



# Glass Painting Techniques & Secrets from an English Stained Glass Studio by David Williams & Stephen Byrne

WILLIAMS & BYRNE

## Stencils: another use for oil



you can use oil-based painting as we describe in Part 6 of *Glass Painting Techniques & Secrets from an English Stained Glass Studio*.

So here's a picture of one of the other panels that we were asked to make:



Here's a summary of our approach:

1. Prepare and apply a stencil. (The originals were painted using stencils; hence the precision of the glass painting on the smooth side.)
2. Pick out the stencil.
3. Apply water-based glass paint. Let this dry.
4. Apply oil-based glass paint. Let this dry.
5. Remove the stencil.
6. Fire the glass.
7. Apply silver-stain on the back and fire the glass a second time.

We had two excellent reasons for using oil-based paint *and* water-based paint.

First, using oil on top of water meant we could be sure the lines would be *dark enough* with just one firing.

Second, the oil-based paint gently softened the water-based paint so that *the paint did not splinter* when we removed the stencil.

So read on and see what we did.

You can use the same technique in many, many different ways: that's why we want to make sure you know about it.

### Stencils: another use for oil

**A client** asked us to make a copy of the large panel which was missing from the landing window of their Georgian town house.

The glass itself is distinctive: here in England we describe it as "pin-striped" glass, because one side is textured with hundreds of tiny parallel grooves which are rather like the lines which run down a pin-striped suit. The other side is smooth.

The smooth face of our client's glass had been painted with glass paint; the pin-striped face has been silver-stained.

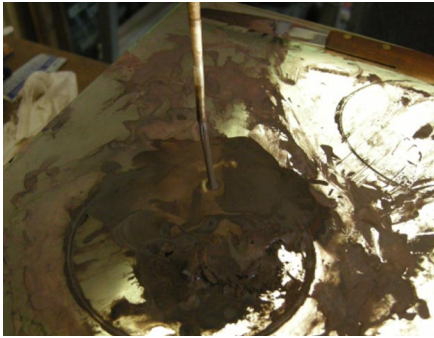
Our client also asked us to make 16 other panels in a similar style for various doors and windows around the house.

What we're going to show you in this guide is the technique we used to make these other panels.

It shows you another useful way in which



1. Here's a close-up where you can see we've already applied the stencil and picked it out.



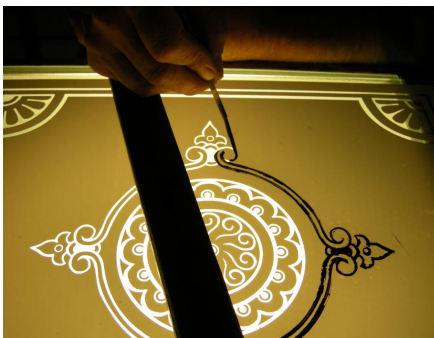
2. Prepare some water-based glass paint as described in Part 1 of our book.



3. Test your paint on the light box. Then start painting. You can expect small bits of paint sometimes to separate from the edges of the plastic stencil. Just re-apply the paint,



4. Continue as before.



5. Fill in all the spaces

6. Now that all the water-based paint has been applied, let the paint dry.

7. The next thing to do is to prepare some oil-based paint as we describe in Part 6 of *Glass Painting Techniques & Secrets from an English Stained Glass Studio*. It is always much better if you prepare this paint in advance and allow it to rest for at least a day before you use it. Anyway, provided that you keep your oil-based paint in an air-tight container, it will last for many months.

There are many different kinds of oil you can use for glass painting: some smell nice, others smell horrible: some are harmless, others are carcinogenic.

Therefore, always follow the manufacture's instructions.



8. Here you see the oil-paint that we're going to use.



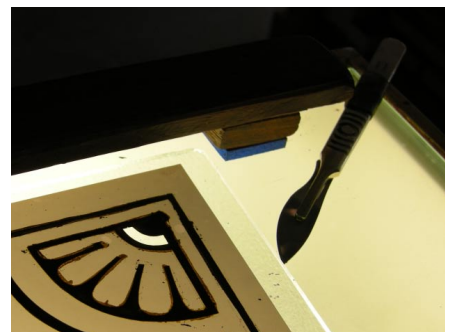
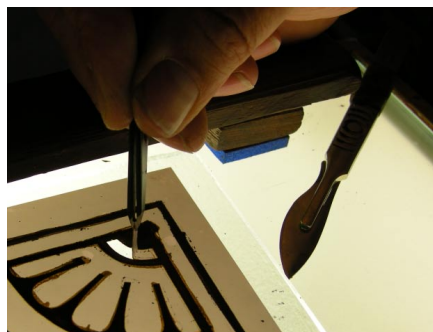
9. The mixture is runny and dark.



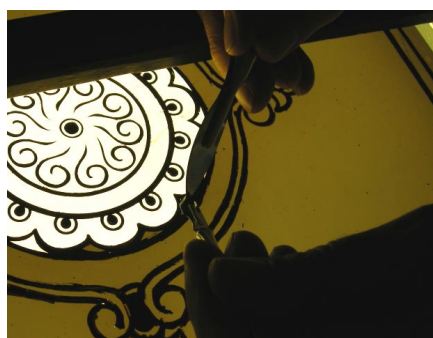
10. Paint over all the water-based paint.



11. Load your brush often because the water-based paint will quickly absorb the oil-based paint. Make sure you paint everywhere that you should. Leave the paint to dry overnight.



12. We use a scalpel and tweezers to remove the stencil. Please note: with this technique, the two steps which demand most patience and care are (a) when you apply the stencil and (b) when you remove it. The painting itself is easy!



13. Now you can then fire your glass. Our pieces were moderately large, so we were careful to anneal them properly on the way down. And, afterwards, we applied silver-stain to the back of the glass and fired it again. (We'll explain all about silver-stain in a separate guide.)



### Questions

If you have questions, you can write to us at [studio@realglasspainting.com](mailto:studio@realglasspainting.com) and we will always answer them as best we can.

If ever you write and don't hear back from us, the most likely reason is that your e-mail got lost, or ours did. (Of course, sometimes we are away working and can't reply until we return: but we always reply.)

Our best wishes to you,

*Samia*      *Stephen*



**WILLIAMS & BYRNE**

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