How to Calculate the Cost of Operating YOUR Kiln

Are visions of spiraling electric bills keeping you from owning a kiln or from upgrading to a larger one? The Two Lasses are here to offer you an easy and reliable way to calculate the monthly cost of operating your kiln. Here's the formula:

First you need to know the volts and Amps of the kiln in question.

Take the volts of the kiln and multiply by the Amps to discover the Watts (Volts x Amps = Watts)

Then, take the Watts and divide by 1000 which will give you the Kilowatts (Watts div. by 1000 = Kilowatts)

Next, check your household electric bill to determine the amount of money your utility company charges you PER KILOWATT HOUR and multiply that amount by the number of Kilowatts you determined are used by your kiln and you will know exactly how much money you are spending per hour to operate your kiln.

Example: My Jen-Ken Bead Annealer with Digital Controller has 120 volts and 13 Amps 120 x 13 = 1,560 1,560 Watts divided by 1000 = 1.56 My electric company charges me $0.055 cents per kilowatt hour 1.56 x 0.055 = .08 cents per hour

Given that the average kiln firing program for fusing glass in a small, table-top sized kiln (like my Jen-Ken Bead Annealer) is about eight hours in duration, and given that the kiln is NOT firing full "ON" during the entire 8 hours, we can estimate that the kiln might use the equivalent of about three hours of electricity per firing (about .24 cents). IF you were to complete one firing per day for a month, you would spend roughly $7.20 per month. Are you surprised at how economical your kiln is? We were!!