



### *Branches, Pine Cones and Needles, and Assorted Small Leaves*

*Here are instructions and tips for creating thin and delicate castings with these three molds.*

*leahleah*

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

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.

### **Branches**

There are three branches in the mold which hold 7, 23, and 32 grams. Thus a filled mold weighs 62 grams more than an empty mold.



Weigh the primed mold and note its weight. (A good tip is to simply use a pencil to write the weight right on the mold.) Sprinkle a bit of fine Medium Amber into the mold to highlight the bark. Mix three parts fine Pale Amber with one part fine Medium Amber. Place the mold back on the scale and add the frit mixture to the three branches until the scale registers the mold's weight plus 62 grams. Use a small paint brush to distribute the frit evenly. Fire ac-

ording to the table below. After firing, use the slumping surface on the mold's reverse side to give the branches added life.

### **Small Mixed Leaves**

Each Small Mixed Leaves mold incorporates five leaf designs. These hold 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 grams. So the a filled mold will weigh 21 grams more than an empty mold. Keeping this in mind, weigh your primed Small Mixed Leaves mold and note its weight.



Put about 1/2 gram of fine Dark Green frit in each leaf. Tap the mold until the frit settles into the leaves' veining. (You can use a dry paint brush to make adjustments.) Place the mold on the scale and evenly distribute fine Citron frit into the leaves. Keep adding frit until the scale reads 21 grams more than the empty mold. Again, use a small paint brush to distribute the frit evenly. Fire using the Paper-Thin firing schedule

### *Availability*

*Colour de Verre molds are available at fine glass retailers and many online merchants including our online store, [www.colourdeverre.com](http://www.colourdeverre.com).*

### **Tools**

- ✓ Colour de Verre molds
- ✓ Small primer brush
- ✓ Small containers for mixing frit
- ✓ Digital scale

### **Supplies**

- ✓ Hotline Primo Primer
- ✓ Assorted frits

below. After firing, use the slumping surface on the mold's reverse side to give the leaves added life.



### Pine Cones and Needles

First, the pine cone side: There are four pine cones in every mold that hold 12, 18, 23, and 30 grams of frit. Weigh the primed mold and record its weight. The filled mold will weigh 83 grams more than the empty mold.

Create a mixture that is one part fine Medium Amber and three parts fine Pale Amber. Place the mold on the scale and evenly add the frit mixture until the scale registers 83 grams more than the empty mold did. Use a small paint brush if you want to distribute the frit evenly.

Fire according to the table below.

Next, the needles side: Use fine Medium Amber to fill each stem. Use a small paint brush to move any stray frit into place. Sprinkle enough fine Dark Green frit into each cluster to just barely cover the bottom of the mold. Tap the mold so the Dark Green frit settles into the needle grooves.

Weigh out 15 grams of fine Water Clear frit and distribute this evenly across the three designs. (We often refer to the process as “backfilling.”)

Fire using the Paper-Thin firing schedule below. The low temperatures of this firing schedule are designed to keep the frit from “balling up” from the glass’ surface tension.



### FIRING FOR BRANCHES AND PINE CONES <sup>1</sup>

Casting	Seg 1	300°F (150°C)/hour to 1350-1375°F (730-750°C), Hold 10 minutes
	Seg 2	AFAP to 960 (515°C). Hold 30 minutes
	Seg 3	Off, cool kiln, no venting
Slumping	Seg 1	300°F (150°C)/hour to 1225-1250°F (660-675°C), Hold 5 minutes
	Seg 2	AFAP to 960 (515°C). Hold 30 minutes
	Seg 3	Off, cool kiln, no venting

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

### PAPER-THIN FIRING FOR NEEDLES AND SMALL LEAVES <sup>1</sup>

Casting	Seg 1	300°F (150°C)/hour to 1325-1375°F (715-745°C), Hold 10 minutes
	Seg 2	Off, cool kiln, no venting
Slumping	Seg 1	300°F (150°C)/hour to 1225-1250°F (660-675°C), Hold 5 minutes
	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)