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"I've fired your kilns all over the country during my seminars. I never hear complaints about your kilns. They are reliable and last a hell of a long time."

**Dan Fenton**  
Fenton Glass Studio  
Oakland, California

"Our Paragon kilns are essential to the successful operation of Vitrum Studio. We could not do our job without them. Our Paragon GL-24s and GL-64 are truly workhorses and can handle any firing program we design with absolute accuracy and dependable results, time after time."

**Judith Finn Conway**  
Vitrum Studio  
Washington, DC

# DO NOT PURCHASE A GLASS KILN UNTIL YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

Many mistakes are made by artists when purchasing a kiln. Avoid these mistakes by purchasing the correct kiln and get the value you expect from your kiln purchase. Answering these questions will help you get the perfect kiln for your needs and budget.

## 1) Do I need a digital kiln or a manual kiln?

Digital controllers are easy to use and allow the artist to program a firing schedule for different types of effects. They are designed to be programmed using the firing schedules provided by the glass manufacturers. Learn to use a digital controller with the interactive demos on our website. The manual switches require the artist to remain with the kiln during the firing to make sure the temperatures are correct. These are very difficult to use when performing multiple-segment firings. Paragon uses the Sentry Express and the Sentry 2.0 digital controllers which are very reliable and offer the features required by glass artists.

## 2) Do I need a top load or a front load glass kiln?

The top load kilns offer the most size for the cost. They can fire most glass projects but they are not good for projects that require manipulating the glass during the firing as the artist is subjected directly to the heat when the lid is opened nor are they recommended for bead annealing. Front load kilns are better for bead annealing and manipulating glass during the firing. They are also easier to load with large glass projects on the kilns shelves. The Paragon Fusion series of top loading kilns offer an excellent value for their size and the GL series of front loading kilns has performed well for over 20 years.

## 3) Do I need elements in the top and sides or only the top?

Glass does not like temperature variation across it. Top elements offer very even heating across a flat piece of glass but are not recommended by themselves when firing tall or deep pieces with molds. Side elements offer more even heating of the sides of drape molds or deep castings. The Paragon Fusion 8 and Fusion 10 have elements in the sides standard and the side elements are optional on all the GL series front loading kilns.

## 4) What voltage do I need to buy?

Smaller kilns usually use 120 volt which is a standard household power outlet. These kilns can be used for bead annealing, small glass fusing projects, art clay, etc. Larger kilns require 240 or 208 volt service so they can deliver the power required. Most houses have 240 volts while commercial and educational facilities have 208 volts. Please have the voltage checked prior to ordering as changing the kiln's voltage can be expensive.

## 5) Is there a kiln that can fire glass, metal clay, and beads?

Yes. Paragon offers small kilns that operate on 120 household power for these applications including the SC-2 and SC-3, the Xpress-E-12A and Xpress-E-12T, and the Caldera. Each of these models can be ordered with an optional bead door.

## 6) Is there a kiln that can fire both glass and pottery?

Yes. Paragon offers the Janus series of kilns that can fire both glass and pottery. This design was developed by Paragon and offers the user the ability to flip a switch and have the top and one side element on for the glass mode and side elements only in pottery mode.