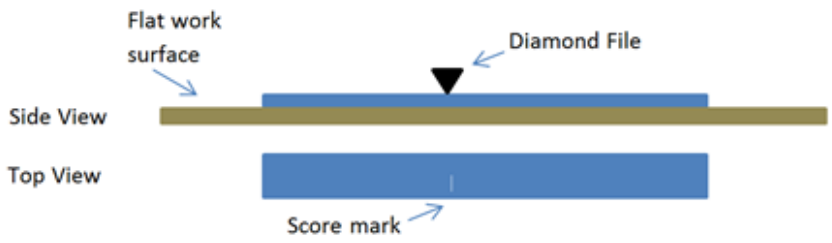
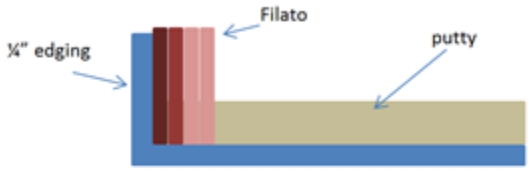
Cutting Filato

Cutting filato is very simple. Using the diamond file, you make a light score line across the filato. You don't have to press very hard to make the score and it does not need to be scored completely across.



When first working with filato, we recommend using a flat work surface to cut on. This will prevent accidently snapping the filato while making the score line.

For shaped filato, especially the half-moon curves, you should fully score across one side of the glass to get a straight edge – if you do not, you will end up with curved cuts. You cannot make these scores easily on a flat surface. You need to make them while holding it with your fingers. Take a look at the video on our website in the micromosaic section to see how this is done.

Once the score line has been made, you snap with your fingers. As show in the pictures below, it is important that the score line is facing up and then snap away from the line.

Substrates – unlike traditional mosaics, which can be created on a substrate without a framed edge, micromosaics require a framed edge to maintain the structural integrity of the mosaic. When you are first working with micromosaics, you should use a substrate with at least a ¼" edge. As you improve your technique, this depth can be reduced for more delicate jewelry pieces.