

How To Create Custom-Made Murrini

Murrini are small glass wafers or “slices” that are created from fusing multiple layers of colored glass strips, rods or stringers into one long cane that is then cut into smaller disc-like slices. Millefiori, which means "a thousand flowers" in Italian, is a specific type of murrini with a flower-like pattern which is viewable only from the ends of the cane.

Using a murrini mold (see our Materials and Supplies page under “[Molds](#)”), artists can create seven uniquely different rods of glass that can then be cut into hundreds of individual pieces of murrini or, if you are a lampworking artist, these canes can be pulled over the torch flame to create fabulous beads infused with swirling color combinations!

Begin by cleaning the mold with a lightly dampened cloth. Ceramic residue or dust can become trapped in the corners of the channels and could be problematic if not removed.

Apply at least three coats of kiln wash to the murrini mold, and be sure to coat the corners in each channel carefully and thoroughly as glass will stick permanently to any part of the mold that has not been adequately coated.

Allow the mold to dry completely, either naturally in the air, or in the kiln at 500F. If you have heated the mold to dry the kiln wash it is critical that you allow the mold to cool completely before you begin laying your glass in the channels.

You may fill the channels with glass noodles, stringers, and/or hand-cut strips and/or frit until the glass pieces are level with the top of the mold. Remember that if you are using stringers you can create very intricate patterns by carefully arranging the stringers within the channels – this is how Millefiori is created!

I. Firing:

- i. Ramp kiln from room temperature to 1100 F at no more than 500F per hour and then fire as quickly as possible from 1100 to about 1450F and soak for ten minutes. You **MUST** be vigilant to ensure that the glass has reached a temperature at which a full fuse has taken place without having the glass begin to “creep” out the ends of the channels!
- ii. Crash cool back down to 1000 degrees F by opening the lid for a few moments.
- iii. Soak or hold the kiln’s temperature at 1000 degrees F for 30 minutes.
- iv. Turn off kiln and allow the glass to anneal as the kiln falls back to room temperature over a period of between 6-8 hours.

When cool, nip the canes into slices using mosaic nippers and use your fabulous custom-made murrini to add an interesting design element in other fused glass creations! Your imagination will dictate how you will use your murrini! Have fun!