



## Sun/Moon Texture Mold 2014



I start with this mold by making sure to remove any sanding dust particles that remain on the mold.

Next I spray a good coat of MR 97.....shake the MR97 well and be sure to spray the entire mold including the edges holding the mold vertical. Do not spray with the mold flat on a table. The mixture in the can will settle and you will not get the best mix of the spray. Let it dry a few minutes and then a quick mist again....

You can also use Primo Primer. When you use either of these.....after firing use a stiff brush to remove any excess (outside). A quick remist of MR97 or a new coat of Primo between firings after brushing.

In the first picture you can see how I applied some powder using a sifter. I also added a bit of black in the eyes of the sun and the moon. Next I applied powder orange to the stars in the moon and on the cheeks of the sun. These are the sifters I use for the powders.



After the accent areas are done with powders, I use fine frit. For that application I am using a small

spoon.....any will do but I like to use the tiny ones you get in an ice cream shop for tastings different flavors.....they work great. Or use small plastic spoons you would get with a bowl of ice cream.....I did the flames on the sun by doing an outline with red fine frit and then filling in with yellow transparent. It is easy and quick because I made the mold with a good recess area to fill in. I did not want to take hours making one of these. this mold maybe took me 30 min the first time....then 20 min each time after that!



After finishing the color on the flames I put a layer of clear fine frit then went to work on the sun. In the next picture you can see how I basically buried the facial features with a transparent orange fine frit giving it a good pile.



Here I have capped the whole thing with a double layer of clear glass using the same COE as the frit of course. I used 96 and have fallen in love with Spectrum's double thick clear. If you do not have the double thick be sure to prefuse the clear to prevent alot of bubbles as this is a very textured mold.

Here is a schedule to PREFIRE the clear or top glass. (do not feel limited to clear!!)  
350 degrees to 1100 hold 30 min  
50 degrees to 1250 hold 45 min (bubble squeeze)  
450 to 1410 hold 10 min (this is all you temp you need to totally seal and prefire blanks)  
9999 to anneal hold 60 min (900 for 90 and 960 for 96)  
100 to 850 hold 30 and off

Here is the schedule to fire the SUN/ MOON with the prefired or thick blank:

350 degrees to 1100 hold 30 min  
50 degrees to 1250 hold 30 min (bubble squeeze) (I still put in the bubble squeeze so the frit will play nice)  
450 to 1420 hold 10 min  
9999 to anneal hold 60 min (900 for 90 and 960 for 96)  
100 to 850 hold 60  
100 to 750 hold 10 off  
The length at the end is to let the thick clay mold and the glass to cool together. With this schedule you will get many many firings out of your mold  
Let the kiln cool naturally until 100 degrees or less.

For folks with large kilns!!! Yes you can prefire some forms and do texture molds in the same load. My large kilns get filled with double layered texture molds like the leafs and others at the same time as I am prefiring forms for the next load. I will put down a sheet of thin fire and fill the shelf with 2 layer prefires leaving space between them for stilts to set up texture molds. I then put the texture mold on stilts leaving some space for air flow.

I do fire the simple 2 layer texture molds slightly cooler than the heavy frit texture molds like this one. the simple 2 layer I only go to 1410.

If you get this mold email me if you have any more questions.

