

Oak Leaves and Acorn Plate

Acorns are a symbol of the bounty of fall and a reminder of the coming winter – perfect decorations for a harvest table.



The project can be broken into four steps, none of which is too complex. For this reason, this project is perfect to complete over a few weekday evenings.

- Create a collection of leaf castings. Make more than you expect to use so that you can experiment with various layouts.
- Slump the leaves. While this isn't essential, slumping the leaves makes them appear more lifelike

and makes the final piece much more interesting.

- Fuse two pieces of sheet glass together to create the panel.
- Tack the cast leaves to the panel and slump the panel in a single, fourth firing using fiber paper strips to support the edges..



Create the Leaves and Acorns

Before each firing, clean your molds with a stiff nylon brush to remove any old kiln wash. Colour de Verre molds must be primed either Hotline Primo Primer or ZYP BN Lubriccoat (formerly MR-97). If you are using Hotline Primo Primer, give each mold four *thin*, even coats. It is the only traditional 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.

If you prefer to use ZYP, hold the thoroughly-shaken can 8 to 10 inches from the mold. Apply 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 is used on a mold, it is necessary to apply a second coat of the product after waiting five minutes so the first coat can dry. Apply a second coat using another two to three-second burst of spray. Let the mold dry for ten to fifteen minutes before filling. ZYP will result in fewer casting spurs and crisper detail.

Visit our website's Learn section to learn more about using ZYP.

The leaves will be filled with a one-to-one mixture of fine Clear and fine Pale Amber frit. The acorns are cast from a combination of two parts fine Pale Amber and one part fine Medium Amber.

Select two empty, lidded containers. Empty frit jars are perfect. Put three kitchen tablespoons of fine Clear frit into the one of the con-

Availability

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

Tools

- ✓ Oak Leaf and Acorn mold
- ✓ Small and Large artist's brush
- ✓ Small containers for mixing frit
- ✓ Digital scale
- ✓ Kitchen tablespoon

Supplies

- ✓ Hotline Primo Primer or ZYP BN Lubriccoat (formerly MR-97)
- ✓ Medium Amber and Clear sheet glass
- ✓ Fine Clear, Pale Amber, and Medium frit
- ✓ 1/4" Kiln paper

tainers. Add an equal amount of fine Pale Amber frit. Cap the container and shake until the mixture is uniform. In a second container, repeat this process with two tablespoons of fine Pale Amber and one tablespoon of fine Medium Amber. Whenever mixing frits, it is highly advisable to wear a dust mask.



Since we wish to create very thin and delicate castings we will use less than the recommended fill weights. (See *Fill Weights at a Glance* at www.colourdeverre.com for more information about thin firings.) For the oak leaves, we will use 12 and 19 grams. For the acorns, 8 grams each.



Using the fill weights mentioned above, fill the two leaves with the

Clear/Pale Amber mixture and fill the two acorns Pale/Medium Amber mixture. Use a soft brush to level the frit in all four cavities and transfer the mold to the kiln. Fire the molds according to the Component Casting Schedule.

Shaping the Components

While the cast oak leaves have a great deal of detail, very few nat-

ural objects are perfectly flat. This can be solved by slumping the oak leaves to give them a bit more dimension.

On the oak leaves mold's reverse side is a built in shaping (slumping) surface. Clean and prime the slumping surface with three coats of primer.

Fusing Schedule*

Segment	Ramp	Temperature	Hold
1	250°F/135°C	1200°F/650°C	30 minutes
2	250°F/135°C	1410-1420°F/765-770°C	10 minutes
3	AFAP	960°F/515°C	60 minutes
4	50°F/30°C	800°F/425°C	None
5	100°F/60°C	600°F/315°C	Off. No venting

*Schedule for COE 96. For COE 90, increase casting temperature by 25°F/15°C. AFAP means "As Fast As Possible", no venting.

Tack Fuse/Slumping Schedule*

Segment	Ramp	Temperature	Hold
1	200°F/110°C	1250-1275°F/675-690°C	10-20 minutes
2	AFAP	960°F/515°C	90 minutes
3	50°F/30°C	800°F/425°C	None
4	100°F/60°C	600°F/315°C	Off. No venting

*Schedule for COE 96. For COE 90, increase casting temperature by 25°F/15°C. AFAP means "As Fast As Possible", no venting.

Component Casting Schedule*

Segment	Ramp	Temperature	Hold
1	250°F/135°C	1360-1380°F/735-750°C	10-20 minutes
2	AFAP	960°F/515°C	60 minutes. Off

*Schedule for COE 96. For COE 90, increase casting temperature by 25°F/15°C. AFAP means "As Fast As Possible", no venting.

Component Shaping Schedule*

Segment	Ramp	Temperature	Hold
1	300°F/165°C	1225-1250°F/660-675°C	10 minutes
2	AFAP	960°F/515°C	30 minutes. Off. No venting.

*Schedule for COE 96. For COE 90, increase casting temperature by 25°F/15°C. AFAP means "As Fast As Possible", no venting.

Arrange the leaves on the shaping surface, returned to the kiln, and fire according to the Component Shaping Schedule.

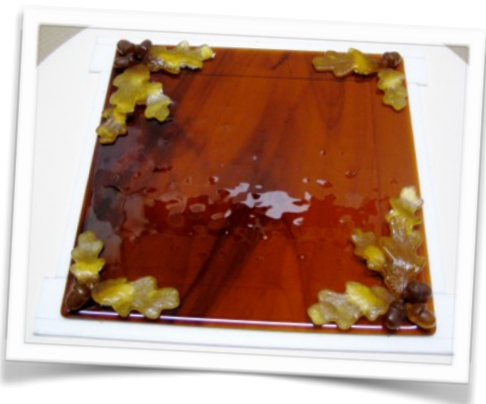
Creating the Panel

Cut two 12x12" (30x30cm) squares, one each of Medium Amber and Clear glass. Protect the kiln shelf with primer or a piece of ThinFire™ shelf paper. Stack the Clear on top of the Medium Amber, place the two pieces in the kiln and fire according to the Fusing Schedule below.

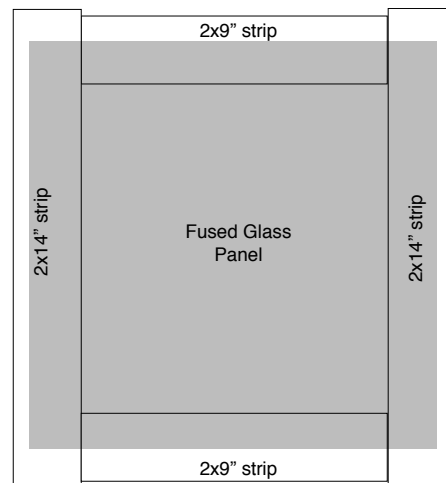


Completing the Piece

Create a pleasing arrangement of leaves and acorns in the panel's corners. Use small dabs of white glue to hold the components in place.



From a 1/4" thick piece of kiln fiber paper, cut two 2x14" (5x36cm) strips and two 2x9" (5x23cm) strips. These will be used to construct the form upon which the piece will be slumped.



Arrangement of Fiber Paper

So the oak leaves don't flatten during the tack fuse, insert small pieces of thick shelf paper (not ThinFire™) under the leaves' folds to support them.

Protect the kiln shelf with primer or a piece of ThinFire™ shelf paper. On the shelf, arrange the four fiber paper strips as shown in the diagram. Fire using Tack Fire/Slumping Schedule as a guide.