

Fenton Art Glass Presents. . . The Birth of an Alley Cat!



F E N T O N
USA

Recent visitors to Fenton Art Glass watched in awe as our glass artisans created the Alley Cat. They gained a new appreciation of the skill and effort that goes into creating art glass. For 2009, we offer the Alley Cat handcrafted in our one of our new colors - Robin's Egg Blue Iridized. The whimsical Alley Cat has been one of Fenton's most popular items since we first made it in 1970. The mould originated at the U.S. Glass Co. plant in Tiffin, Ohio, during the 1920s, and we acquired the mould in the mid-1960s. Since that time, we have made the Alley Cat in many different colors and decorative treatments, and each has been greeted with much enthusiasm by Fenton collectors, who just can't get enough of the Alley Cat's characteristic grin.

The Alley Cat stands about 11" tall, and he looks just great in Robin's Egg Blue glass that has been iridized. The iridescent effect is achieved by spraying the Alley Cat while very hot soon after it's taken out of the mould. The spray consists of special metallic salts, and it imparts a rainbow of colors to the glass. Fenton pioneered this technique more than a century ago, and our letterhead stationery proudly proclaimed us as "Originators of Iridescent Ware." Each piece reflects some of the great traditions of the American glass industry as well as our pride in handmade art glass. Shown are the production steps necessary to create a first quality Alley Cat.



The Production Team for the Alley Cat (not shown are the glassworkers who iridize the piece and carry it to the lehr).



The cast iron Alley Cat mould weighs approximately 250 pounds.



Glass Melting Furnace



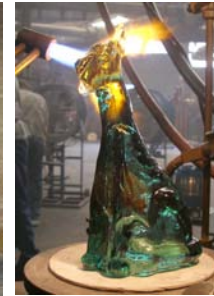
The Gatherer gathers enough glass to flow into the mould, and the presser cuts off the proper amount.



Pressing the molten glass using a side-lever press.



Sometimes, things go wrong!



Glazing process



Reheating is done before the iridizing process.



Iridizing: The spray of metallic salts gives our Alley Cat extra sparkle!



Into the lehr.



Approximately two hours later, out come the Alley Cats for the selecting process. The selector checks each piece for defects to determine whether it is first quality.

