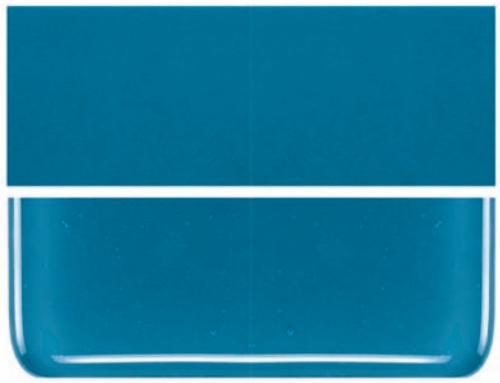
BULLSEYE

GLASS CO.

SPECIAL EFFECTS: STEEL BLUE OPAL (000146)



When I put it in the kiln it was blue. When I took it out it was the color of mild steel. When I fired it again it was blue. What's going on?

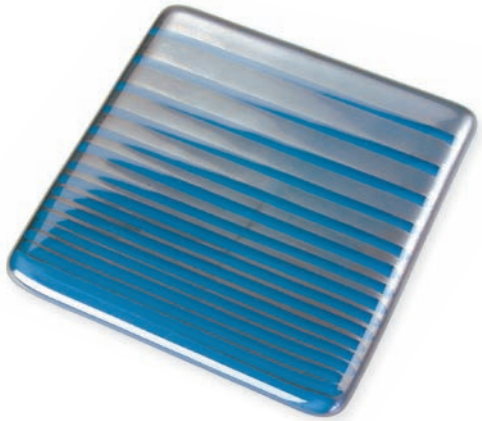
You are using Bullseye's Steel Blue Opal glass (000146). On the surface, the color is a deep teal blue. In transmission, it shows a slight shift to a deep aquamarine. On firing, it has a mind of its own. When we developed this glass, the special effects slipped by our quality inspectors for kiln glasses because we tested the glass by fully firing it and the glass came out of the kiln looking as blue as when we put it in. But soon, kilnworkers started calling us to report a mysterious shiny silver-gray coating.

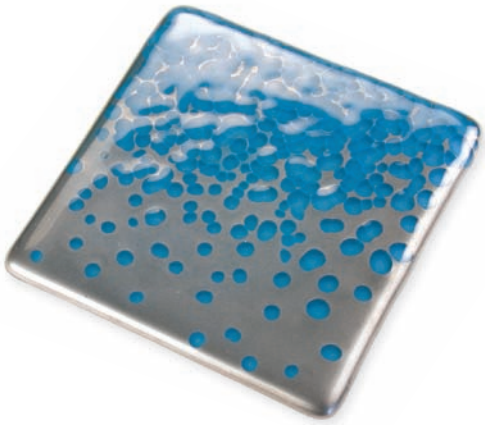
Through interviews and testing we discovered that, in the range of 1250°F-1400°F (677°C-760°C), the surface of the sheet that was exposed to the atmosphere took on a shiny silver-gray coating. That effect often disappeared once the glass reached full fusing temperatures.

We considered discontinuing Steel Blue Opal, but kilnworkers persuaded us to reconsider, having discovered exciting ways to use this special-effect glass. The areas of the sheet that are not exposed to air do not develop the metallic film. Artists worked up patterning schemes that involved covering portions of the glass with clear thin glass, frits, or powder, and firing to lower temperatures to maintain the metallic effect in the exposed areas.

Steel Blue Opal Is available in 3mm sheets, thin sheets, frits, powder and rod.

Bullseye makes it blue. You make it special.





UNDER CERTAIN FIRING CONDITIONS, AND WITH THE ADDITION OF SOME CLEAR FRITS OR STRINGERS, STEEL BLUE OPAL CAN FIRE TO TWO COLORS SIMULTANEOUSLY. KILNFORMED GLASS TILES, 4 X 4 X 1/4 IN.

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