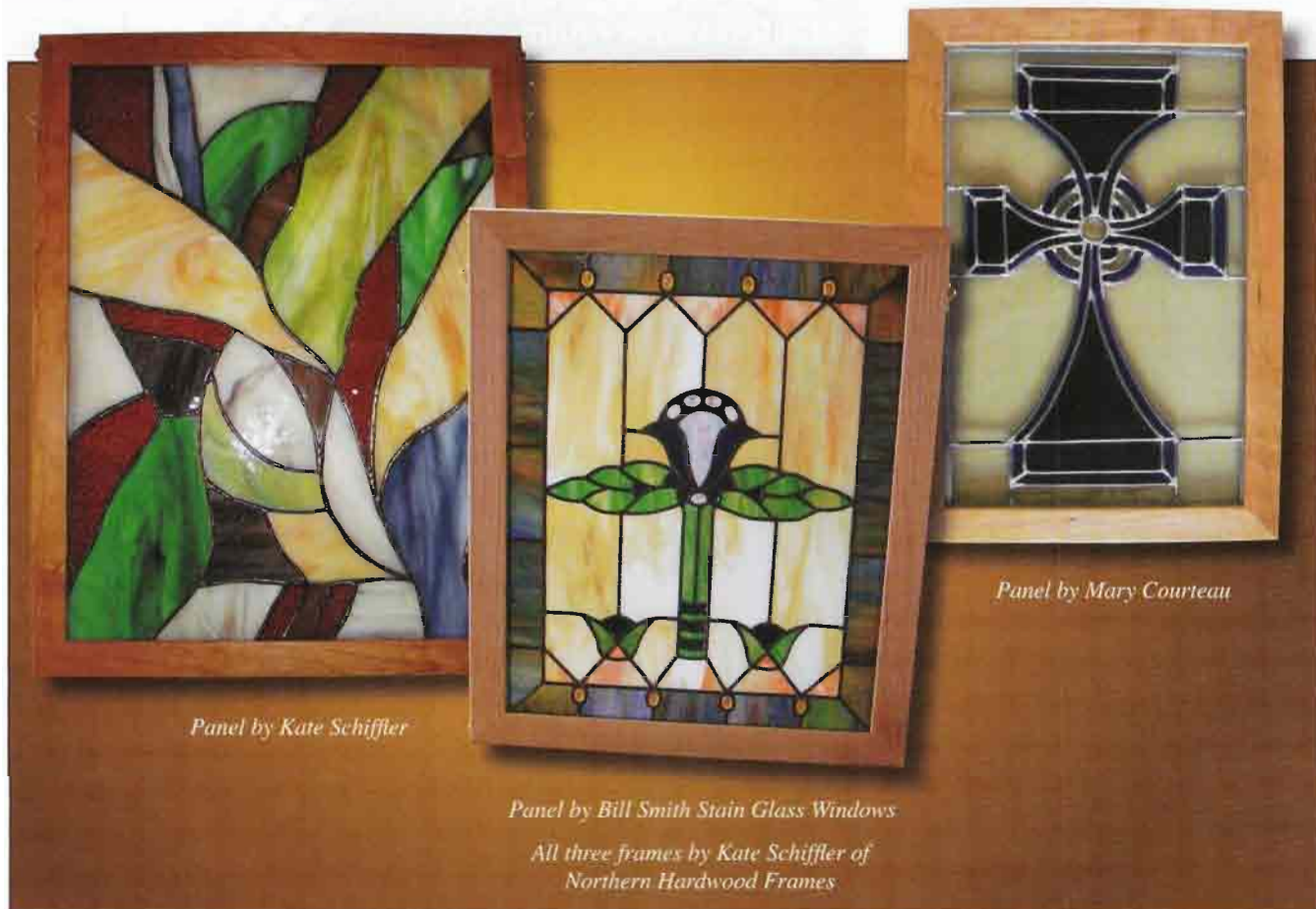


Successful Framing Tips from the Experts

Design, Fabrication, and Text by Kate Schiffler of Northern Hardwood Frames



Panel by Kate Schiffler

Panel by Mary Courteau

Panel by Bill Smith Stain Glass Windows

All three frames by Kate Schiffler of Northern Hardwood Frames

You put a lot of work into designing and crafting your glass art, so you deserve to have it showcased in a beautiful way. When you've finished with the construction, you can find a lot of satisfaction in setting off that unique project with a frame that you've made yourself.

The frame you choose can make or break your artwork, and constructing the frame as well as the panel will give you complete artistic control. The framing stock, available through

Northern Hardwood Frames and the company's distributors, is available in many different grains and colors in finished or unfinished woods. Oak, ash, cherry, maple, or walnut are the most popular choices.

You may be surprised at how easy it can be to add the perfect finishing touch to your next project. Follow these step-by-step instructions to help frame your stained glass beautifully and accurately using lineal framing.

Northern Hardwood Frames

Linear Wood Framing Stock
Wood Plugs Tempered Screws
Side Chain Hooks Brass Chain

Other Materials Required

Ruler Miter Saw
Sandpaper Screwdriver
Drill 7/64" Drill Bit
3/8" Countersink Drill Bit
Plastic or Rubber Mallet
Pony Clamp or C-Clamp
Wood Glue

Step 1

Measure the length and width of your glass panel.



As sometimes happens, you may not get the same measurement all the way around, so be prepared to add or subtract 1/8". Go with the larger measurement if your corners are off.

Step 2

Set your miter saw at a 45-degree angle.



Miter allowances are used to help you cut your wood accurately to fit your glass panel. Refer to the following miter allowances, which are determined by your stock width. If you are using the narrow 1" stock, add 1-5/16" to your measurement. If you are using the 1-3/8" wide stock, add 2-1/16". And if you are using the 2" extra wide stock, add 3-5/16". So, for example, if you are framing a 24" panel and you want to use the 1-3/8" wide stock, you would add 2-1/6" to the 24" panel measurement to get the outside frame dimensions to fit that size panel. After you have determined the correct length, mark your wood and cut the miter.

Step 3

Drill holes using a 7/64" drill bit.



When drilling the holes, put the countersink hole on the height of your piece. Therefore, by the screws going into the side, the weight sits on the length of the screw and is not pulling on the thread. If you are not using a countersink, you can use brass-plated framing screws to accent the look of your frame by drilling a 7/64" pilot hole and inserting the screw. Drill all four sides before trying to insert the glass.

Step 4

Begin to assemble the frame.



For solid, accurate corners, use the glue/screw technique. Beginning with the bottom and sides of the frame, apply woodworking glue to the exposed sides of the miter and then lay them on the table "assembled." If you plan on adding a finish or stain, be careful to not let the glue squeeze out onto the face of the frame. The glue may mar the appearance after it is applied.

Step 5

Install your glass artwork.



After you have assembled the three sides, slide your glass into the "U" shape. By not gluing the upper corners, you will allow for later disassembly.

Step 6

Place the top piece on and screw it into place.

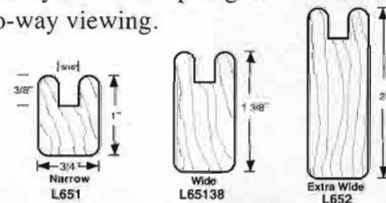


For the best results, use a clamp to keep the screw holes aligned. A helpful hint for making sure that your corners line up properly is to place the countersink corner about 1/16" to 1/8" over the pilot hole corner. The force of the screw will then pull your corners flush.

Tap the wood plugs in over the countersink holes with a plastic or rubber mallet.

Hang the panel from the side pieces, not the top, using a chain hook, these prevent the wood from deforming over time.

If you're still convinced that framing isn't for you or you don't have the tools needed to cut your own frame, a custom premade frame is another option. Just measure your finished panel and pass on the dimensions to Northern Hardwood Frames, and a custom frame can be built for you. Northern Hardwood Frames unique framing holds your glass project securely in a U-shaped groove. This design also allows for two-way viewing.



Kate Schiffler earned a major in art and a minor in archeology from the University of Minnesota. She has experimented in a wide variety of art forms for most of her life, including stained glass. Kate takes great pride in her workmanship and loves sharing her expertise and love of art with others who can gain from her experience.



Kate has been working hard at Northern Hardwoods for over two years and hopes to keep the company going for many more. When she isn't busy creating custom framing for herself and others, she enjoys riding horses, being outdoors, traveling, and trying all kinds of new things.