CREATING DECORATIVE FUSED GLASS SPOONS

Creative Paradise Inc.

Fusible Glass and Food Safety:

Because spoons will typically come into contact with food of some kind, we feel it's wise to begin this tutorial by first talking about the relative food safety of most fusible glass.

Colored fusible glass gets its coloring primarily through the addition of specific chemical compounds. Some of these compounds, while safe to touch, fuse, and otherwise interact with externally, are not safe for consumption. Whenever a glass piece comes in contact with food, especially if that food is hot or liquid, those compounds could possibly leech out and into the food. This is why the majority of glass manufacturers generally recommend that you cap any fused glass projects you intend to have come in contact with food with a layer of clear, as clear glass does not contain these compounds.

Since the fusing process does alter the glass from the initial manufacturer's state, if you intend to sell or otherwise distribute your pieces it becomes your responsibility to determine how food safe they are. A local chemistry lab should be able to test your pieces for you. The primary compounds of concern are Lead and Cadmium.

For more information, we recommend looking at Bullseye's Food Safety Document, which you can find by clicking here.

Making Fused Glass Spoons:

In this tutorial, you will find five different patterns used to make all of the samples shown. Feel free to alter them to your own tastes to create your own unique spoon designs!

The spoon-shaped blanks were made using one of two techniques: cutting the selected pattern out twice, layering, then firing to a Full Fuse, or cutting the selected pattern out once, adding compatible decorative elements, and firing to a Tack Fire. Fusing two complete layers will yield a thicker, chunkier spoon, while fusing a single layer will create a thinner spoon more similar to a standard piece of silverware.

All examples in the following pages were slumped on the GM179 Spoon Slump and **all use COE96 glass**. Each example will show the pattern as well as the specific glass used to create it. Combine all this information with your own artistic preferences to make your own elegant or funky fused glass spoons!

General Process Notes:

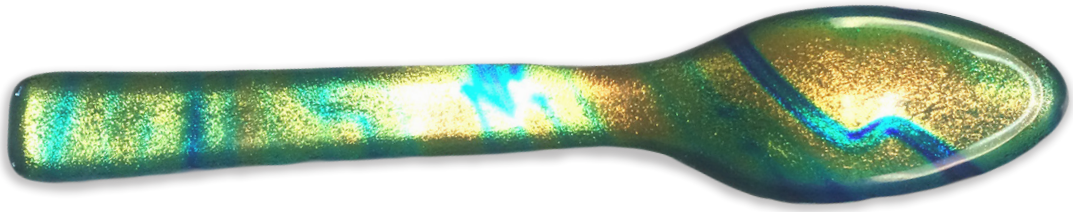
Always make sure to prepare your mold well with glass separator and allow plenty of time to dry before adding glass. We recommend using spray-on ZYP Boron Nitride separator. If using a spray-on separator, make sure to wear a mask during application.

In all examples, once the base glass pattern was layered and created, the project was then placed on a suitably sized sheet of Thin Fire Paper on a level shelf in the kiln and taken to either a Full or Tack Fuse as noted.

All our schedules are suggested, as you know your kiln and process best! If you have a Full Fuse, Tack Fire, or Slump schedule that works well for you, use that instead.

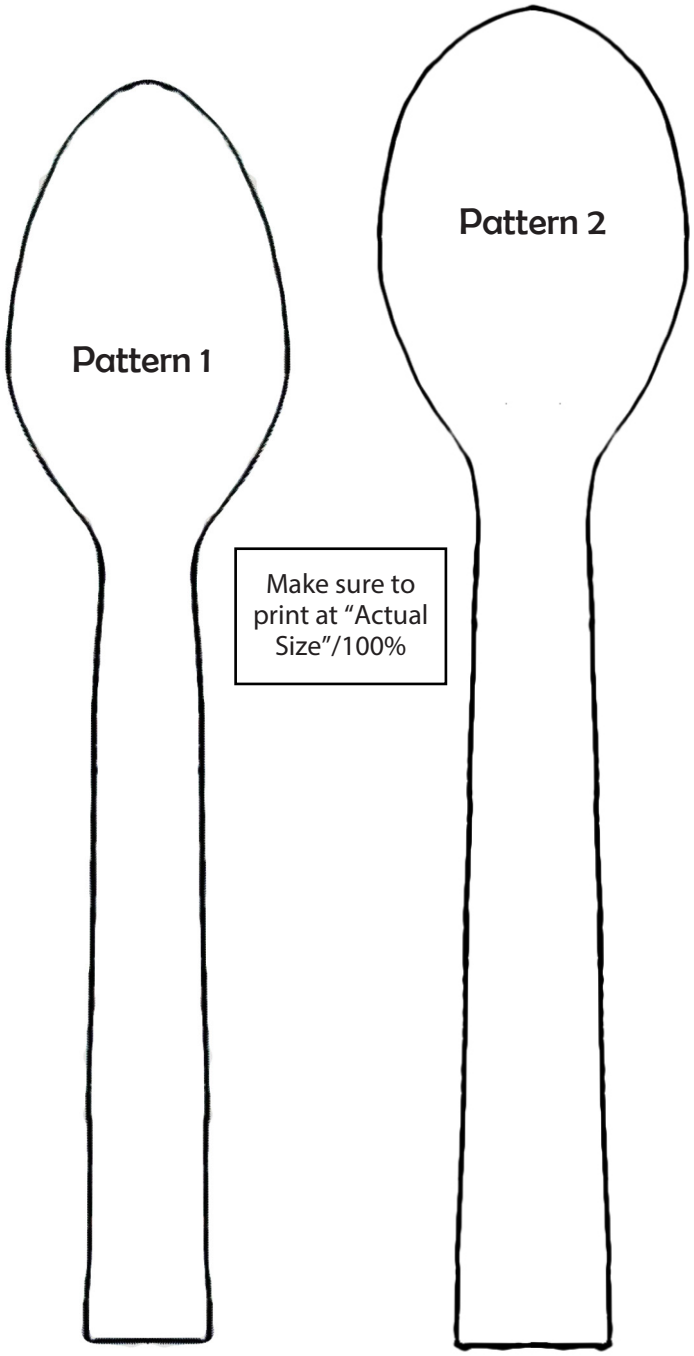
This funky dichroic spoon was made using **Pattern 1**. Cut a piece of CBS Voltage Rainbow on Black sheet glass just along the inside of the Pattern 1 line. Cut an accompanying piece of standard thickness Clear just outside the Pattern 1 line to create a Clear piece slightly larger than the Dichroic piece (see image to right). Stack the Clear on top of the Dichroic and fire to a Full Fuse using the suggested schedule in **Table 1** on **Page 5**.

Once cooled, center the blank on the prepared GM179 and fire to a Slump using the suggested schedule in **Table 2** on **Page 5**.



This elegant spoon was made using **Pattern 2**. Cut a single copy of the pattern from Caribbean Blue. Use cut noodles of Apple Jade and Mauve to create the handle design shown then Tack Fire using the suggested schedule in **Table 3** on **Page 5**.

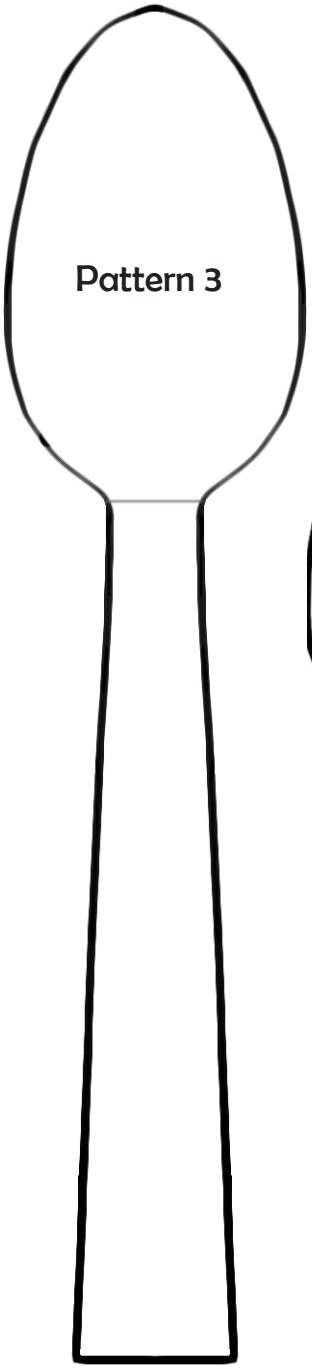
Once cooled, center on a prepared GM179 and Slump using the suggested schedule in **Table 2** on **Page 5**.

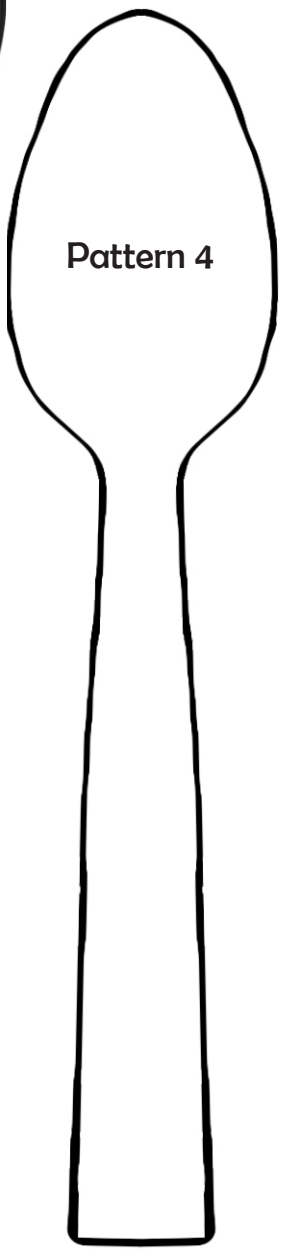


This cheerful soup spoon used **Pattern 3**.

Cut the entire pattern from a sheet of Yellow Transparent, then trace just the bowl portion of the pattern onto the Yellow and cut that. Segments of Yellow Opal and Orange Transparent were cut to make the rest of the handle design.

Stack everything together and fire to a Full Fuse using the suggested schedule in **Table 1** on **Page 5**, then slump on a prepared GM179 using the suggested schedule in **Table 2** on **Page 5**.





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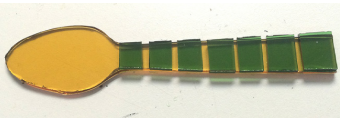
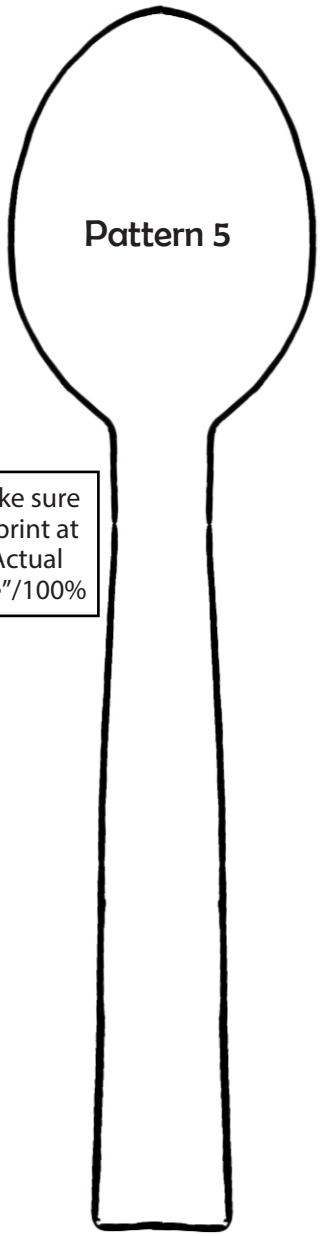
This textural spoon used **Pattern 4**. Cut the pattern from a sheet of Pale Amber, then add segments of Lime Green to create the handle design (shown below).



Tack Fire using the suggested schedule in **Table 3** on **Page 5**, then slump on a prepared GM179 using the suggested schedule in **Table 2** on **Page 5**.



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This "Purple Passion" spoon used **Pattern 5**. Cut the base layer from Violet Transparent and layer segments of Violet and Hydrangea Opal on the handle.

Tack Fire using the suggested schedule in **Table 3** on **Page 5**, then slump on a prepared GM179 using the suggested schedule in **Table 2** on **Page 5**.

This swirling spoon used **Pattern 1** on **Page 2**. Use the pattern to cut a piece of Pale Blue and a piece of Monterrey Spirit. Stack the Monterrey Spirit on top of the Pale Blue with the clear side of the Spirit glass facing up.

Fire to a Full Fuse using the suggested schedule in **Table 1** on **Page 5**, then slump on a prepared GM179 using the suggested schedule in **Table 2** on **Page 5**.

All spoon patterns provided can be divided into two-piece patterns by drawing a line across the base of the bowl area as in **Pattern 3**. Some may find this two-piece pattern easier to cut!

Reminders:

- Always treat your mold with suitable glass separator and allow plenty of time to dry before adding glass

- All glass mentioned in these tutorials is COE96

- To help line up your spoon blanks on the mold, use the small center indicators at the top and bottom of the mold. Make sure the bowl portion of your blank is centered over the bowl portion of the mold for an even slump

- Our suggested schedules are just that- suggestions! If you have a Full Fuse, Tack Fire, or Slump that works well for you, use that instead

- If you still have any questions, feel free to email us at creativeparadiseinc@live.com

Featured Mold:

GM179 Spoon Slump

8" L x 3" W x 1.5" T

Bonus Technique:

Since the original publication of this tutorial, we've been able to experiment and successfully create a "One-and-Done" firing with this mold- a single schedule that both fuses and slumps!

The green daisy spoon on the left used a base of Moss Green cut with **Pattern 4** on **Page 3**. Small pieces of Mauve, Lemongrass, and White Opal were then nipped into shape with a mosaic nipper and placed in the handle area.

The striking gray spoon on the right used a base of Gray Transparent cut with **Pattern 4** on **Page 3**. A piece of Murano Spirit sheet glass was then cut slightly smaller than the handle area and placed atop the Gray blank. A small piece of Black Dichroic was added at the very end of the handle.

The **unfused** blanks for both the above spoons were then placed on prepared GM179s and fired using the suggested One-and-Done schedule found in **Table 4** below.

Suggested Firing Schedules:

Table 1: Full Fuse*

Segment	Rate	Temp (°F)	Hold
1	275	1215	30
2	50	1250	20
3	275	1465	05
4	9999	950**	60

**If using COE90, adjust this to 900°F

Table 2: Slump*

Segment	Rate	Temp (°F)	Hold
1	275	1215	30
2	50	1250	20
3	9999	950**	60

**If using COE90, adjust this to 900°F

Table 3: Tack Fire*

Segment	Rate	Temp (°F)	Hold
1	275	1215	30
2	50	1250	20
3	275	1410	05
4	9999	950**	60

**If using COE90, adjust this to 900°F

Table 4: One-and-Done*

Segment	Rate	Temp (°F)	Hold
1	275	1215	45
2	50	1250	15
3	350	1435	05
4	9999	950**	60

**If using COE90, adjust this to 900°F

*Before firing, it's important to know your kiln. For tips on how to do that, please click here to see our Important Firing Notes!

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