



Embellished Photo Frames

What a thoughtful gift. Frame a special photograph with a custom-made frame. Choose glass and molds designs to complement the photo's colors and content.



These photo frames are made in three steps. The first step is to create the basic frame. Eight pieces of sheet glass are cut and then fused into a double layer frame. Next, the glass components – embellishments – are made. Finally, the embellishments are tack fused to the base frame.

Creating the Frame

Each frame has two layers. The layers can be constructed from the

same piece of sheet glass or two different colors. We suggest that the back layer be an opalescent. Here are some good combinations:

- Almond Opal glass capped with a ripple Water Clear Iridescent
- White glass capped with Citron Green
- Aventurine Green topped with Water Clear
- White capped with a Cobalt Blue
- Almond Opal capped with an “autumn” collage glass

The frame is constructed by cutting four glass strips from one glass sheet and four glass strips from a second glass sheet. All eight pieces have the same width. This width is a matter of personal taste, but we found a width of 1-1/2 inches worked nicely for a 4 by 6 inch photograph. One might want to increase this width for larger photographs.

The glass strips are connected with simple butt joints. The joint pattern is reversed for the second layer for strength. The strip lengths and layout are shown the

attached diagram. As an example, suppose you wished to construct a frame that was 1-1/2 inches wide for a photograph that was 4 by 6 inches. In the first layer, there would be two 9 inch strips and two 4 inch strips. The second layer would consist of two 6 inch strips and two strips 7 inch strips.

Based on the width of your frame and size of your photograph, cut the eight strips. On a kiln washed kiln shelf (or on a kiln shelf protected by kiln paper), assemble the eight pieces into the two layers.



Fire the frame according to the following schedule:

Availability

Colour de Verre molds are available at fine glass retailers

Tools

- ✓ Colour de Verre molds
- ✓ Small primer brush
- ✓ Digital scale
- ✓ Pencil

Supplies

- ✓ Hotline Primo Primer™
- ✓ Assorted fine frits
- ✓ Sheet glass
- ✓ Inexpensive photo frame
- ✓ Adhesive or mounting tape

COE 96* Fuse Schedule

- Seg 1 300°F/hour to 1350°F (730°C), Hold 10 minutes
 - Seg 2 AFAP to 960°F (515°C), no venting, Hold 30 minutes
 - Seg 3 60°F (35°C)/hour to 700°F (370°C)
 - Seg 4 Off, cool kiln, don't vent
- * Increase 25°F (15°C) for COE 90

Creating the Castings

Any of Colour de Verre's smaller designs can be used to embellish the frame. Good choices are blossoms, leaves, small dragonflies, small butterflies, and our scarabs. Below are instructions for Colour de Verre's Small Dragonflies design. They can easily adapted for similar size molds.

Start by cleaning the dragonfly mold with a stiff nylon brush and remove any old kiln wash. Then give each mold four to five thin, even coats of Hotline Primo Primer. 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.

To keep the dragonflies delicate, use only 20 grams of frit for the large dragonfly and 15 grams of frit for the small dragonfly. (See "Fill Weights at a Glass" in our Website's Project Ideas section for more about fill weights.) The molds will be fired cooler than usual. Weigh the mold and note it weight. The filled mold will weigh 35 grams more.

Highlight the dragonflies' wing and body details by sprinkling just enough fine Black frit into each cavity to fill the wing veining and the head and body. Gently tap the mold to cause the frit to settle into place. Sprinkle a dark, fine frit (Pale Purple, Dark Blue, or Dark Green) into the head and down the body's length. "Feather" a little of the dark, fine frit out the dragonfly's wings. Place the mold on the scale and fill the wings with a light, fine frit (Clear, Neon Orchid, Urobium Pink, or Ming Green) until the scale reads 35 grams more than the mold's empty weight. The mold's cavities will only be about one-half full.

Gently tap the mold to level the surface. Place the mold or molds in the kiln and fire according to the following schedule:

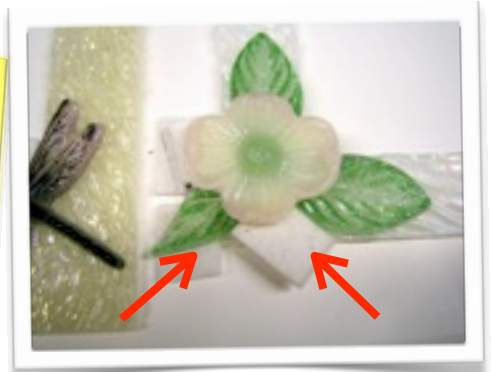
COE 96* Casting Schedule

- Seg 1 300°F/hour to 1325-1350°F (720-730°C), Hold 10 minutes
- Seg 2 AFAP to 960°F (515°C) no venting
- Seg 3 60°F (35°C)/hour to 700°F (370°C)
- Seg 4 Off, cool kiln, don't vent



Assembling

Place the frame on a kiln washed kiln shelf (or on a kiln shelf protected by kiln paper). Arrange the dragonflies and other castings you have created on the frame. Use small dabs of any white glue to hold the pieces in place before firing. If any of the castings extend over the frame's edge, support the portion that hangs over with one or two pieces of kiln paper.



Fire according to the following schedule:

COE 96* Tack Schedule

- Seg 1 200°F/hour to 1260°F (680°C), Hold 10 minutes
 - Seg 2 AFAP to 960°F (515°C) no venting, Hold 60 minutes
 - Seg 3 60°F (35°C)/hour to 700°F (370°C)
 - Seg 4 Off, cool kiln, don't vent
- * Increase 25°F (15°C) for COE 90

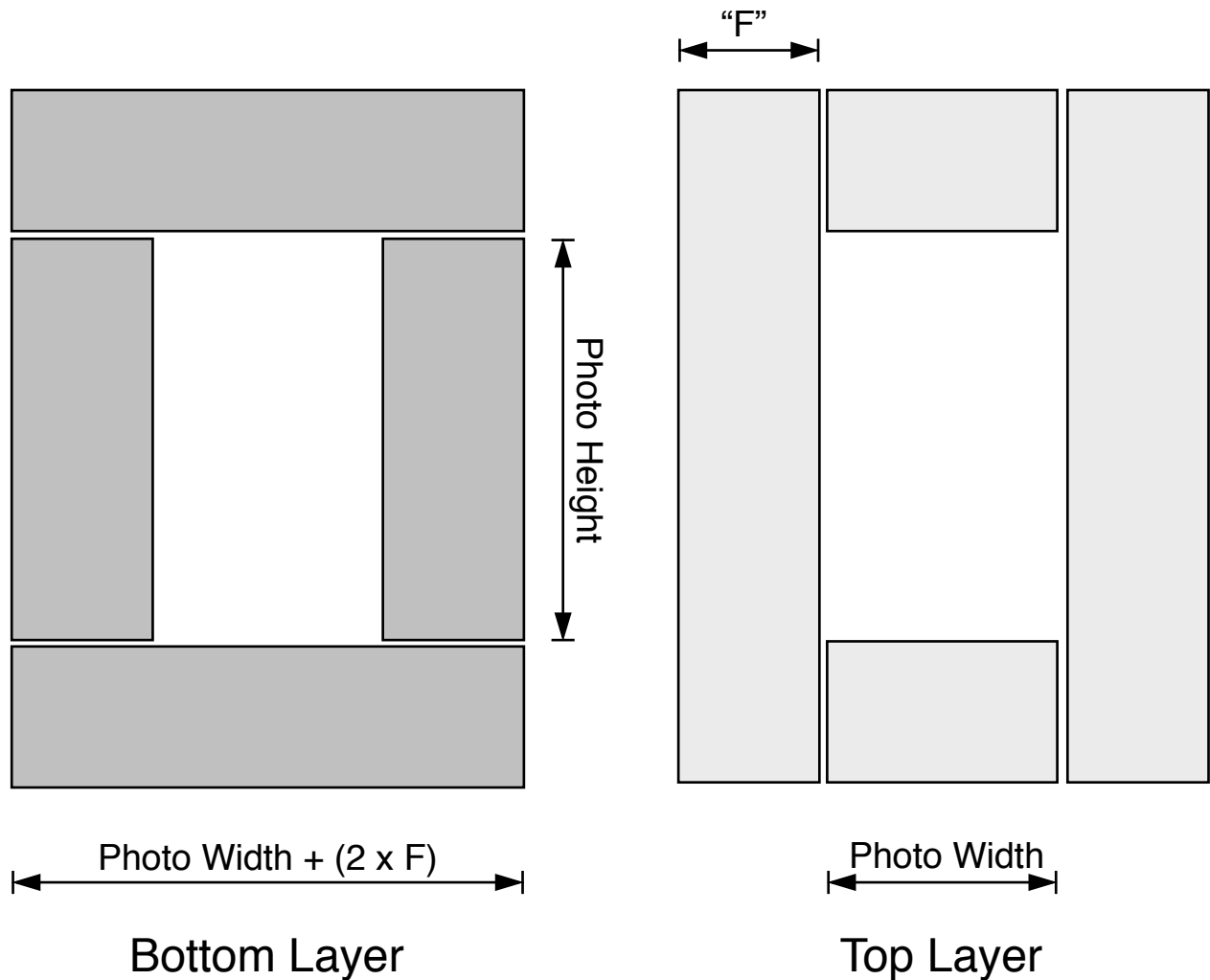
Mounting the Frame

Mount your frame directly to the face on an inexpensive desktop frame. Choose a desktop frame that is slightly smaller than the overall size of the glass frame.

Use either glue or double-sided, adhesive mounting tape to attach the glass frame to the purchased frame.



Overlapping Frame Pattern



"F" is the width that you choose for frame. This is also the width of all the glass strips.