



Glasslinks Basics

Our Glasslinks molds enable the artist to cast delicate, glass components. These components can then be fashioned into jewelry in a variety of wonderful ways.



For jewelry to be successful it has to be comfortable. A piece can't be too heavy. The techniques described below have been developed to create light and delicate cast elements using Colour de Verre's Glasslinks™ molds. The schedules are cooler than one might expect with relatively long soak periods.

Preparing the Molds

The molds must be primed with a release agent 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 or ZYP BN Lubriccoat (formerly MR-97). The ZYP is the easiest to apply and remove. It is an aerosol and, after firing, is easily removed from both the molds and piece. Castings created using ZYP have very smooth surfaces. Primo is a traditional kilnwash 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:

The first time ZYP is used on a mold, it is necessary to apply two coats of the product. For subsequent firings, only one coat is nec-

essary. Hold the can 8 to 10 inches from the mold. Apply the first, light coat using a one to two-second burst of spray in a sweeping pattern across all the mold's cavities. Do not saturate the surface. Set the mold aside for five minutes so it can dry. Once dry, apply a second coat using another one to two-second burst of spray. Let the mold dry for ten to fifteen minutes. The mold is ready to fill. For subsequent firings, only one coat need be applied. For more information about ZYP, visit Colour de Verre's website's Learn section. Download and read *Advanced Priming with 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 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 in the Learn section of Colour de Verre's website. See *Tricks of the Trade*.

Filling the molds

To get the best results, we recommend only filling the Glasslinks molds with either powder or fine mesh frit. The frit can either be used straight from the manufacturer's container or blended.

Availability

Colour de Verre molds are available at fine glass retailers and many online merchants including our online store, www.colourdeverre.com.

Tools

- ✓ Small artist's brushes
- ✓ Digital scale
- ✓ Colour de Verre Glasslinks Molds

Supplies

- ✓ Fine or powdered frit
- ✓ ZYP BN Lubriccoat (formerly MR-97) or Hotline Primo™ primer

However, we find the best results are usually obtained by “diluting” the colored frit with either clear or white opal 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 powdered or fine frit, wear a dusk mask.



Fill each cavity according to the following chart:

Design	Grams of Frit per Cavity
Oval Glasslinks	4 Grams
Diamond Glasslinks	3 Grams
Heart and Circle Focus Pieces	Heart, 7 Grams; Circle, 8 Grams

Level frit with a small artists brush. Hold the mold on a level with one hand and use the fingers of your

other hand to tap the mold’s sides. This will level the frit.

Place the filled molds on a *leveled* kiln shelf and fire according to the Glasslinks Firing Schedule shown below.

Connecting the Links

The easiest way to connect the links is with decorative necklace shorteners. Simple necklace



shorteners that don’t distract from the glass are available.



Alternatively, classic jewelry techniques can be used to connect the links including large, oval jump rings or jump rings paired with double-looped eye pins.

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.

Glasslinks Firing Schedule*

Segment	Ramp	Temperature	Hold
1	300°F/165°C	1335-1350°F (725-730°C)	25 to 30 minutes
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.

