

# Steel Blue Opalescent (000146): One Glass, Two Looks

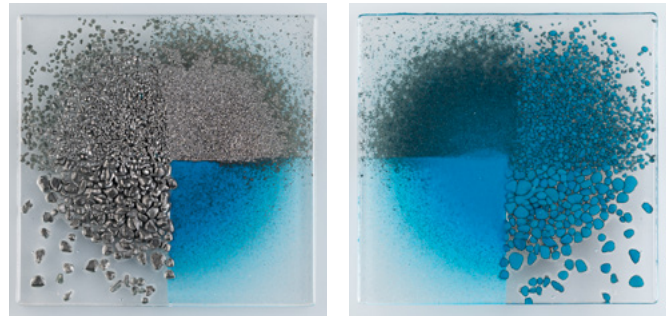


Thanks to the serendipities of its chemistry, Steel Blue Opalescent is especially magical. Depending on how you fire it—and whether it's exposed to air—it can appear as a deep teal-blue, a metallic silver-gray, or even both at once.

**At Left:** Composite image, full fuse effects: The left side shows Steel Blue Opalescent capped with clear sheet glass. The right side shows Steel Blue Opalescent as the top layer, fused on a base of clear sheet glass.

## Overview of Color Activation

- Full fuse (around 1500 °F / 815 °C): Maintains a rich blue when capped, or viewed through clear—but when uncapped or exposed, may develop a metallic silver-gray sheen over the surface. In some cases, you'll see a blend: silver with hints of blue. Design with covered areas—using Clear sheet, frit, or powder—retain the blue, enabling two-color designs in a single firing
- Lower temps (1250–1425 °F / 677–773 °C): The surface exposed to air is more likely to develop a distinct metallic coating
- Steel Blue Opalescent Powder (000146-0008) tends to develop a darker metallic finish more reliably at tack or sinter temps (such as 1275 °F / 691 °C)



**Above:** Front and back views of Steel Blue Opalescent frit in Coarse, Medium, Fine, and Powder, fired to a process temperature of 1400 °F (760 °C) on Clear sheet glass. The reverse side, or shelf-side, retains its blue appearance when in contact with the base of Clear sheet.

## Working Notes

- Didn't get the metallic effect you wanted? Re-firing can help bring out the metallic sheen. Try firing to 1375 °F / 746 °C with a 10-minute hold
- Fired to a full fuse and weren't expecting silver? You can try going back to blue by adding a cap of clear sheet—or a layer of clear powder—and re-fire to a full fuse. This technique can have variable results
- The metallic coating can prevent adhesion at lower tack fuse temperatures
- Steel Blue Opalescent is a copper-bearing glass and has reactive potential with Sulfur/Selenium and Reactive styles (000009, 001009, 001019)
- Expect variation! Steel Blue Opalescent rewards creative setups and experimentation. It is—how shall we say?—a free-spirited glass

## Available Forms

- Sheet Glass, 3 mm (-0030)
- Sheet Glass, thin 2 mm (-0050)
- Coarse (-0003), Medium (-0002), Fine (-0001), and Powder (-0008)
- Rod (-0576)
- Stringer (-0107) and (-0272)

Explore more tips and insights about this one-of-a-kind glass in the [About Our Glass](#) section at [bullseyeglass.com](http://bullseyeglass.com).