



Kiwi Leaf

Kiwi vines are a common sight in Portland gardens. Their big, broad leaves create lush canopies when grown on arbors and pergolas. Colour de Verre's Kiwi Leaf has a bonus: On the mold's reverse side there is a slumping surface on which cast leaves can be turned into perfect salad plates.



This mold started as a leaf from a kiwi vine that grows in the front of our studio. The leaves cast from the resulting mold can be turned into small plates, sweet dessert bowls, and combined to form larger platters or wall art.

Priming the Mold

Always start by priming your molds. There are two products you can use: Hotline Primo Primer™ and ZYP BN Lubricat Aerosol (formerly MR-97).

With either product, clean the mold with a stiff nylon brush and/or toothbrush to remove any old kiln wash or boron nitride. (This

step can be skipped if the mold is brand new.)

If you are using Hotline Primo Primer, mix the product according to directions. Apply the Primo Primer™ with a soft artist's brush (not a hake brush) and use a hair dryer to completely dry the coat. Give the mold four to five thin, even coats drying each coat with a hair dryer before applying the next. Make sure to keep the Primo well stirred as it settles quickly. The mold should be totally dry before filling. There is no reason to pre-fire the mold.

The first time ZYP is used on a mold, it is necessary to apply two coats of the product. Hold both the can and the mold upright. Hold the can 10 to 12 inches from the mold. Apply the first, light coat using a three-second burst of spray in a sweeping pattern across the mold's cavities. Do not saturate the surface. Set the mold aside for five minutes so it can dry. Once dry, apply a second coat using another three-second burst of spray. Let the mold dry for ten to fifteen minutes. The mold is ready to fill. ZYP will result in fewer casting spurs and crisper detail.

See our website's Learn section for more instructions about priming Colour de Verre molds with ZYP.

Filling the Kiwi Leaf

The suggested fill weight for the Kiwi Leaf mold is 190 to 200 grams.

To accentuate the mold's details, one to two grams of Black powder is sifted into the mold. Before opening the jar, put on a dust mask as it always best to wear a mask when working with glass powders or other fine particles.

Place a small sifter on a piece of paper and load the sifter with some of the powder. Hold the sifter over the mold and tap the sifter to distribute a fine layer over the mold's surface. Use a small paintbrush to brush away any errant powder from the mold's top edge.

Now you get to be creative! In a large, lidded container, try combining about 150 grams of clear, fine frit with a total of 40-50 grams of a fine, green, transparent frit of your choice. Try 1 color or a mix of 2-3 colors for variety. Shake the container to mix the glass evenly.

Use a small spoon to layer the frit mixture into the mold. Apply the first three-quarters of the frit mixture evenly into the mold. Use the last one-quarter of the frit to increase the frit depth around the leaf's center.

Fire the mold according to the Casting Schedule. The firing schedule's low target temperature and long hold will prevent the frit from becoming too liquid and balling up due to surface tension. This will keep the leaf thin and delicate.

Slumping Individual Leaves

The easiest way to shape individual Kiwi Leaf castings is to use the integrated slumping surface on the mold's reverse side. Using the same methods described above, prime the slumping surface with either Hotline Primo Primer or ZYP. Position the leaf on the primed surface with the textured side up and place the mold into the kiln. Follow the Individual Leaf Slumping Schedule below.

Slumping Individual Leaves



Casting Schedule*

Segment	Ramp	Temperature	Hold
1	300°F/165°C	1315-1335°F/713-723°C	45-60 minutes
2	AFAP	900°F/482°C	60 minutes
3	100°F/60°C	600°F/315°C	Off. No venting

* Schedule for Bullseye Glass. AFAP means "As Fast As Possible", no venting.

Individual Leaf Slumping Schedule*

Segment	Ramp	Temperature	Hold
1	300°F/165°C	1215-1225°F/658-663°C	10 minutes
2	AFAP	900°F/482°C	60 minutes
3	100°F/60°C	600°F/315°C	Off. No venting

* Schedule for Bullseye Glass. AFAP means "As Fast As Possible", no venting.