

How to make a 3-D Stained Glass Star

The bevel star that I made was the easiest but most expensive to make - I simply bought 12 identical *shield bevels* (they have a squared bottom and a pointed tip), copper foiled them, and put the piece together. The other ones (with standard stained glass) were cheaper and much smaller, but these required me to cut the glass myself (you make 12 identical pieces).

Making a 3-D star is a bit of a challenge, but I start by soldering four pieces together flat on the table (this part-completed panel is almost nice enough to hang in the window as is). The only parts that are attached together are the two edges of each piece that form a 90-degree angle. If cutting your own glass, it is critical to ensure that they all have a 90-degree corner - without a square corner, the star won't work. The next step is to put two additional pieces on a table and solder them to each other. Do this again and you will end up with three parts that you will start to make into the 3D star. Prop up one of the 2-piece units on top of the 4-piece panel (with something like a coffee cup), and solder it together so it is perfectly perpendicular to the panel on the table (aligning the edges with the previously soldered connections). The other 2-piece unit goes in the same position on the other side of the panel (it may take some time to figure out how to prop things up, but it is well worth the effort). The extra single pieces are soldered in place, one at a time, and will complete the project. Lots of solder in the corners will ensure that the whole thing stays together.

It is a bit difficult to imagine making the stars when reading this description, but I figured it out by cutting up 12 pieces of cardboard. I put them together with tape and ensured that I knew what I was to do at each step. I got the idea for the star at a craft sale - I quickly came home and made my cardboard pattern before I forgot what it looked like. I think some of the pieces were being sold for well over \$100 - I knew that I could make one with a \$5 square of glass and a little bit of thinking.

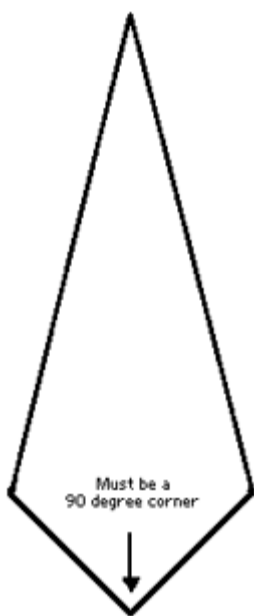
You can make these stars with any type of glass, and it is best to practice with a large star since it is more difficult to assemble the small ones. The next page is the pattern that I use - it is about 3 inches long, making a 6-inch star. Just photocopy or print it to *half* of whatever final size you want your completed star to be, cut 12 identical pieces out of glass (perhaps using several different colours - I haven't tried that yet!), and away you go. I've made a few that are just the right size for a Christmas tree, although they are somewhat heavy and need to be placed on sturdy branches.

Hope this has been useful.

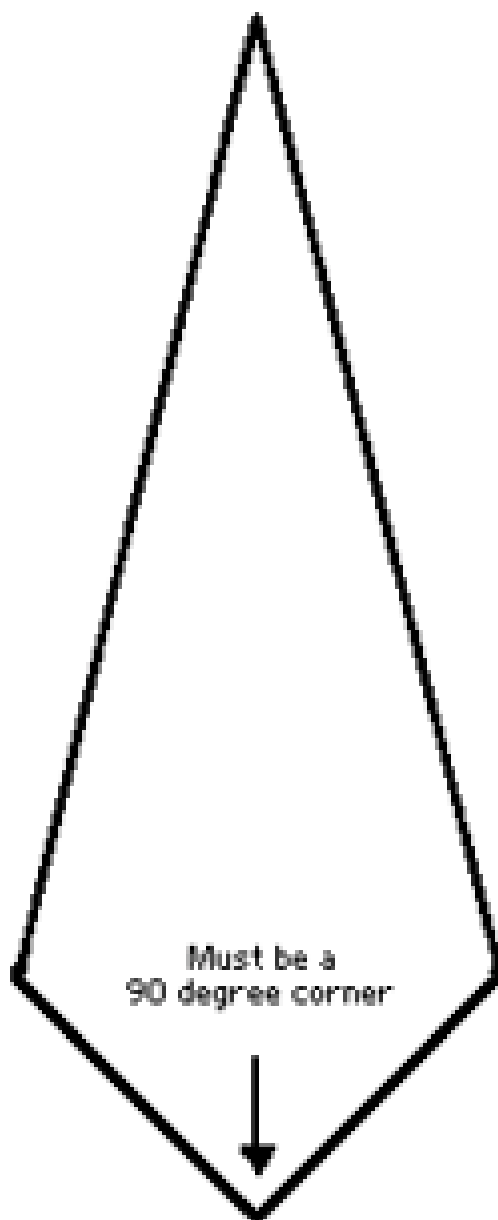
Eric Seidlitz

Template for 3-D Stained Glass Star

Cut 12 identical pieces of glass. The shape of the piece can be whatever you want, as long as the bottom has a 90-degree corner. For a more 'pointed' star, make each piece longer (move the point further from the 90-degree corner).



~3" piece to make a 6" star



~6" piece to make a 12" star