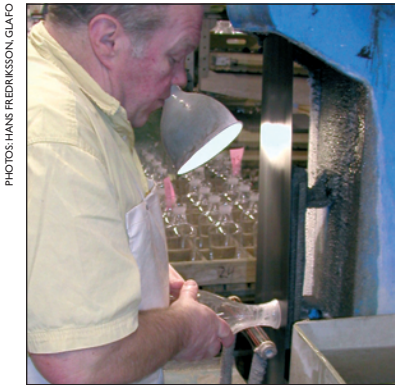




9. FINISHING AND DECORATION

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PHOTOS: HANS FREDRIKSSON, GLAFO

Figure 9.1 Edging work at Sandvik.



Figure 9.2 To ensure the edge is rounded, it is melted in an edge-melting machine. Sandvik.

Only very seldom are glass products ready for sale when they emerge from the lehr. Instead, they are finished and decorated in a variety of different ways.

A wine glass, must be cracked off, its edge must be ground and gently melted, and the glass must be polished. It is also washed, signed or marked, and packaged before it is offered for sale. Many other steps may also have to be taken in order to finish the glass. The surface may, for example, be given a bright polished finish by acid polishing, or it may be rendered matt by etching. Coatings of various sorts, or a layered structure, can change both the appearance and function of the glass, while the surface may be painted or cut into just about any desired pattern.

CRACKING OFF

Blown glass has a cap or moil that must be removed. This may be done either directly in the hot shop after shaping in a process known as burning off, or it may take place after the lehr. In this case, a line is scored around the glass at the place where the cap is to be cracked off. A fine gas flame is played around the line; then, to hasten the process, it may also be cooled with air. This produces a thermal shock that causes the cap to crack off from the main body of the glass along the scored line. A tungsten wheel or a diamond point is used to score the line into the glass.