



Maple Leaf Bowls

Next time you are invited to dinner, make a couple of these maple leaf bowls for your host or hostess. They are perfect for measuring out spices, salt cellars, or serving condiments or olives.



Before each firing, clean your molds with a stiff nylon brush to remove any old kiln wash. Then give each mold four to five thin, even coats of Hotline Primo Primer. It is the only primer we recommend because it doesn't obscure the mold's fine detail and is easy to remove after firing. Use a soft brush to apply the primer and a hair dryer to completely dry each coat before applying the next. The mold should be completely dry before filling.

Next create separate 10% mixtures of Cherry Red and Orange powders mixed with fine Water Clear frit. To do this, put one measure of colored, powder frit – a teaspoon works fine – into each of two empty containers. Next add to each container nine measures of fine Water Clear frit. Cover the containers and thoroughly shake each to combine the colored and clear frit.

Place a piece of paper on your digital scale and “zero out” the display. Pour a combination of the orange and red frit mixtures onto the paper until the scale reads 60 grams. Without mixing the two frits, lift the paper off the scale and pour the frit into the larger of the two maple leaves. Evenly distribute the frit around the mold cavity using a small brush and gently flatten out the surface with your finger tips. This method creates a natural “swirl” of colors that mimics the way fall leaves change color. Repeat this process with the smaller maple leaf, but only measuring out 40 grams.

Firing schedules can be affected by glass thickness, number of pieces in the firing, whether the kiln has top and/or side elements, and even glass color. However, here is a

firing schedule that can serve as starting point for thin, fully-fused, finely-detailed castings.

COE 96 Casting Schedule

- Seg 1 300°F/hour to 1350°F, Hold 10 minutes (1375°F for COE 90)
- Seg 2 AFAP (As Fast As Possible) to 960°F no venting
- Seg 3 60°F/hour to 700°F
- Seg 4 Off, cool kiln, don't vent



The next step is to slump the leaves using the slumping surface built into the Maple Leaves molds' reverse side. Just like mold's casting surfaces, the slumping surfaces need to be coated with primer. Follow the instructions in the previous paragraphs to apply four to five,

Tools

- ✓ Colour de Verre Maple Leaves molds
- ✓ Small and large artist's brush
- ✓ Two small containers for mixing frit
- ✓ Digital scale

Supplies

- Hotline Primo Primer
- ✓ Powder Cherry Red and Orange frit
- ✓ Fine Water Clear frit

thin, even coats to the slumping surfaces.

Place the two cast leaves – textured side up – on the slumping surfaces.

Fire according to the following schedule:

COE 96 Slumping Schedule

- Seg 1 300°F/hour to 1200°F
(1225°F for COE 90)
- Seg 2 AFAP to 960°F no venting
- Seg 3 60°F/hour to 700°F
- Seg 4 Off, cool kiln, no venting



For a great presentation, nest the two bowls, secure them with twine, and add a simple, card-stock tag.



We chose autumn colors for our leaves. However, for a spring or summer look, consider using “straight” fine Citron frit instead of the Cherry Red/Orange combination.