



Dragonfly Garden Stake

*Design by Leslie Gibbs,
Fabrication and Text by Dave Burnett,*

Paul Wissmach Glass Co.

#87LL, Sky Blue and Crystal Stream X for Wings, 1/2 Sq. Ft.

#197-L, Dark Blue/Medium Green Opal for Body, 1/3 Sq. Ft.

Other Materials Required

Flux Solder 7/32" Copper Foil

20-, 22-, and 16-Gauge Copper Wire

2 Small Green Nuggets

1/8" Copper or Brass Rod Black Patina

This is one of many of the garden stake designs in Leslie Gibb's book, *Garden Art in Glass*. There is a lot more information in her book about wire, rods, and other hardware used in building the garden stakes.

Always wear eye protection, keep a clean work surface, and solder in a well ventilated area.

When you're ready to begin make two copies of the original pattern provided. Number each pattern piece and mark grain direction, if any. Cut one pattern apart with copper foil pattern shears. Use the second copy for laying out the design.

1. Position the paper pattern on the glass and score around the pattern pieces.

2. Run the score with glass breaking pliers and remove the waste glass from the glass pattern piece. Cut all of the pieces for the wings or use wire overlay for the lines.

After all of the pieces are cut, grind them and check for fit. Grind the two glass nuggets to form the rounded eyes.

3. Dry the glass pieces before foiling with 7/32" copper foil. Make sure that the glass is centered on the foil and wrap the edges of the glass.

Use a fid or lathkin to burnish or smooth the edges of the foiled pieces. Apply flux to the copper foil. The flux prepares the copper to accept the solder.

4. Solder the top side of the dragonfly, leaving the gap for the support rod unsoldered for now.

Cut the solid core copper or brass rod to the desired length. Bend the end of the rod to fit into the open space of the body.

5. Flip the dragonfly over and position the bent end of the rod into the open space and solder the back side.

6. Flip the dragonfly to the front side and finish soldering the gap where the rod was placed. Solder 20-gauge wire onto the body for support.

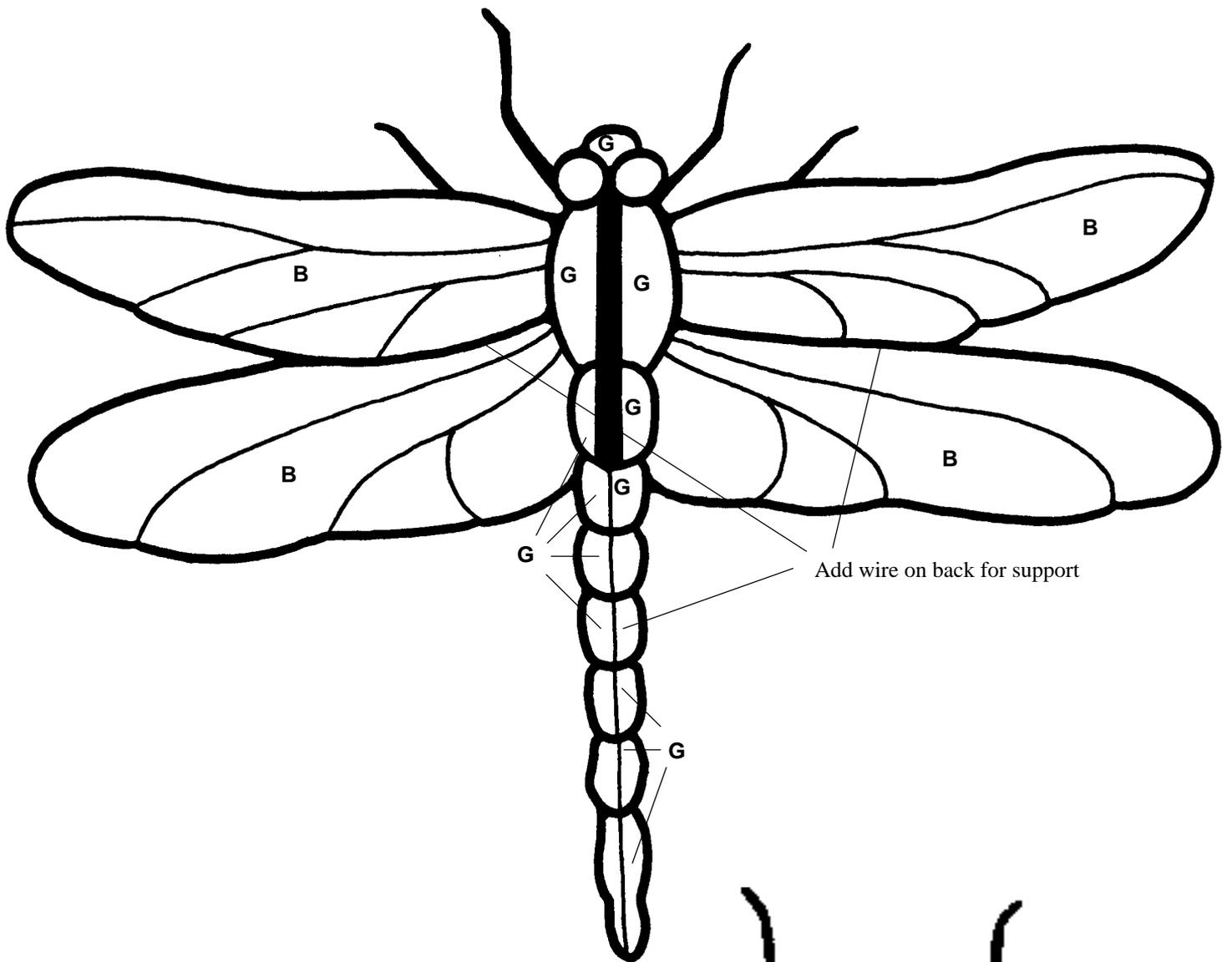
7. Cut and bend wire to form the legs of the dragonfly. With the project face down, solder the legs in place.

8. Cut wire for the overlay on the wings. Tin and solder the wire overlay to the wings following the layout design.

Clean the project thoroughly with flux remover and warm soapy water. Use a brush to apply black patina to the solder. Clean again and apply a glass wax to prevent oxidation.

GPQ

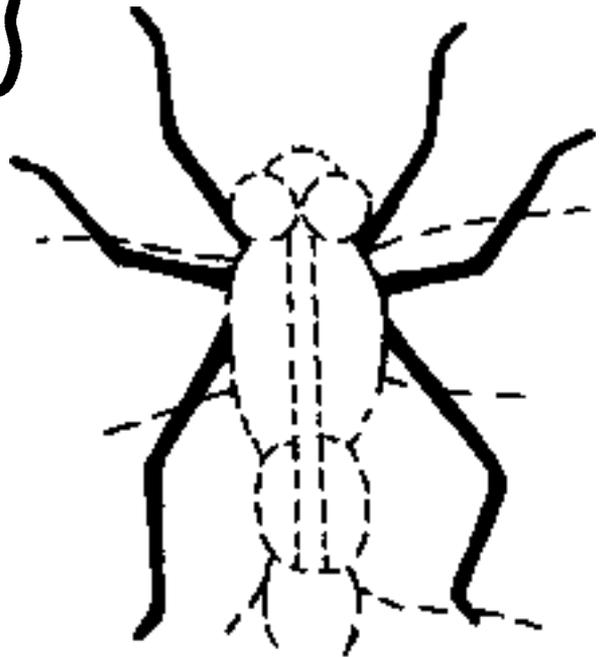




Dragonfly Garden Stake

Design by Leslie Gibbs

B - Sky Blue and Crystal Stream X for Wings, 1/2 Sq. Ft.
 G - Dark Blue/Medium Green Opal for Body, 1/3 Sq. Ft.



Wire leg pattern
and placement,
bottom view

Glass Patterns Quarterly
Spring 2002