



## Scarab and Ankh Jewelry and Embellishments

*Even if you don't want to make jewelry, the techniques below can be used to make beautiful scarabs and ankhs for other purposes, for example, embellishing platters and plates.*



Scarabs (the beetle) and ankhs (hooped cross) are ancient, Egyptian symbols. Scarab carvings have been found at both Luxor and Karnak. When the tomb of the boy-king Tutankhamen was discovered, a glass, yellow-green scarab was found balanced on his chest. The designs have always remained popular and were especially popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Always start the same way: Clean your mold with a stiff nylon brush to remove any old kiln wash. (This step can be skipped if the mold is brand new.)

On one side of the mold there are four ankhs. On the other, seven scarabs. Since the designs are on opposite sides, only one side can be filled for a firing. Choose which set of designs – scarabs or ankhs – you wish to fill.

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, 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. The mold doesn't need to be pre-fired.

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.

Weigh the primed mold and note its weight. (I often use a pencil to write the weight right on the mold.)

Follow the instructions below to create either the ankhs or scarabs.



### Creating Ankhs

The fill weights for the four ankhs are 4, 2, 0.5, and 0.5 grams. That means that the filled mold will weigh 7 grams more than the empty mold.

Use a favorite *fine* frit color (or combination of fine frit colors) to fill each ankh. Move any stray frit into place and level the surfaces using a small paint brush. Fire according to the attached schedule.

### Creating Scarabs

There are two techniques to fill the scarabs:

The first technique is to simply fill the scarabs with *medium* frit. The fill weight for the large scarab is 15 grams. For the two medium scarabs, 12 grams. For the four small, 5 grams. That means that the filled molds will weigh 59 (15 + 2 x



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Technical sheet courtesy of Colour de Verre™

#### Tools

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

#### Supplies

- ✓ Hotline Primo Primer™
- ✓ Assorted fine, medium, and coarse frits
- ✓ Assorted dichroic sheet glass scraps

12 + 4 x 5 = 59) grams more than the empty mold.



Medium frit (or a combination of medium frit colors) is a good choice to fill each scarab as it produces castings with fewer bubbles. Use a small brush to move any stray frit into place and level the surfaces. Fire according the attached schedule.

The second technique is to use a combination of frit and dichroic glass to fill the scarabs. This results in a jewel-like appearance. Start by creating small ovals of dichroic glass using the template provided. Cut out the oval templates, arrange on the glass, and trace around the ovals with a marker.

The ovals can be created by (1) using a glass saw or (2) cutting a rough shape with a glass cutter and using a glass grinder to refine the shape. Choose a *coarse* frit that is the same color as the dichroic sheet base glass. Put the oval on a digital scale and add *coarse* frit until the scale reads the fill weight for an individual scarab. Place the dichroic oval – coating side down – into the scarab mold.

Fill the scarab with the measured *coarse* frit. Repeat for each scarab.

Fire the piece according to the attached schedule.



### Assembling Jewelry

Here are some ideas for creating jewelry using the castings:

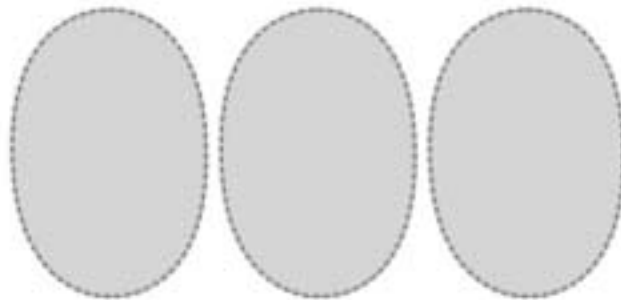
- Create pendants by mounting scarabs on silver bails using E-6000® adhesive.
- Turn small ankhs into earrings using small hoops.
- Hang ankhs with “donut” bails to create beautiful pendants.
- Mount dichroic scarabs on cufflink posts, pin backings, and stick pin findings.
- Form bezels using PMC3 or Art Clay Silver to create spectacular broaches and pins.

### FIRING SCHEDULE <sup>1</sup>

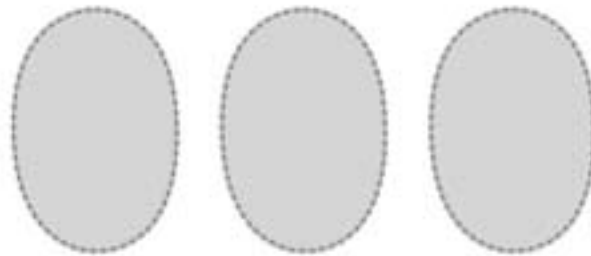
FIRING SCHEDULE <sup>1</sup>	
Scarabs	Seg 1 300°F (150°C)/hour to 1375-1400°F (745-760°C)
	Seg 2 Off, cool kiln, no venting
Ankhs	Seg 1 300°F (150°C)/hour to 1325-1350°F (720-730°C)
	Seg 2 Off, cool kiln, no venting

1. Firing schedules are for COE 96 glass. For COE 90 glass, increase temperatures by 25°F (15°C)

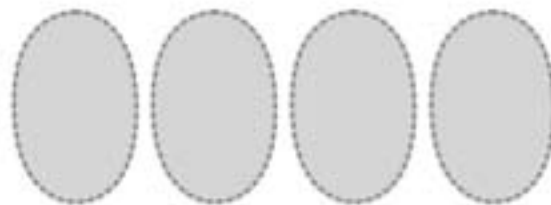
## Scarab Templates



Large



Medium



Small