



Wine Stoppers

This project can be completed in about an hour – not including the overnight firing. It's also a great way to display a really special casting.



In this project sheet, we use the Colour de Verre Poppies mold, but this it works equally well with other Colour de Verre molds including our Rose, Lotus and Small Butterfly molds. At the end of this project sheet, we've added some suggestions of other molds and complementary frit colors.

Before each firing, it is important to clean your molds with a stiff nylon brush to remove any old kiln wash. Next, give the mold four to five thin, even coats of Hotline Primo Primer. While there are

plenty of good shelf primers and kiln washes on the market, we *only* recommend Hotline Primo Primer. 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.

We will fill the Poppies with 30 and 40 grams of frit. The fill-weights can be found on the molds' packaging, on the website product pages, and in our "Fill Weights at a Glance" project sheet.



Next create a 20% mixture of Cherry Red. To do this, put two measures of Cherry Red powder frit – two teaspoons work fine – into an empty container. Next add eight measures of fine Water Clear frit to the container. Cover the container and thoroughly shake it

to combine the colored and clear frits.

Almost all poppies have a black center and, in some varieties, the petals have black tips. To create this effect sprinkle a small amount of fine Black frit into the center of each blossom. Gently tap the mold so the Black frit fills the center and a few bits are in each petal's tip.

Place a piece of paper on your digital scale and "zero out" the display. Pour the 20% Cherry Red frit mixture onto the paper until the scale reads a few grams shy of 30. (This accounts for the Black frit already in the mold.) Pour the frit into the smaller of the two poppies, making sure to evenly distribute the frit around the mold cavity. Gently flatten out the frit with your finger tips or a soft brush. Next, weigh out just shy of 40 grams of the 20% Cherry Red frit mixture and fill the larger of the two poppies.

Firing schedules can be affected by glass thickness, number of pieces in the firing, whether the kiln has top and/or side elements, and even glass color. However, here are two firing schedules – one for COE 96 and one for COE 90 – that can serve as starting points for

Availability

Colour de Verre molds are available at fine glass retailers

Tools

- ✓ Colour de Verre Poppies mold
- ✓ Small primer brush
- ✓ Small container for mixing frit
- ✓ Digital scale

Supplies

- ✓ Hotline Primo Primer
- ✓ Powder Cherry Red frit
- ✓ Fine Water Clear and Black frit
- ✓ Two-part epoxy

thin, fully fused, finely detailed castings.

COE 96 Casting Schedule

- Seg 1 300°F/hour to 1420°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

COE 90 Casting Schedule

- Seg 1 300°F/hour to 1445°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

Wait until the mold is completely cool and remove it from the kiln. The casting should fall out. If it is stubborn, turn mold face-down and tap it against a hard surface cushioned with several layers of newsprint.



Decide if the smaller or larger poppy looks best on the wine stopper and use epoxy to glue it into place.



Great Variations

Dogwoods (Dogwood or Small Flowers #2 molds). Fine Citron frit in the center, fine Urobium Pink at the petal tips, a layer of fine Almond Opal, and a “backing” of fine Water Clear.

French Fleur or Celtic Element. A 1-1/4” disk of clear backed by a 1/-1/4” disk of an interesting dichroic glass.

Roses (Roses or Small Flowers #1 molds). Use fine Cherry Blossom, Urobium Pink, or 20% Cherry Red frit.

Lotus (Lotus or Small Flowers #1 molds). Make a mixture of two measures of Yellow fine and eight measures of Almond Opal fine frit. Use this to fill the Lotus centers. Add a layer of Almond Opal and a “backing” of Water Clear.

Leaves. (Leaves (3) mold). Use a 50/50 mixture of fine Ming Green and Citron.

Mixed Plain Pendants. Stack compatible shards of color, dichroic, and clear glass into each mold cavity.

Bees. Follow the instructions for Bee Pins given in our website’s Projects section.

Small Butterflies. Sprinkle a small amount of Black frit into each mold. Gently tap the mold to cause the Black frit to settle into the butterflies’ veins and bodies. fine Neon Orchid or Urobium Pink frit.