

# Creating and Including Bails

By Guest Artist Christi Terry

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## Materials:

- [LF265 Columbine Flowers](#)
- [LF267 Bails \(6\)](#)
- **OR**
- [LF276 Fifteen Bails](#)
- COE96 Glass (See Below)
- Suitable Glass Separator (ZYP Recommended)
- Frit Placement Tools
- Glass Cutting Supplies
- Kiln Shelf or Fiber Paper
- Small Paint Brush

## Suggested Glass:

- F2 Fine or F1 Powder Frits:
  - White Opal
  - Marigold Opal
  - Midnight Blue Opal
  - Dark Green Opal
  - Emerald Green Opal
- F5 Coarse Frit:
  - Clear
- Sheet Glass:
  - Scraps of Clear

Including bails in frit castings is a great way to hang them alone or string them together. In this tutorial, guest artist Christi Terry will walk us through the process. See **Page 2** for a list of the molds used for each of Christi's example pieces.

Prepare all molds well with suitable separator before beginning. We recommend spray-on ZYP. **Always wear a mask when applying spray-on separator or working with powder frits.**



Example 1:

Image 1:



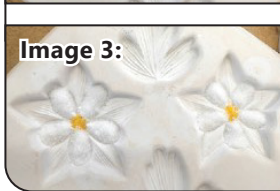
Fill each bail of the desired mold with F5 Clear. Push frit away from the posts with a fine paint brush. Transfer to a level kiln shelf and fire to a full fuse, such as the one in **Table 1** on **Page 2**.

Image 2:



For the LF265, fill the center of each flower with F1 or F2 Marigold Opal.

Image 3:



Then add F1 or F2 White Opal to the smaller petals of each flower.

Image 4:



Add F1 or F2 Midnight Blue Opal to the larger petals of the largest flower and F1 or F2 Dark Green Opal to the larger petals of the smaller flower.

Image 5:



For contrast, sprinkle F1 or F2 Dark Green Opal in the leaves.

Then back each leaf with F1 or F2 Emerald Green Opal.



Example 2:

Image 6:



Fill the flowers and leaves with F5 Clear, making sure to have glass even with the top edge of the mold. Then nip Clear sheet glass into the centers until each is full.

Place two bails at the edges of each flower, making sure the flat "tongue" of each is touching the F5 Clear frit. Place the bails across from each other on each flower. Place one clean bail at the "stem" end of each leaf.

The circles in **Image 6** highlight placed bails prior to their addition in the last leaf.



Example 3:

## LF265 Fill Weights:

**Large Flower:** 34 grams    **Large Leaf:** 18 grams  
**Small Flower:** 20 grams    **Small Leaf:** 14 grams



Image 7a:



Image 7b:



Image 7c:

Add either fiber paper (**Image 7a**) or kiln shelf paper (**Images 7b & 7c**) to the opening of each bail. Fiber paper can be 'mushed' into the opening, while kiln shelf paper can be rolled and then placed into the opening.

Make sure if using kiln shelf paper that the roll height is just above the height of the bail and not too tall. There should be a sufficient amount of paper to fill the bail opening.

### Fiber Paper or Kiln Shelf Paper?:

Note the rolled kiln shelf paper was pushed out of one leaf during firing, so the bail opening closed. (**Image 8**). This is why fiber paper is preferred. However, kiln shelf paper does usually work.

Also note that fiber paper can be reused for this purpose while kiln shelf paper cannot.



Image 8:

Transfer the filled mold to a level shelf in the kiln and fire using the suggested schedule in **Table 1** or your own preferred full fuse.

Once the glass has cooled, remove the castings and clean them thoroughly with soap and water. The castings can then be used alone as ornaments or strung together with a wire cable, string, or chain through the bails.

**Table 1: Full Fuse \***

| Seg. | Rate | Temp (°F) | Hold |
|------|------|-----------|------|
| 1    | 300  | 1150      | 45   |
| 2    | 150  | 1300      | 20   |
| 3    | 400  | 1460      | 10   |
| 4    | 9999 | 950**     | 60   |

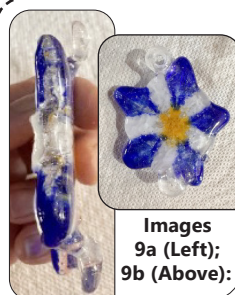
\*\*If using COE90, adjust this to 900°F

\*Before firing, it's important to know your kiln to see if you need to adjust suggested schedules for your use. For tips on doing that, [please click here for Important Firing Notes!](#)

### Offset Castings:

**Images 9a-9c** show the flowers and leaves after fusing. Note that the bails are offset from the flower as shown in **Img. 9b**. This works well for running a cable or chain.

A low temperature slump can be performed if the bails are desired to be the same level as the flower. Adding fiber paper or kiln shelf paper back into the bails during this firing will help the holes maintain their shape.



Images 9a (Left); 9b (Above):



Image 9c:



Image 10: Front

Bails can be included in just about any frit casting mold using this same process. When added in this manner, the bails are quite sturdy, and work great for creating beautiful strings of castings!



Image 11: Back

The **LF267** Bails and **LF276** Fifteen Bails create identical bails, so both work with this method.

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Ex. 1b:



Ex. 2b:

### Molds Used for Page 1 Examples: (Listed from Top of Chain)

Example 1: **LF265** Columbine Flowers, **LF12** Hummingbird, **LF145** Garden Bugs, and **LF268** Heart Ornaments, strung with metal chain

Example 2: **LF115** Small Dragonflies, **114** Small Butterflies. Strung with corks using 1/16" cable

Example 3: **LF265** Columbine Flowers, **LF12** Hummingbird, **LF145** Garden Bugs. Strung with metal chain



Ex. 2c: