Dream Catcher

Design by Diane Phillips, Fabrication by Mark Waterbury, Text Maureen James

Dream catchers, which are part of the traditions of many Native American tribes, are widely used today by artists in all media. There are many Native American stories and legends about spiders and webs, but the Ojibwe tribe, also known as the Chippewa, are said to have originated the dream catcher.

Articles were usually hung from the hoop of a child's cradle board. These dream catchers were said to filter out any bad dreams and allow only good thoughts to come to the child. A feather was placed in the center to entertain the children and teach them a lesson on the importance of good air.

The design we show is one of the twenty large and small dream catchers found in *Enchanted Dreams* by Diane Phillips. Diane suggests enlarging the large dream catcher to sixteen inches in diameter, starting with an unusual piece of glass you've been saving, and choosing five or six colors that go with that. With the help of today's software, you can try different color combinations before you commit to cutting a single piece of glass.

We built our dream catcher using lead and opalescent glass. Cathedrals and textures would work nicely as well. Feel free to hang adornments such as feathers, beads, or crystals from your finished creation.

Kokomo Opalescent Glass
Colors for Design
#45D, Cream Opalume, 2 Sq. Ft.
#49, Carmel Opalume/Lime Green/Brown, 2-1/2 Sq. Ft.
#11, Medium Amber/Opal, 1/2 Sq. Ft.
#111G, Ruby Red/Lime Green/Blue/Opal, 1/2 Sq. Ft.
#163, Dark and Lime Greens/Opal, 1/2 Sq. Ft.
#23GCP, Carmel/Clear, 1-1/2 Sq. Ft.

Other Materials Required
Flux Solder Black Patina
3/16" Lead H-Channel (18')
1/8" Zinc U-Channel (6')
16-Gauge Copper Wire
Glazing Compound

"We did not weave the web of life.
We are merely a strand in it.
Whatever we do to the web,
we do to ourselves."
"Walk gently on Mother Earth."
Lyn Dearborn; Naturalist/Person
Turtle Clan Ojibwe

1. Make two copies of the original pattern, one copy to cut apart and use as a guide for cutting glass pieces and the other copy to use when laying out and building your project. Pattern shears, which are available in lead or foil versions, are used for cutting apart the pattern. The lead shears cut away a wider line than the foil shears. Use lead pattern shears to cut apart the pattern for this project to remove a thin strip of paper to allow for the lead H-Channel.

2. Cut the glass according to the pattern. After all of the pieces have been cut, grind the edges smooth on a glass grinder and check for fit.

The lead channel should be stretched before assembling the project. This will straighten out the lead and add strength and rigidity to the lead channel.

3. Start from the center as you assemble the panel. Hold the assembled sections together with pushpins or horseshoe nails.

4. Lead can be cut with a knife or side cutters. A chop saw with a metal cutting blade can also be used. This makes a clean and accurate cut and is good for the 45° angle cuts that are in this design.

5. The 1/8" zinc U-channel was used around the outer edge; 1/8" or 1/4" zinc U-channel can be bent around the round shape of the panel. Larger zinc is too rigid to bend.

Apply flux to all of the areas to be soldered wherever two or more pieces of lead intersect and where lead lines touch the outer zinc border and zinc corners.

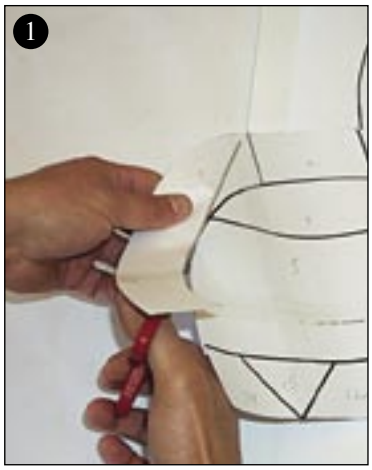
6. Test the temperature of your soldering iron on some scraps of lead. If the lead melts immediately after touching it with the iron, turn the temperature down with a rheostat. Soldering lead panels together requires less heat than you need for copper foil work.

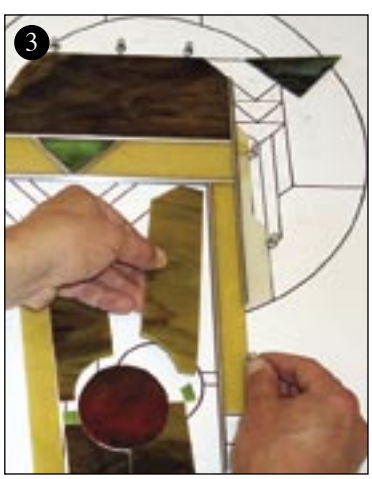
7. In a lead panel, the glass is loose in the lead channel and needs to be sealed with glazing compound. Work the glazing compound into the gap between the lead and glass with a plastic putty knife or soft brush.

8. Excess glazing compound can be cleaned with glass cleaner, paper towels, and 0000 steel wool. Final polishing can be done with a Pzaz Luster Brush.

After thoroughly cleaning the panel, black patina can be used to darken the lead solder and zinc.

GPQ





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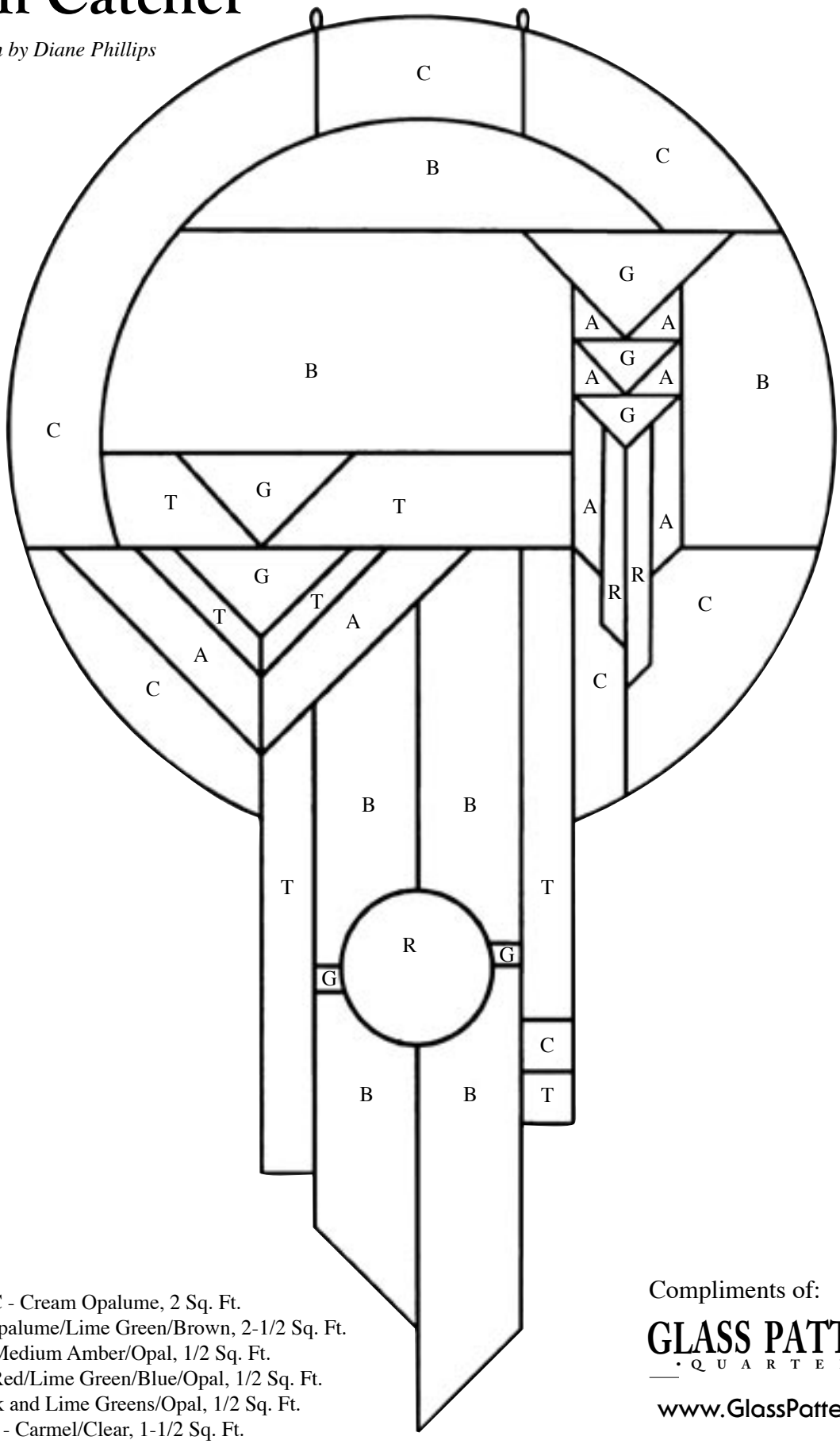

C - Cream Opalume, 2 Sq. Ft.
B - Carmel Opalume/Lime Green/Brown, 2-1/2 Sq. Ft.
A - Medium Amber/Opal, 1/2 Sq. Ft.
R - Ruby Red/Lime Green/Blue/Opal, 1/2 Sq. Ft.
G - Dark and Lime Greens/Opal, 1/2 Sq. Ft.
T - Carmel/Clear, 1-1/2 Sq. Ft.