



# Northstar Glassworks, Inc.

## Boro News Newsletter

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Issue 5

### Delving into the Transparents

Hello again! Welcome to the fourth edition in the nine part series of color exploration. The goal of this series is to give the artist more knowledge about the working properties of borosilicate color and to further facilitate experimentation, learning, and the broadening of horizons. In this edition the focus is on a transparent group of colors consisting of NS-23 Pink, NS-25 Peach, NS-31 Lavender, and NS-32 Violet. We will explore how to maximize the potential these colors have and inspire new ways to utilize these colors. This color group has many unexplored possibilities and has much to offer.

#### Workability

The general properties of these colors lend themselves to be worked very easily in the flame. Due to the fact that they are atmospherically stable, they can be worked in any flame setting without the color being changed in any way. The stability of these colors makes them ideal candidates for involved sculptural work, and it is advantageous to mix them with other colors. Since these colors do not strike, dull, or gray, their versatility is unparalleled! Keep in mind that these colors can be subjected to a range of environments, but can be overheated.

#### Application

When going through a Northstar sample pack and selecting color rods that look pleasing to work with, do not be deterred by the intensity this color group has in comparison to other colors. True, when thinned out this color group is not as intense as a NS-33 Turbo Cobalt stringer, but these colors have many uses, and can enhance the beauty of a piece of art greatly. Take a closer look and you will see what these colors can do.

To maximize the beauty of this color group there are several manners in which to do so. First is their use in sculptural work. The vibrancy is maximized in marbles, lenses, and figurines. As mentioned, due to easy workability, they are ideal for sculptural work, allowing for prolonged working time and being subjected to extreme environments. Another manner in which to create unique effects is to layer several colors together. They look especially pleasing when backed with NS-54 Star White. The NS-54 Star White acts as a mirror and enhances the color s greatly. By multi-layering with these colors they can also act as filters. For example: layering NS-32 Violet over NS-13 Amber/Purple, the NS-32 Violet compliments the NS-13 Amber/Purple, creating a glowing textured new color. Another interesting possibility is to combine or mix several colors together. Several possibilities are as follows: NS-13 Amber/Purple and NS-32 Violet, NS-07 Ruby and NS-25 Peach, and NS-19 Light Cobalt Blue and NS-31 Lavender. A final suggestion for a neat effect that utilizes this family is to use them as backing for gold fume. They are a good backing because they compliment the pinkish color of the gold fume, creating an enhanced effect.

#### A Message From the Author

On a personal note to all those out in the glass world: to work with glass is an exciting process. It is the captivating culmination of art and science that makes glass a unique medium of expression. Working glass requires practice, continuous experimentation, and growth. We hope we can lend a hand in this process.

Written By: Jesse Kohl



*Figure 1 Perfume Bottle by Suellen Fowler*

Pictured above in figure (1) is a double twist comb perfume bottle made by Suellen Fowler. In this vessel Suellen makes use of NS-23 Pink for the base color of the vessel, yielding a pleasing vibrant color. Definitely a beautiful piece and a prime example of how to utilize the color!



*Figure 3 Marbles by Jesse Kohl*

Figure (2) below contains a series of blown vessels that demonstrate some unique effects that can be obtained by using one of the colors featured in this newsletter as an overlay. The vessel in the leftmost part of the photograph was made by layering NS-03 Multi over NS-54 Star White, and then encased in a thin coating of NS-32 Violet. Then, the vessel was striped with NS-26 Amber/Purple. The vessel in the center of the photograph was created by layering NS-26 Double Amber/Purple over NS-54 Star White, and encased in a layer of NS-32 Violet. The vessel was then striped and dotted with NS-26 Double Amber Purple and then dotted again with NS-32 Violet. The final vessel rightmost in the photo was created by layering NS-19 Light Cobalt Blue over NS-54 Star White, and then encased in NS-31 Lavender. The vessel was striped with NS-69 Green Amber/Purple.



*Figure 2 Bottles by Jesse Kohl*

Demonstrated left in Figure (3) is what these colors look like in solid form. From the top of the photo moving clockwise the colors are as follows: NS-23 Pink, NS-31 Lavender, NS-32 Violet and NS-25 Peach.