



Pillow Pendants

Colour de Verre's Pillow Pendants leave plenty of room for creativity and customization. Results can be simple and understated or elegant.

Preparing the Molds

The molds must be primed so the glass doesn't adhere to the ceramic material from which the molds are made. There are two choices for primers: Hotline Primo™ Primer and ZYP BN Lubriccoat (formerly MR-97). The ZYP is the easiest to apply and remove. It is an aerosol and, after firing, brushes off easily from the molds and can be washed off the pieces. Castings created using MR-97 have exceptionally smooth surfaces and almost never require grinding or "cold work."

Primo is a traditional kiln wash that is applied with an artist's

brush. It's a trusted and proven product, but requires a bit more "elbow grease" to remove after firing. Primo's big advantages are its low cost and availability.



Brief instructions for each option follow:

To apply MR-97, hold the well-shaken can 10 to 12 inches from the mold. Apply the first, light coat using a two to three-second burst of spray in a sweeping pattern across all the mold's cavities. Do not saturate the surface. If it is the first time ZYP has been applied to this mold, it is necessary to apply a second coat of the product. Before applying the second coat, let the mold dry for five minutes. Apply the second coat using another two to three-second burst of spray. In either case, let the mold dry for ten to fifteen minutes before filling. Again, the double coat of ZYP

need be only applied the first time. Thereafter, only one coat is necessary. For more information about ZYP, visit our website. There, download and read *Priming with ZYP Boron Nitride Aerosol*.

If you choose to use Primo Primer, give your mold three to four thin, even coats of Hotline Primo Primer kiln wash. Use a soft artist brush to apply the Primo Primer and a hair dryer to completely dry each coat before applying the next. Again, more detailed instructions on our website. See *Tricks of the Trade*. When using Primo Primer, best results are obtained when using fine frit. Larger frit can produce excessive casting spurs that require cold work.

Filling the molds



Frit can either be used straight from the manufacturer's container

Tools

- ✓ Small artist's brushes
- ✓ Digital scale
- ✓ Colour de Verre Pillow Pendants molds
- ✓ Small measuring spoons

Supplies

- ✓ Fine or Medium Frit
- ✓ Crushed dichroic sheet glass
- ✓ ZYP BN Lubriccoat (formerly MR-97) or Hotline Primo™ primer

or blended. However, we find the best results are usually obtained by “diluting” colored frit with clear frit. Even dark, opaque colors like blacks and browns become much more rich when mixed with clear frit. (See our document *Creating Frit “Paint Chips”*) It is important to remember that, when using frit, to wear a dusk mask.



Fill each cavity according to the chart below and level frit with a small artists brush. Place the filled molds on a *leveled* kiln shelf and fire according to the Firing Schedule shown below.

Design	Grams of Frit per Cavity
Large rectangle	20 to 24
Medium rectangle	16 to 18
Small rectangle	12
Large square	14
Small square	10

General Firing Schedule*

Segment	Ramp	Temperature	Hold
1	300°F/165°C	1420°F (770°C)	10 minutes for fine frit 20-25 minutes for medium frit 25-35 minutes for coarse frit
2	AFAP	960°F/515°C	30 minutes. Off

*Schedule for COE 96. For COE 90, increase casting temperature by 20°F/10°C. AFAP means “As Fast As Possible”, no venting.

Reusing the Molds

Clean mold thoroughly after each firing with a stiff, nylon bristle brush. Avoid breathing any dust by wearing a proper dust mask. Reapply primer before subsequent firings.



If correctly primed and fired, a Colour de Verre mold will yield many castings.



Variations

To create beautiful dichroic pendants, first fill each cavity with a third of the suggest fill weight of fine or medium Black frit.

Level the frit with an artist’s brush. Next, to each cavity, add a third of the suggest fill weight of crushed dichroic glass. (We prefer to use dichroic made with clear, thin glass.) Again, level the frit with an artist’s brush. Add a third layer of medium Water Clear frit. Level and make sure that none of the crushed dichroic is exposed. It is important that the tip of the “cone” that forms the pendant’s hole is exposed. Follow the CBS Dichroic Firing Schedule.



Dramatic mottled effects can be created by mixing different color coarse frit. If one is using coarse frit, best results are obtained by using ZYP.

To make a millefiori pendant, start by placing a layer of millefiori elements in the cavity. Top the layer with medium Water Clear frit. The total weight of the millefiori and Clear frit should equal the fill weight for the pendant.

CBS Dichroic Firing Schedule*

Segment	Ramp	Temperature	Hold
1	300°F/165°C	1250°F/675°C	30 minutes
2	300°F/165°C	1350°F/730°C	60 minutes
3	AFAP	960°F/515°C	30 minutes. Off. No venting

*Schedule for COE 96. For COE 90, increase casting temperature by 20°F/10°C. AFAP means "As Fast As Possible", no venting.



Small stringer segments are placed upon a 50/50 mixture of fine Black and Water Clear.



All sorts of possibilities with millefiori.



The Pillow Pendants coordinate perfectly with our other bead and Glasslink designs.