

Cutting Glass Circles; Mystery Solved!

The Two Lassés are regularly asked how to cut circles as if it was a process as mysterious and controversial as crop circles in an Iowa corn field! There's good news! You won't need to employ alien assistance to cut glass circles, just some helpful tips from the Lassés!

The successful cutting of circles requires the right tools. The Two Lassés recommend the GlaStar Stripper and Circle Cutter because we believe it is by far the easiest and most efficient circle cutter on the market! Running pliers (we recommend and use Fletcher Running Pliers) are used routinely to break, or "run" all types of cuts whether straight or curved, and a good cutter (the Lassés extol the virtues of the Toyo Glass Cutter) are the only other tools you will need to cut PERFECT circles!!

Before you begin, you will want to clean your glass, to ensure that any small pieces of debris or residual glue from a price sticker have been removed. Remember, you are counting on your cutting wheel to make a clean score, which means you need clean glass!

Next, the Two Lassés would encourage you to clean the cutting surface (the place where you will lay your glass for the purpose of cutting) which is important for two reasons. First, you don't want any residual glass pieces from a previous project scratching up the surface of your new glass and second, you want to provide a nice, flush surface on which to cut. An "irregular" cutting surface can cause a cutter to "skip" which may then result in a bad break!

Okay, so now you have clean glass, a clean working surface and you're scared to death (we hear this all the time)! RELAX! You don't have to call ten friends and steal out to the corn field under cover of darkness to create your circle, just a few more pointers and you'll be making circles without any assistance from the Mother Ship!!

It's time to decide how big a circle you are planning to cut, and so you'll need to follow the manufacturer's directions on your circle cutter in order to adjust the size of your circle. Depending on the brand of circle cutter you are using (again, the Lassés recommend the GlaStar Stripper and Circle Cutter), you may need to position your cutter into a special slot and secure it in place with a set screw. The GlaStar Stripper and Circle Cutter already HAS cutting wheels built right in, eliminating the need to place your cutter into a slot, adjust the position, and then remove it again!

Once you have the circle cutter set in place on the glass, you will want to make a "test pass" to see if you are satisfied with the size of the circle and to ENSURE that the cutter will remain ON the glass during the entire sweep! Many a circle with one flat edge was the result of poor planning, which is why that "test sweep"

is so important! When making the “test pass” you **MUST** make sure that the cutter is **NOT** in contact with the glass!

Once you are sure you are pleased with the size of your circle and you know that you have enough surface area to complete an entire sweep, you are ready to begin. The most important piece of advice we offer you at this point is: once you begin to score the circle, you **MUST** apply consistent pressure while making **ONE CONTINUOUS SWEEP** of the cutter! Remember, you aren’t drilling for oil, so don’t push too hard or you risk causing stress fractures!

Now you have a circle scored on your glass and you’re ready to “break free”, here’s another little tip for success: cut a piece of cardboard in a square that is roughly two inches bigger than the piece of glass on which you have scored your circle. You can use any cardboard, as long as you have a nice, flat, clean piece! Now, turn your glass over (cut side **DOWN**) onto the cardboard and, using your thumbs, apply gentle, even pressure **ON** the score line, as you make your way around the entire circle. You will see (and if you can’t, for goodness sake, get some glasses) and perhaps you will even hear the glass “run” as you apply gentle pressure to the score line.

Now, turn the glass back over (cut side **UP**) and, using your glass cutter (which you may have to “free” from the circle cutter), you will make several score lines **FROM** the circle **OUT** to the edges of the glass. The Two Lasses refer to these scores as “escape scores”. It is imperative that you **DO NOT** score from the edge of the glass in toward the circle!! Next, using your running pliers, you will apply gentle pressure on each of these “escape score lines” breaking away small pieces of glass until only the circle remains. To smooth your edges to a flawless finish, the Two Lasses recommend our fabulous Diamond Sanding Block which can be found in our store under “[Tools](#)”. The super-fine diamond abrasive on these sanding pads will allow you to remove any rough spots or snags without a trip to the grinder!

So, now you have a fabulous circle that any self-respecting alien would be proud to produce (and we think it was probably a lot easier too)! Beam us up, Scotty!