



Creating Glass Bracelets

People have been forming glass bracelets for years. Colour de Verre bracelet casting molds have opened up this art form with all sorts of possibilities.



So what's the process of making a kiln-formed, glass bracelet? The first step is straightforward: Create a bracelet "blank," a piece of glass 1" (2.5cm) wide and about 6½" (15cm) long. Next, put the blank in small kiln atop a mandrel, a contraption that looks like a miniature, stainless steel pommel horse. Heat the kiln to slumping temperature and use a pair of graphite tongs to wrap the glass around the mandrel.

This Project Sheet concentrates on the first step: Using Colour de Verre bracelet molds to create bracelet blanks.

Jayne Persico's *Kiln Formed Bracelets*, Wardell Publications, 2007 and her website, JPGlassworks.com, are great resources for information about and tools for the forming process.

Getting Started

Always start the same way: Clean your Colour de Verre molds with a stiff, nylon brush to remove any old kiln wash. (The step can be skipped if the mold is brand new.) Next, give the bracelet mold four coats of Hotline Primo Primer™. While there are plenty of good shelf primers and kiln washes on the market, Colour de Verre *only* recommends Hotline Primo Primer™ for the Colour De Verre molds. It doesn't obscure the mold's fine detail, always releases, and is easy to remove after firing.

Apply the Primo Primer™ with a soft artist's brush and use a hair dryer to completely dry each coat before applying the next. The mold should be totally dry before filling.

Color Textures

Unique and beautiful color textures can be created using

Colour de Verre's Plain Bracelet mold.

Tortoise Shell. Cut a piece of clear sheet glass to 6½" by 1" (16cm by 2.5cm). Place this rectangle into a primed Plain Bracelet mold. Arrange a single layer of mosaic Medium Amber on top of the rectangle making sure all the pieces lie flat against the clear glass.



There should be spaces between the piece of Medium Amber. Carefully fill in these spaces by sprinkling medium Black frit over the Medium Amber pieces. Use a small artist's brush to push the black frit into the space to reveal the Medium Amber pieces.

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 Bracelet molds
- ✓ Small primer brush
- ✓ Glass cutter
- ✓ Diamond pad or grinder

Supplies

- ✓ Hotline Primo Primer™
- ✓ Glass rods
- ✓ Dichroic and plain glass



Fire according to the Full Fuse Schedule below:

Full Fuse Schedule*

Seg 1 300°F (150°C)/hour to 1420-1430°F (770°C), Hold 10 minutes

Seg 2 Off, cool kiln, no venting

* For COE 90, increase 25°F (15°C)

Once the mold and glass have cooled, trim the blank to the correct length and form.



This tortoise shell technique can be capitalized upon with other colors. For example, mosaic Moss Green with medium Light Amber frit results in a pattern reminiscent of the Arts and Crafts era.

Embossed Surfaces

Colour de Verre molds allow you to create bracelet blanks with embossed surfaces. This technique works best with Colour de Verre's Leaves and Berries, and French Bracelet designs. The technique also works great with Colour de Verre's Rope Bracelet, Celtic Bracelet, and Woven Bracelet designs, but the glass dimensions have to be modified.

Cut a piece of dichroic glass to 6½" by 1" (16cm by 2.5cm). Choose a second piece of clear glass or a complementary color and cut a 6½" by 1" (16cm by 2.5cm) rectangle.



Place the dichroic glass piece, dichroic side down, into the mold. Top this with the second glass piece. Fire the mold according to the Full Fuse Schedule.



Once the mold and glass have cooled, trim the blank to the correct length and form.



Glass Rods. Cut five glass rods to 6½" (16cm). Arrange the rods in a Plain Bracelet mold and fire according to the following schedule:

The lower temperature preserves the rods' shape but securely attaches them to one another.

Partial Fuse Schedule*

Seg 1 300°F (150°C)/hour to 1325°F (720°C), Hold 10 minutes

Seg 2 Off, cool kiln, no venting

* For COE 90, increase 25°F (15°C)

Once the mold and glass have cooled, trim the blank to the correct length and form.

