

# ⊕ Quick Tip: Powder Power



A thin layer of powder has power!  
Light Turquoise and Clear Powder  
(001101-0008-F), unfired.



Same, capped with Tekta Clear & fired with  
schedule provided. Very small bubbles.



For comparison, same sheet glass lay-up  
fired without powder to a basic full fuse.  
Typical champagne bubbles.

Want to minimize the look of bubbles in fused pieces? Here’s a technique—used in kilnforming circles for many years—that’s also worked well for us.

Add a light application of Clear powder between the layers with a full-fuse firing schedule. That’s right: between the layers! You’ll actually trap more bubbles, but they’ll be smaller than the usual “champagne” bubbles—and to that we say, “Cheers!”

**TIP:** To get an even distribution of powder, keep your sifter at least 18” (45 cm) above the surface and apply with multiple light taps to the handle.

## Firing Schedule

RATE	TEMPERATURE	HOLD
300°F (167°C)	1225°F (663°C)	1:00
600°F (333°C)	1490°F (810°C)	0:10

Anneal and cool based on thickness.

This firing schedule has a built-in “bubble squeeze” when the glass is in the 1200-1225°F range. The glass softens in this range and, as the layers settle, much of the air is squeezed out. We’ve tested this extensively on 6” x 8” tiles. For larger works, you may want to extend the hold time at 1225°F.

Note that the smaller bubbles created by this technique can also result in a flatter piece, whether it’s fired with transparent, opalescent, or iridized glasses.



Angelita Surmon, Oak Island Reflections (detail), 8” x 12” x .25”, 2012. Surmon uses a variation of this bubble control technique to draw attention to imagery and quiet the negative spaces in her kilnformed landscape works.