



Bee Pins

The Colour de Verre Honey Bee mold makes three bees with each firing. Just by adding a jewelry finding, these become wonderful gifts.



Always start by giving your 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 details and the glass won't stick and ruin the mold. Use a soft brush to apply the primer and a hair dryer to completely dry each coat before applying the next. (Details and hints are given in our "Tricks of the Trade" project sheet on our website.)

The perfect amount of glass to fill each design is called the "fill

weight." It is noted on the packaging and, in the case of the Honey Bees, is 30 grams. Weigh the mold and note its weight. The mold's weight plus 30 grams – the weight of the glass – will be the total weight of the perfectly filled mold. We call this the "filled mold weight." Write this number down as we will use it later.

The yellow in our bees' stripes is a combination of two frits. Measure out one gram of yellow powder frit and four grams of almond opal fine frit. Combine the two frits in a small, screw-top container. Seal the container and shake to mix. Measure out two grams of the mixture and place into a shot glass. Measure out two grams of black powder frit. Put this into a second shot glass. Add enough CMC-based medium to each shot glass to create a thick, but fluid, paste.

Use your small brush to gather "globs" of the yellow *pate de verre* paste and build up the bees' bodies. Once the bodies are finished, place the yellow paste into the alternate stripes. Clean the brush. In the same manner, build up the black paste in the antennae, legs, and remaining stripes.



The wings are pale amber. Use a small spoon to spread a layer of pale amber frit into the wings.



Availability

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

Tools

- ✓ Colour de Verre Honey Bee mold
- ✓ Broad, soft primer brush
- ✓ Small brush for arranging frit
- ✓ Balance or digital scale
- ✓ A small, screw-top bottle
- ✓ Two shot glasses or similar containers

Supplies

- ✓ Hotline Primo Primer
- ✓ Fine Almond Opal, Pale Amber, and Water Clear frit
- ✓ Powder Black and Yellow frit
- ✓ Glastak™, Fuse Master™, or other CMC-based glue
- ✓ Three "bar pin" jewelry findings

many castings.



COE 96 Firing Schedule

- Seg 1 300°F/hour to 1350°F,
Hold 10 minutes
- 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, no venting

Next, place the partially-filled mold on the digital scale. (Here is where we use that filled mold weight.) Evenly add water clear frit until the mold reaches the filled mold weight. Place mold on elevated kiln shelf. Avoid thermal shock – breaking the mold – by heating mold no faster than 300°F per hour until fusing temperature is reached.

Below are two firing schedules. One is for COE 90 glass. The other; COE 96 glass. Please recognize, however, that every kiln is different and firing schedules can be affected by glass thickness, number of pieces in the firing, number of kiln shelves, whether the kiln has top and/or side elements, and even glass color. Firing schedules may have to be adjusted for

your kiln.

Wait until the mold is completely cool and remove it from the kiln. The castings should fall out. If they are stubborn, turn mold face-down and tap it against a hard



surface cushioned with several layers of newsprint.

Mix a small batch of epoxy following package instructions. Adhere the findings to to each glass piece. Let the epoxy cure according to the package instructions.

Thoroughly clean the mold with a stiff brush between every firing to remove all the old primer. Avoid breathing any dust by wearing a proper dust mask. If correctly primed and fired, a Colour de Verre Honey Bee mold will yield

COE 90 Firing Schedule

- Seg 1 300°F/hour to 1375°F,
Hold 10 minutes
- 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, no venting