



Oval and Teardrop Pendants

Produces delicate, but attention grabbing pendants by combining these two designs with dichroic glass flakes. The smallest pendant can be used for earrings. This technique can be used with any of Colour de Verre's pendant designs.

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 ZYP 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 it's low cost and availability.

Brief instructions for each option follow:

To apply ZYP, hold the well-shaken can 10 to 12 inches from the mold. Hold both the mold and the spray can upright. 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 can be found on our website.



See Tricks of the Trade. When using

Tools

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

Supplies

- ✓ Fine colored frit
- ✓ Medium Clear frit
- ✓ CBS Dichroic Flakes
- ✓ ZYP BN Lubriccoat (formerly MR-97) or Hotline Primo™ primer

REUSABLE MOLDS FOR GLASS CASTING

Primo Primer, best results are obtained when using fine frit. Larger frit can produce excessive casting spurs that require cold work.



Filling the molds

The molds can simply be filled with frit or a mixture of frits to create simple pendants. Consult the Fill Weights table below. 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 im-

Fill Weights

Design	Grams of Frit per Cavity
Oval and Teardrops	
Large	12
Medium	7
Small	4

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.

portant to remember that, when using frit, to wear a dusk mask.

The technique on which we concentrate in this project sheet results in a more complex look but still requires only one firing.

Consult the table below to discover the fill weight for the mold cavity you wish to fill. Choose a fine colored frit - either opal or transparent - to use as a base layer. Measure out one-third of the fill weight and put this in the cavity. Level this with a small artist's bush.



Next, evenly sprinkle about half to one gram of CBS dichroic flakes over the colored frit. Use a small artist's brush to move any dichroic flakes away from the mold's edges.

Measure out two-thirds of the fill weight *minus* one gram (to account

for the dichroic flakes) in medium Clear frit. Evenly distribute this into the cavity. If necessary, gently use the artists brush to level the Clear frit. (Hint: Add a little bit less frit to the top area - near the post - to create more delicate loops.) Repeat with the remaining cavities.

Once all the cavities have been filled, fire the mold according to the General Firing Schedule.



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

Create dichroic flake pendants with a gentle fade from one color to another by using two base colors. Visit our website's Learn section and download project sheets for our other pendants to spur your imagination.