



Tribal Beads and Geometric Beads

Our Tribal Beads are a stylized version of an ancient design. Our Geometric Beads are fun and contemporary. Both are easy-to-make and great-to-give since the recipient can further customize the piece by adding, removing, and rearranging the beads to create a whole new look.



Preparing the Molds

The molds must be primed so the glass doesn't adhere to the ceramic material from which the molds are made. There are two choices for primers: Hotline Primo™ Primer and MR-97™. The MR-97 is the easiest to apply and remove. It is an aerosol and, after firing, brushes off easily from the molds and can be washed off the pieces. Castings created using MR-97

have exceptionally smooth surfaces and almost never require grinding or "cold work."



Primo is a traditional kiln wash that is applied with an artist's brush. It's a trusted and proven product, but requires a bit more "elbow grease" to remove after firing. Primo's big advantages are its low cost and availability.

Brief instructions for each option follow:

To apply MR-97, hold the well-shaken can 10 to 12 inches from the mold. Apply the first, light coat using a two to three-second burst of spray in a sweeping pattern across all the mold's cavities. Do not saturate the surface. If it is the first time MR-97 has been applied to this mold, it is necessary to apply a second coat of the product. Before applying the second coat, let the mold dry for five minutes. Apply the second coat using an-

other two to three-second burst of spray. In either case, let the mold dry for ten to fifteen minutes before filling. Again, the double coat of MR-97 need be only applied the first time. Thereafter, only one coat is necessary. For more information about MR-97, visit Colour de Verre website's Project Ideas section. There, download and read *Advanced Priming with Boron Nitride Aerosol*.



If you choose to use Primo Primer, give your mold three to four thin, even coats of Hotline Primo Primer kiln wash. Use a soft artist brush to apply the Primo Primer and a hair dryer to completely dry each coat before applying the next. Again, more detailed instructions can be found in the Project Ideas section of Colour de Verre's website. See *Tricks of the Trade*. When using Primo Primer, best results are obtained when using fine frit. Larger frit can produce excessive

Availability

Colour de Verre molds are available at fine glass retailers and many online merchants including our online store, www.colourdeverre.com.

Tools

- ✓ Small artist's brushes
- ✓ Digital scale
- ✓ Colour de Verre Tribal and/or Geometric Beads molds
- ✓ Small measuring spoons

Supplies

- ✓ Fine or Medium Frit
- ✓ MR-97™ or Hotline Primo™ primer

casting spurs that require cold work and refiring.

Filling the molds

Frit can either be used straight from the manufacturer's container or blended. However, we find the best results are usually obtained by "diluting" colored frit with clear frit. Even dark, opaque colors like



blacks and browns become much more rich when mixed with clear frit. (See our document *Creating Frit "Paint Chips"*) It is important to remember that, when using frit, to wear a dusk mask.

Fill each cavity according to the chart below. Rather than filling the

Design	Grams of Frit per Cavity
Tribal Beads	Small - 5 Gram Medium - 7 Grams Large - 9 Grams
Geometric Beads	Both designs - 6 Grams each

Firing Schedule*

Segment	Ramp	Temperature	Hold
1	300°F/165°C	1400°F (760°C)	5-10 minutes for fine frit 15-20 minutes for medium frit
2	AFAP	960°F/515°C	30 minutes. Off

*Schedule for COE 96. For COE 90, increase casting temperature by 20°F/10°C. AFAP means "As Fast As Possible", no venting.

Tribal Bead mold evenly, best results can be obtained by slightly tapering the frit's level in the design. The frit should be "deeper" in the rounded portion of the design. In the case of the Geometric Beads, it is best to use a small artist's brush to evenly level the frit.



Place the filled molds on a *leveled* kiln shelf and fire according to the Firing Schedule shown below.



Firing Considerations

Designs with points or corners require lower target temperatures to prevent the glass' surface tension

from rounding the points. Coarse frit is a poor choice for molds like the Tribal Beads and Geometric Beads.

Stringing the Beads

A favorite material for stringing the beads is 3mm rubber cord, but one can use leather, silk or stainless steel cords or ribbon.

Reusing the Molds

Clean mold thoroughly after each firing with a stiff, nylon bristle brush. Avoid breathing any dust by wearing a proper dust mask. Reapply primer before subsequent firings.

If correctly primed and fired, a Colour de Verre mold will yield many castings.



Variations

Beads can be made more delicate by adding less frit. An interesting variation is firing at a lower temperature to only tack fuse the particles to one another. We call this a “sugar fire.” Fill the mold with about half of the recommended frit and fire to about 1300°F (705°C) and hold for 5 to 10 minutes.

All our Bead Designs can be used as contemporary embellishments on plates, platters, and larger pieces. Visit our website’s Project Ideas section and look for *Bead Designs as Contemporary Embellishments*.

The cast elements in platter pictured were created using an assortment of Geometric Beads, Small Ring Beads, and Simple Round Beads.

