



Snowflakes

Our Snowflakes designs produce light and delicate snowflakes that celebrate the austere beauty of winter. They can be hung most anywhere and make the perfect "little gift" for friends and coworkers. If you want, you can tack fuse them to holiday plates and platters.



Our Snowflakes molds are exceptionally easy to fill and fire. The intricate design combined with a low temperature firing schedule produces castings so delicate that people will think they were produced via torch work.

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 three to four 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 Snowflake '17 January and Snowflake '17 December are the two largest of all the Snowflake designs

The first time ZYP is used on a mold, it is necessary to apply two coats of the product. Start by shaking the can until the ball inside the rattles. Continue shaking for at least 60 seconds longer. Hold the can upright 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 Mold

Different effects can be obtained by using different frit sizes and amounts of heatwork - the combination of kiln temperature and hold time. For example, an extended amount of heatwork with fine or medium frit results in "icy" snowflakes. When fine frit and less heatwork are combined, the results are more "snowy" castings.

Caution: An excessive amount of heatwork causes the glass to become more fluid. In this state, the glass' surface tension will cause the glass to "ball up" and the results will be less than perfect.

To fill the mold, measure out frit according to the fill weight chart (a good starting point is to use fine Clear frit.) Place the frit in one of the cavities. Repeat this for the second cavity. Use a small artist's brush to level the frit. Don't be tempted to overfill the molds. There should be no frit above the design points in the cavity.

Place the mold in the kiln on an elevated shelf. Fire according to the "Snowy" Casting Schedule or the "Icy" Casting Schedule.

Fill Weights Table

Design	Frit Amount
Snowflakes '12	5 to 6 grams
Snowflakes '13	6 point, 9 grams 5 point, 6 grams
Snowflakes '14	8 grams
Snowflakes '15	20 grams
Snowflakes '16	25 to 30 grams
Snowflake '17 January	50 to 55 grams
Snowflake '17 December	45 to 50 grams

“Snowy” Casting Schedule*

Segment	Ramp	Temperature	Hold
1	300°F/165°C	1275-1295°F/688-703°C	5-10 minutes
2	AFAP	900°F/482°C	30 minutes. Off. No Venting

“Icy” Casting Schedule*

Segment	Ramp	Temperature	Hold
1	300°F/165°C	1315-1335°F/713-723°C	10-20 minutes
2	AFAP	900°F/482°C	30 minutes. Off. No Venting

*Schedule for Bullseye Glass



A bit of powdered frit at the tips really enhances the castings.

There is room for creativity. Another option to try would be adding bits of dichroic glass or bits of colored frit in the tips.