

Flamenco Fire

Design, Fabrication, and Text by Leslie Gibbs

Flamenco is a true Spanish art form. Born in the south of Spain, it blends the passions of the guitar, the beauty of the song, and the power of the dance. The Flamenco dancer seems possessed by the lively spirit of the moment, and with her swirling dress and stamping feet she evokes a scene burning with life, color, and romance. In this glass panel, we recreate this fire through the saturated colors of the flame itself using vibrant reds and glowing orange. Let this musical panel take you to a country roadhouse in Andalucía featuring the magic of the voice, the beauty of the guitar, and the swaying body of a dancer moving rhythmically in the moonlight.



Photography by Jon Gibbs

Spectrum Glass Company

210-71SF Ivory Solid Opalescent
for Moon, 1/2 Sq. Ft.

1009SF Black Transparent System 96®
for Hair, Scrap

291-61SF Champagne for Flesh, 1 Sq. Ft.
I/BR/400 Black/Clear Baroque Iridized
for Background, 2 Sq. Ft.

BR/6000 Black/White/Clear Baroque
for Floor Shadow, 1/2 Sq. Ft.

I/151SF Cherry Red Solid Transparent for Dress, 2 Sq. Ft.

I/1009SF Black Smooth Iridescent for Hair, Scrap

I/359-1S Red/White Wispy for Dress, 1 Sq. Ft.

Pale Amber Pebbles (11)

Uroboros System 96®

60-2502-96 Red for Shoes, Rose, and Shawl, 1/2 Sq. Ft.

60-2702-96 Orange for Shawl, 1/2 Sq. Ft.

Tools and Materials

60/40 Solder 3/8"-Wide Zinc 3/8 Flux

Finger Gloves™ Black Patina Fine-Tipped Black Marker

Black Enamel Hobby Paint Scotch™ Tape

Fine-Tipped Paintbrush Transfer Paper

17-Gauge Wire for Earrings Wire Cutters

1/8" and 1/4" Grinding Bits Silver-Backed Copper Foil

Glass Wax or Polish Soft Cloths Horseshoe Nails

Glass Hammer Hanging Hooks Steel Wool Gold Hobby Enamel

1

Lay out two copies of the Flamenco pattern, one to cut out and one to use as the base, and number each pattern section.



2

Cut the glass sections.



Before cutting the moon and background, place the Spectrum Pebbles where indicated on the design. Using a fine-tipped black marker, adjust the size of the circles to accommodate the Pebbles. It helps to also number the Pebbles. Cut all sections of the glass being careful to follow the flow of the Baroque glasses and the dress swirls. Notice that there are no pieces for the insides of the shoe heels or the left-hand part of the hair. These areas will be filled with solder and coated in black patina. To add interest to the hair, alternate those pattern sections using matte black and then iridized black. The same technique is used for the flower in her hair, alternating flat red with iridized red.

3

Grind the glass pieces.



You'll need to bring out your grinding bits for this part! I used 1/8" and 1/4" bits for the details of the face and hands. (I feel your pain—and hear your curses.) This is where you will be happy to don your Finger Gloves!

4

Clean the ground glass pieces and wrap all sections with silver-backed copper foil.



5

Lay out the foiled pieces on the pattern and secure the borders with horseshoe nails or edge walls to prevent slipping during soldering.



6

Flux all pieces and solder the panel together on one side, filling the gaps of the hair part and heels with solder.



7

Zinc the border.



Before soldering the back of the panel, cut the zinc to fit the panel and secure it in place with horseshoe nails. Solder the zinc at all corners as well as wherever the solder lines come in contact with the zinc. Then the panel is ready to flip over to solder the other side.

8

Create the earring.



Using a cylinder-shaped object roughly the same diameter as the earring, wrap 17-gauge wire several times tightly around the cylinder. (I used a large X-Acto knife handle.) Slip the wound wire off of the cylinder, and with wire cutters, cut one perfect circle. Solder the earring to the bottom tip of the ear. When the solder cools, wrap a piece of Scotch tape around the hoop to protect it during the patination process.

9

Add hooks for hanging the panel.



If you are not framing the panel, you have the option of adding hooks to the zinc so the panel can hang anywhere you would like. To add the hooks, clean the zinc with steel wool, then flux the area where the hooks will be added and solder the hooks to the panel.

10

After removing the flux residue from the panel, apply black patina.



Apply patina to both sides of the panel, then wash away the excess and let the panel dry before waxing.

11

Wax the panel.



Using a soft cloth and glass polish, wax the entire panel on one side, let it dry, and then wax the other side. Let the wax sit overnight, then buff to a shine using a clean, soft cloth.

12

Using transfer paper, trace the facial details onto the face and use the same procedure with the hand.



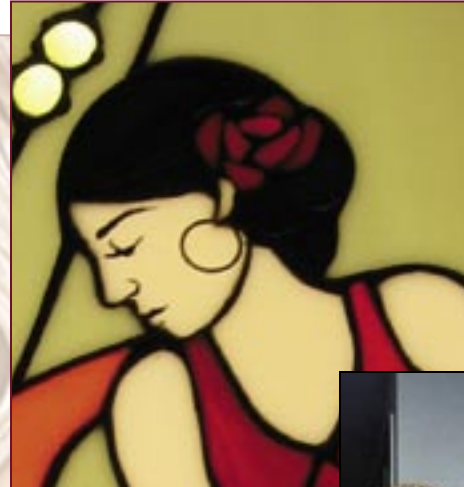
13

Paint the details of the face and fingers onto the polished glass with black hobby enamel.



With a fine-tipped paintbrush, follow the traced details in black paint. If you want the earring loops to be gold hoops, now is the time to paint them with gold hobby enamel. For best results, allow the paint to dry overnight.

Spain is a country that burns with life, color and romance, and by fabricating this Flamenco panel you will have dipped into the culture a bit. So perhaps it is time to cook up some paella for someone you love, open a bottle of Rioja wine, snap your fingers to a fiery rhythm, stamp your feet, and whirl around the kitchen until the authorities are summoned. Remember, I just said . . . perhaps. **GPQ**



Leslie Gibbs started her artist's journey as a painter wandering through Mexico, Spain, and France before returning to the United States in the late 1970s. In historic Virginia, she developed an interest in stained glass, particularly in glass design. Intrigued by a "canvas of light," Leslie began to translate her nature and wildlife art into glass design. Since then she has published numerous articles and books of glass patterns.

Fall 2007 saw the release of Leslie's eleventh book of patterns, *Welcome Home*. The book, which is from CKE Publications, is another collaboration with Laura Tayne, who is known for her graphic excellence with the Association of Stained Glass Lamp Artists (ASGLA) Calendar. This newest volume offers a collection of unique entryway treatments in glass for sidelights, transoms, and doors. Visit www.LeslieGibbsStudio.com to learn more about Leslie and her art.

