Fade to Black 033-58

Fade to Black (FTB) is truly a unique and remarkable color within the colored glass palette. The black rod can go clear, white, blue, green, and back to black as it is worked. This is a soft working black that sculpts nicely and can strike into bolts of blue/white lightning in re-heated areas. The final version of this color is much more stable than our experimental batches, however, this is an advanced color, and there are some important guidelines that can help you get the most out of it.

- Maintain an even heat base and employ a soft flame to keep a uniform temperature. Also avoid moving Fade to Black in and out of the kiln while you work it. A great way to achieve this is to complete your piece in one session, and by occasionally bathing your work in a bushy annealing flame or annealing burner.

- Apply clear glass to Fade to Black carefully and conservatively. Thin dots and layers result in the color turning a nice white, however heavier applications like a clear encasement can result in cracking. Artists will commonly use a "buffer" of an intermediate color like TAG Black Jack or TAG Whiteout between FTB and a clear section.

- To bring the unique whites, blues, greens etc. out of Fade to Black, the color must be selectively re-heated. This is best accomplished by using a small hot flame, such as a mini torch flame, quickly bringing areas up to white hot. The various colors will appear in the heat gradient created between hotter and cooler areas.
- When mixing FTB with other colors, use caution, and test before you implement the combination in a piece.

- Fade to Black's colors can only be attained at higher than annealing temperature, and the color must be selectively struck in the flame to preserve them.

Enjoy playing and experimenting with this amazing color. You will quickly learn how to use heat gradients to bring out the many colors of FTB. Trautman Art Glass, Inc would be grateful to hear about your adventures with this mysterious color!