



Dragonfly

The dragonfly has become a signature piece of Colour de Verre. It was one of our first molds and remains our one of our most popular.



Always start by giving your mold five thin, even coats of Hotline Primo Primer kiln wash. We strongly recommend the Primo Primer 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 Primo Primer and a hair dryer to completely dry each coat before applying the next.

The perfect amount of glass to fill each design is measured in grams. This is called "fill weight." It is noted on the packaging and, in the

case of the Dragonfly, is 100 grams. Weigh the mold and note its weight. The mold's weight plus 100 grams – the weight of the glass – will be the total weight of the perfectly filled mold. We call this the "filled mold weight."

Start by making the dragonfly's body. Use a small spoon to place the fine, red frit in the head, body, and tail. Use a small brush to "sweep" the frit into place. If you wish, you can mix the frit with CMC gum to form a *pate de verre* paste. The *pate de verre* paste can be packed into place.

Next, spread a thin layer of clear fit on the wings. Take the piece of dichroic glass and put it in a heavy, plastic bag. Put on safety glasses and break the glass into half inch (1 cm) pieces. Carefully lay the pieces into the wings.

Sprinkle a thin layer of orchid frit at the tips of the wings. "Feather" this towards the body. Sprinkle a thin layer of blue frit over the body. Feather the blue frit towards the wing tips. Put the mold on the scale. Evenly fill the mold with 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 350°F per hour until 1250°F is reached. Use this schedule:

- Seg 1 350°F/hour to 1250°F, Hold 10 minutes
- Seg 2 As Fast As Possible (AFAP) to 1420-1450°F, Hold 10-25 minutes
- Seg 3 AFAP to 960°F (no venting), Hold 30-60 minutes
- Seg 4 (for thicker designs, 1" or more) 60°F/ hour to 700°F, 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.

Clean the mold thoroughly with a stiff brush after each firing. Avoid breathing any dust by wearing a proper dust mask. If correctly primed and fired, a Colour de Verre Dragonfly mold will yield many castings.

Tools

- ✓ Colour de Verre Dragonfly mold
- ✓ Broad, soft primer brush
- ✓ Small brush for arranging frit
- ✓ Safety glasses
- ✓ Hammer
- ✓ Balance or digital scale

Supplies

- ✓ Hotline Primo Primer
- ✓ Dichroic glass
- ✓ Clear coarse frit
- ✓ Fine red, blue, and orchid frit



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Technical sheet courtesy of Colour de Verre™