

Carmen's Guide to Signing and Drilling Glass

Signing your art work or drilling holes for jewelry is easy to do. With these few tips you'll master it in no time. There are a couple of things to keep in mind. You need to use diamond bits for glass. The glass should be water cooled when you are drilling holes and... practice a couple of times before you try it on a finished piece.

Let's get started. The first thing you need to do is gather your equipment. A Dremel Tool, diamond grinding bits and for drilling holes, a shallow container.

Signing a piece of glass is very similar to using a standard pen or pencil. The Dremel Tool is a little harder to hold and you need to hold it at a more perpendicular angle. I like to use one of the ball bits. You do not need to use water for this. Put your bit in the Dremel, turn it on and just sign like you normally would but slow down a bit and keep your tip on the glass. Try it out on some scrap glass first. Now that you can sign your name, think of the other engraving designs you can apply to the surface of your pieces.

For drilling jewelry I like to use one of the shaft style bits. Make sure its one that has an abrasive surface on the tip as well as the sides. Mark your glass where you want the hole to go. You can either use a paint pen or if you use a regular felt pen put a dab of Vaseline over the top of the mark. This keeps the water from washing away the ink (this method also works wonders when you are grinding a piece).

After you've marked your piece immerse it in the shallowest amount of water you can to cover it completely. Water helps cool the glass so it doesn't thermal shock. Turn the Dremel on before you start to drill. Hold it straight up and down and go directly to the marked spot. Apply an even somewhat firm, but not hard, pressure as you drill through the glass. Be patient, it may take a few minutes to get through.

Waaa Laaa... You've done it. Now all you have to do is add a jump ring and you're set to go.

I hope this has been helpful. If you have any questions please feel free to call me. I'll be glad to help you out.

Carmen Reynolds

