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How to Use a Glass Cutter

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How to Use a Glass Cutter

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I remember when my father first taught me to use a glass cutter. I don't remember what we were making, probably one of my countless projects that he would always drop everything to work on with me. I had spent forever figuring it out just exactly perfect, and we had spent the better half of the morning getting everything set up just right for the cut. Dad marked it out with a sharpie and showed me just where the cut would be made. He scored the glass, talking me through the entire process and then put a wooden dowel under the mark. We both held our breath as he pressed and the glass snapped, sheering cleanly into two pieces.

I remember that event well because as I stood there staring at these two pieces, my brain reeled in disbelief. It was almost as if the line my father had made were merely a suggestion the glass had chosen not to take. The break followed for an inch or two and then veered sharply to the side, right through the piece we needed to keep. I stared at the glass for a long time, and at my father, back at the glass, and back at him. Delicate as the glass itself, that is when my image of him shattered. That was the first time I ever realized my father could make a mistake.

