

High Temperature Wire

High-temp wire is perfect for using with fused glass because it will remain intact at temperatures of up to 2000 degrees Fahrenheit! Using your hands and/or jeweler's pliers, high-temp wire can easily be formed into virtually any shape, then secured with glass fusing glue (in between layers of glass) and fired in the kiln in order to create mini-cabochons suitable for an assortment of jewelry creations. If you have the steady hands of a surgeon you can assemble your creation directly on the kiln shelf and position the wire in between the layers of glass thereby avoiding the gluing process.

As the glass begins to slump in the kiln, the wire will become permanently encased within the layers of glass. After firing, the wire will appear somewhat discolored and dull, at which time a gentle buffing with some steel wool will quickly restore the luster. The projecting end of the wire can then be used to attach the fused glass piece to just about any kind of jewelry finding. For example, straight lengths of wire of 2 to 3 inches in length can be fused into small glass cabochons in order to create some fabulous earrings. Beads can then be added onto the wire above the cabochon (post firing) and a small loop made at the end of the wire in order to attach it to an ear wire.

Cut lengths of high-temp wire with small wire cutters or jewelry nippers and use chain-nose jewelry pliers to form the loops required to attach the wires to the findings.