

Freeze and Fuse by baking to dry out mixture

Making simple fake “Freeze and Fuse” with CFE enamels

(I saw this technique at the Colors for Earth booth in Las Vegas. Paula McCoy used to sell this.)

Materials

Layering mix <https://uniqueglasscolors.com/>

Powdered frit (various colors)

Silicone forms I buy them from Amazon or Etsy

Mixing cups

Procedure

1. Mix powdered frit and layering mix. I make about a half and half ratio. It should be about the consistency of melted ice-cream.
2. I wanted to make a bunch of small flowers and butterflies so I started with the black powder. After mixing, I made little black dots for the centers of the flowers. Then using a tooth pick I added a little bit of the frit mixture to the lines in the flowers.
3. In some of the other flowers after adding the black centers I put some stripes in some of the flowers and some with different colored tips in other flowers.
4. After I had the accents completed, I filled them with any desired color. See the illustration below.
5. I let them dry for two days and pulled a few of them out... They crumbled or were



misshaped.

6. So then I remembered they had to be bone dry. I put them in the oven at 250° for 40 minutes. I took them out. That did the trick! Now you are ready to put them into the kiln.
7. Pop them out of the mold and place on a kiln shelf with thin fire or other glass separator.
8. Here is how they looked when I put them into the kiln.
9. Tack Fuse- Please realize that all kilns are different. I have Hot Shot Fiber kilns and this schedule works for me. Please adjust as needed.



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A few additional notes:

I have always heard that powdered frit shrinks 40%. Here is an example of before and after fusing.

I accidentally left my silicone shapes with the layering mix and powdered frit in the oven for 5 hours because I forgot they were in there. Wow, what a difference popping them out. They were really dry and no small details were broken off. I was oh so impressed.

You will notice on the fired deer the

legs broke off of them. They did not come out of the mold as easily as the one I left in the oven for a longer period of time.



One other note: The other day when I was making some underwater life with the powders and layering mix, I wanted to add some details to my starfish. I was all out of the red mixed up powder. So I just dipped my brush in the layering mix and kind of cleaned out the remains of the mixture. I brushed the bottom of the mold with the

mixture and then just filled the whole mold with a white mixture. Wow! It just made the details pop.

	1	2	3	4	5
Ramp	250°	125°	400°	9999	100°
Setpoint	1100°	1225°	1325°	950°	750°
Hold time	20	40	10	60	30

Here are a few examples how I used some freeze and fuse pieces into my artwork. All of these were prior to fusing.

