Frit Slurry Basics

With a just splash of water mixed with any powdered frit you can make a “slurry” and use various blending techniques to create amazing results!

Creating a Frit Slurry:

When working with powdered frits, make sure to use a respirator mask or other protective equipment to avoid inhaling particulate matter.

Place a small amount of a given color of powdered frit into a small container for mixing. Both opaque and transparent frits can be used to create a slurry, though the amount will vary depending on the size of the area you intend to cover. Add enough water to the container to just barely cover the top of the frit. We’ve found that using a spray bottle to spritz the frit until it’s covered is a great way to avoid adding too much water (Image 1). Once the water is added, mix the frit and water together to a pancake batter-like consistency. Each color should be mixed in a separate container.

Using Frit Slurries on Sheet Glass:

Slurries can be applied to transparent or opaque sheet glass, single or double thick, as long as it’s compatible with the frit used. While powder frit works best for creating slurries, once it’s placed on a sheet bits of larger grain frits such as fine or medium can be added to create texture.

To begin adding slurry to sheet glass, place the sheet glass on a level surface. Add the slurry in whatever pattern or order you’d like (Images 2-4). A small scoop or spoon works well for distribution. After each slurry has been added, gently shake the sheet from side to side to level and spread them out (Image 7). If desired, a needle tool, spoon handle, or knife can be used to pull one color into another (Images 5 and 6). The possible pattern and color combinations are endless!

If you’d like a video on applying slurry, please click here.

Firing the Glass:

After the slurry has been applied to the sheet glass, allow the water to evaporate from the slurry by leaving the piece on a flat surface in a warm area for a few hours (Image 8). If you live or work in a humid area, this may take a bit longer.

When fusing a slurry to sheet glass that is two layers thick you can use your favorite standard Full Fuse schedule. If fusing onto a single layer, use a Contour or Tack Fire schedule instead. After the project has been fired and cooled, it can be slumped or draped using standard procedures.

In many of our tutorials featuring the frit slurry process and a slump or drape mold, the option to fire using a “One and Done” schedule is given. If you decide to follow this schedule, it is crucial to know the kiln you’ll be firing in. For tips on how to get to know your kiln better, check our Firing Notes by clicking here.

If you’re unfamiliar with the kiln, it is also always possible to instead fuse the slurry and then slump or drape separately with two different schedules.

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