

# My Balsa & Glass Workshop

## Hot Air Balloons Stained Glass Panel Assembly Description

**Updated as of 12 March 2025**

When I first started making Stained Glass panels, after a couple small panels I wanted to try my hand at something larger, but not with a hundred small pieces. After some initial ideas I drew up a pattern for a single hot air balloon which turned into the panel in Figure 1 below. The panel measures 22" x 28" and only has 53 fairly large size pieces of copper foiled stained glass. This panel was given to my parents in Florida where it hung in their home for many years and now hangs in the sunroom of our North Carolina home.



Figure 1 – My Third Stained Glass Project Many Years Ago

Having always liked hot air balloons because of their variety in design and colors, I want to come up with a new Stained Glass panel design that has many different types of balloons participating in an event flying over a gentle rolling landscape. Something like that shown in Figure 2 below, but with more variance in the balloon patterns.



Figure 2 – Example Hot Air Balloons Stained Glass Panel

To start, I sized this new panel to measure 30” wide by 20” high, which will allow me to have several balloons at different altitudes spread across a wide view. This panel size may change once I come up with a couple initial balloon patterns and can visualize the sizes of the individual glass piece. My next step was to work up some balloon patterns using my computer drawing program Back To The Drawing Board. (<https://drawingboardapp.com>).

Using several images from my web search for hot air balloons, I reworked them in the drawing program so I would not have too many tiny pieces to cut, grind and copper foil. I decided to use a mix of both “vintage” and modern style hot air balloon patterns. Figure 3 below is my first cut at a Stained Glass pattern for this new panel.

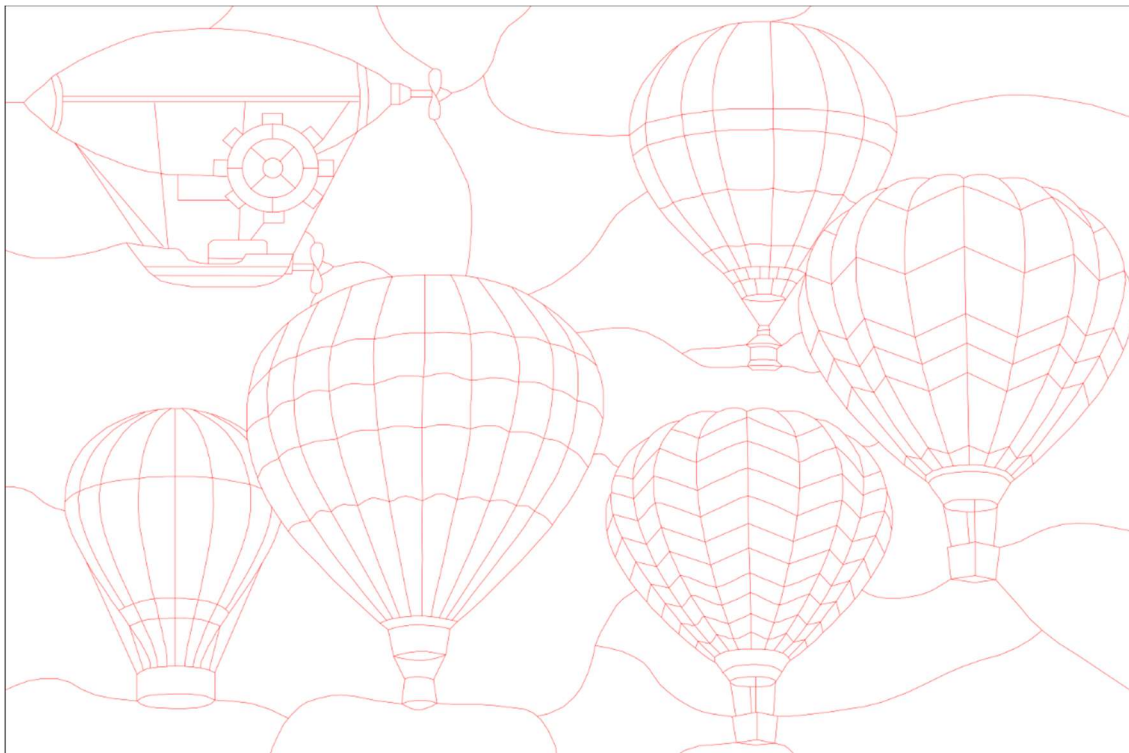


Figure 3 – Initial Hot Air Balloons Stained Glass Panel Pattern

Not all the lines in this pattern will be glass piece edges. I plan to use copper wire to form the square paddles on the large power wheel, several of the wires that attach the boat to the balloon, and some lines to the gondola in lower left corner of the panel. In the areas where balloons overlap, I edited out the lines for the balloon in the background. Currently, I think I will use Double Glue Chip clear glass for the panel open sky pieces.

***Stay tuned for more to come.***