

Skutt GM22CS Kiln

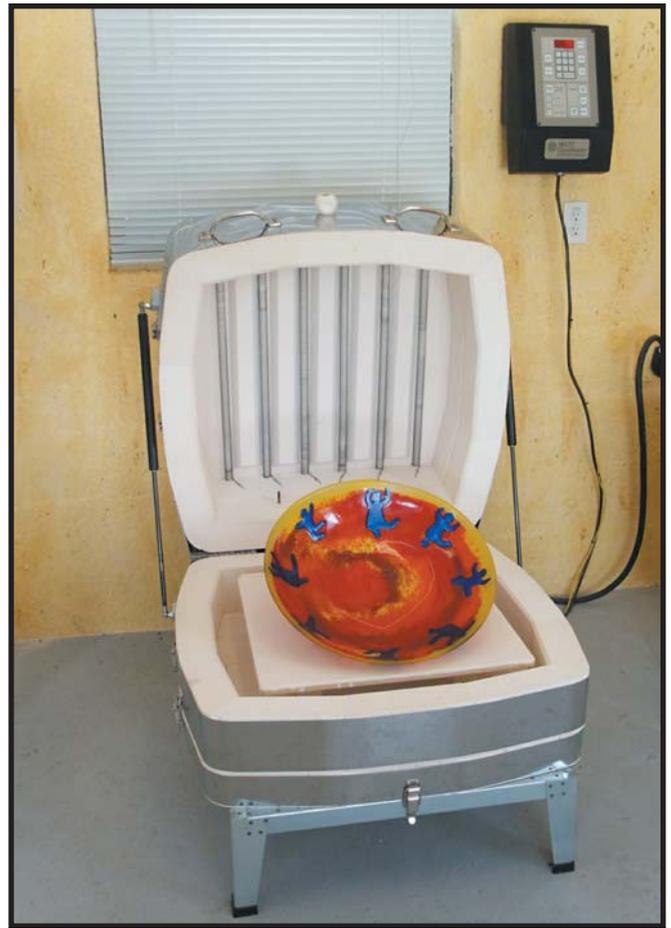
The Clamshell

SPECS

Model #:	GM22CS
Opening:	23.25" x 24.5"
Depth:	13 1/2"
Cu Ft.	4.35
Phases:	1
Volts:	240
Amps:	31.0
Watts:	7411
Temperature:	1800°F
Ship Wt:	257
Wire Size:	B
Breaker:	40
Receptacle:	6-50

FEATURES

- Wall Mounted GlassMaster Controller
- Optional Quartz Viewing Window Available
- Removable Fiber Lid
- Gas Shocks
- Elements hung on Refractory Rods
- Encapsulated Type K Thermocouple
- Easily fits 20" Shelf
- 8" Reinforced Stand

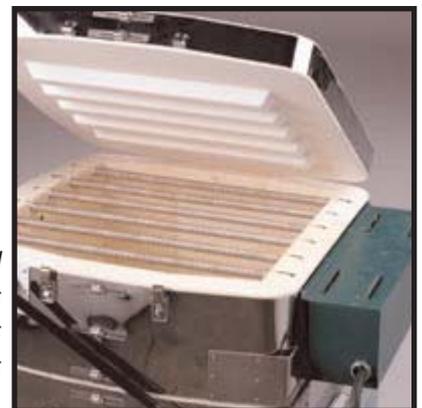


by Lisa Vogt

Never let it be said that you can have too many glass fusing kilns! There are tall, short, square, round, and rectangular-shaped kilns. Each piece of equipment has its own features and benefits that make it unique. For this reason I work with several different kilns, including the Clamshell. Its unusual body style and versatile controller give me the flexibility I need. Often working on several pieces at one time, I rotate different projects of varying complexities and processes through the kiln with confidence. The Clamshell is designed for professional artists but is so easy to use that anyone can take advantage of its unique features.

The elements are hung on a refractory rod which helps extend life and prevent particles from falling into the glass. The fiber top is removable which makes changing elements easier than any kiln on the market.

The Clamshell features a wall mount GlassMaster digital controller that conveniently sits up high on the wall rather than on the side of the kiln. Beginning fusers will find the controller's GlassFire Mode very useful. With it you can fuse glass confidently and get consistent results right away. GlassFire Mode is a series of frequently used, conservative glass firing programs. They come pre-programmed in the GlassMaster controller. You won't find yourself struggling to



understand firing rates, times, and theory. The programs are accessed with the touch of a button.

When you are ready to write and fire your own programs, you will enjoy the Ramp and Hold feature. It allows you to key in several different firing schedules of your choice. Your programs remain stored in permanent memory until you change them. Additional one-button features that enable the advanced artist to make spontaneous alterations to a firing in progress are: Anneal Now, Add Time, and Add Temp.

At first glance you will see there is something dramatically different about the appearance of this kiln. Its clamshell shape has many benefits. The kiln shelf is posted so it is at the same level as the top of the bottom section of the kiln. Loading and unloading the shelf is made easier. There is less time spent bending and positioning the shelf than with a deeper kiln. This also makes it easy to assemble your project right on the kiln shelf. Last minute layout adjustments can be made quickly and comfortably without having to work over the side walls of the kiln.

Another advantage to this body style is that the top portion (or lid) of the kiln is very deep. Heat becomes trapped in the large upper cavity when you open the kiln to peek. You are able to inspect the project more critically without being blasted by an uncomfortable amount of heat. Manipulating glass is easier, too. The kiln shelf is at a height that is easy to access from the front of the kiln. When the lid is opened the heat is contained in the upper portion while the work is done. This reduces the amount of hot air that can escape. When the lid is closed the temperature in the kiln recovers more quickly.

The Clamshell is tall enough to do deep slumps and will accommodate up to a 22-inch square kiln shelf. For those of you like me, who are always trying to squeeze one more piece into the kiln, you will be happy to know that as much as 25% additional glass will fit on a square shelf than on a round or hexagon-shaped shelf.

The Clamshell also features a fiber lid design. The elements are hung over rods in the lid of the kiln. This eliminates the possibility of drooping or sagging. Therefore, particles from the lid or element pins cannot fall onto your artwork. The elements are designed to last a very long time, but if replacement is necessary, the design of this model makes it easy. The oversized lid has gas shocks. They mechanically aid in opening and closing the lid, making it manageable and lightweight. This kiln is also available with a quartz-viewing window.

The Clamshell is manufactured with the same care and high quality standards as all Skutt kilns. Its high tech appearance may be a bit unusual but it will grow on you, especially when you are enjoying the artwork you create using the Clamshell's state-of-the-art technology and design. ❖

Lisa Vogt, owner of Originals In Glass, has been working as a professional stained glass artist for the past 13 years in Tampa, Florida. She draws upon her fine-art education while designing award winning works of art that have been published in patterns books and industry publications.