



Forehearth stirrer assemblies are used to homogenise the glass in a forehearth or gathering bay by mechanically stirring the glass and breaking up any cord present in the system. They are used very effectively in lead crystal glass with up to 30% lead, particularly in reducing the effect of zirconia cord. Stirrers are essential in a colour forehearth to mix the frit with the base glass to ensure an even distribution of the colouring materials.

KTG Engineering manufacture a range of stirrer assemblies. The photograph opposite shows a standard unit but this can be modified to suit the customer's individual requirements.

Four vertical paddle assembly

This type is used either alone or in a refractory cell in a KT forehearth and consists of two pairs of vertically mounted AZS type refractory paddles.

Two vertical paddle assembly

For use in a KU forehearth or in a spout bowl, this consists of a pair of vertically mounted AZS type refractory paddles. This type of assembly is mainly used in high quality, lead crystal glass where there is insufficient space for the four paddle unit.

Two inclined paddle assembly

Used in either a KU (16") or a KW (26") forehearth and consists of two zircon mullite refractory paddles inclined at an angle of 11 or 13 degrees to the vertical to suit either a standard or a deep forehearth. This type of assembly is mainly used in soda lime glass. A group is used for mixing in a colour forehearth.

Single vertical gathering bay assembly

A zircon mullite refractory paddle is screwed to a water-cooled shaft and mounted vertically through the crown of a gathering bay. This type of assembly is used mainly in lead crystal glass but is suitable for use in soda lime glass.