Green Amber/Purple over NS-54 Star White, and was striped with NS-26 Double Amber/Purple. Selectively striking the vessel produced the range of color. The central vessel in the photo was created by sandwiching a layer of NS-09 yellow between a base layer of NS-54 Star White and an outer layer of NS-26 Double Amber/Purple. The vessel was striped with NS-49 Dark Blue Amber/Purple and then dotted with NS-26 Double Amber/Purple. Note how fiery the amber yellow color is. The NS-09 Yellow brings out the deep amber reds in NS-13 Amber/Purple and NS-26 Double Amber/Purple, and gives the piece a brilliant glow. The vessel rightmost in the photo was produced by sandwiching a layer of NS-05 Orange between an underlay of NS-54 Star White and an outer layer of NS-13 Amber/Purple. The vessel was striped with NS-20 Dark Cobalt and was dotted with NS-26 Double Amber/Purple. Because the piece was selectively struck, not kiln struck, the NS-05 Orange did not fully strike. The un-struck NS-05 Orange in combination with NS-13 Amber/Purple produced the vibrant honey colored glow.



Figure 2 (bottles by Jesse Kohl)



Figure 3 (ornaments by Jesse Kohl)

Figure (3) above, the twist ornaments each represent a member of the Amber/Purple family. From left to right NS-13 Amber/Purple, NS-26 Double Amber/Purple, NS-48 Light Blue Amber/Purple, NS-49 Dark Blue Amber/Purple, and NS-69 Green Amber/Purple. They show the broad range of effects that can be produced by each color. From the top of the ornaments to the tip, the transition produced shows the wide range of colors that are possible to achieve with the Amber/Purple family. Note the haze on the top and the effect it produces can easily be removed to reveal the pleasing color underneath.

Remember to always stay creative in your experimentations with the endless universe of possibilities, which these colors possess. Stay tuned for part 3 of 9 in this exploration of Northstar Glassworks' Borocolour®.

