



BULLSEYE



Opaline Striker Frit Dish

Original project and instructions courtesy of Bullseye Glass.

Frit balls – easy to make and fun to use!

Spread out pieces of coarse frit (denoted by Bullseye reference numbers 0003) on a primed kiln shelf, leaving space around each piece. For this project, Opaline Striker Coarse Frit is shown (item number B040383). Fire hot enough to round out the frits, usually 1500°F (816°C) with a 20-minute hold. There's no need to anneal. Open the kiln and voila, you'll find frit balls!

Once they're cool, rinse with glass cleaner and rub dry to remove primer dust. For opalescent styles that pick up primer, do a quick soak in CLR (Calcium Lime Rust Remover, available at most home improvement centers) before rinsing and drying.

When clean, the frit balls are ready to use as a design element or for building larger forms.

Tip: The frit balls shown above were made with Opaline Striker frit, which should be fired on the cool side to achieve a pleasing translucent quality: 1480°F (804°C) with a 16-minute hold.

To make the Opaline frit-ball bowl shown above, first create a dam by cutting a 5-1/2" hole in a sheet of 1/8" fiber paper, leaving the border intact. Place the dam on a primed kiln shelf and load it up with about 5 ounces of frit balls.

Tack the balls together by firing at a rate of 300°F (167°C) per hour to 1375°F (746°C) for 10 minutes. Slump the piece in a separate firing using Bullseye Ball Surface Mold (item number 128746). We recommend annealing in both firings.

Additional idea: Embellish fused projects by tack fusing frit balls to create a dimensional accent as shown at right.



Content and images courtesy of Bullseye Glass, 2011.