PRODUCT USE

Gold Hold: Firing Transparent Pink, Purple, and Coral Colors

Color Development With and Without a Gold Hold

Top Row: Fired with 'Gold Hold', showing intended color development

Held at 1200 °F / 663 °C 2 hours 'Gold Hold'

Bottom Row: Fired without 'Gold Hold', illustrating the heat sensitivity in this color palette

Held at 1200 °F / 663 °C 30 minutes

Mastering the Gold Hold is essential for success with transparent gold-bearing pink, purple, and coral glasses. These colors demand care, but reward it with unmatched beauty and depth when fired correctly.

Gold-Bearing Colors

Many Bullseye transparent pink, purple, and coral glasses require a ***Gold Hold*** during their first firing to develop their intended color.

Why a Gold Hold Is Necessary

These glasses are ***strikers***, meaning they develop color only after controlled heatwork. While most styles typically reach the target color using standard schedules, lighter transparent pinks, purples, and corals often require extended time at 1200 °F to fully develop color. Bullseye testing shows 1200 °F for 2 hours produces the most consistent results across different kilns and production dates.

Without a proper Gold Hold, results may include:

- Weak or absent color
- Blue or brown color casts
- Uneven or spotty appearance

Gold Hold *Required*

SENSITIVE STYLES/LIGHT PINK TRANSPARENTS

- Light Pink (001215)
- Burnt Scarlet Tint (001823)
- Ruby Red Tint (001824)
- Ruby Pink Tint (001831)
- *Special Production* transparent pink striking styles

Gold Hold *Recommended*

DARKER TRANSPARENTS

- Light Coral (001205)
- Violet (001234)
- Sunset Coral (001305)
- Cranberry Pink (001311)
- Fuchsia (001332)
- Gold Purple (001334)
- *Special Production* transparent purple striking styles

Gold Hold Basics for Projects up to 14″ Diameter (see Page 2 for projects over 14″)

- Temperature: 1200 °F / 649 °C
- Hold Time: 2 hours
- When: Heating phase of the first firing only
- Applies to all forms—sheet, frit, billet, etc.
- Which styles? Transparent gold-bearing pink, purple, and coral
- For full fuse or tack fuse projects up to 14″ × 14″, the 1200 °F Gold Hold doubles as a Bubble Squeeze for layered projects
- Include a Gold Hold when striking 2 mm and 3 mm sheet glass for stained glass or mosaic use
- Not intended as a process temperature. Color continues to mature at higher temperatures

Note: Do not repeat the Gold Hold in later firings, especially when projects include styles made with cadmium, such as reds, yellows, and oranges. Multiple long hold times can harm cadmium-bearing colors.

Full Fuse Firing Schedule with a Gold Hold

SEG	RATE	TEMP	HOLD
1	*	1200 °F / 649 °C	2:00
2	600 °F / 333 °C	1490 °F / 810 °C	0:10
3	AFAP†	900 °F / 482 °C	‡

* The initial rate of heat is not a critical factor in successfully striking gold-bearing glasses. Choose an initial rate of heat appropriate to the scale and design of the project that you are firing.

† As fast as possible.

‡ Remainder of cycle depends on the thickness of the piece. Consult the Bullseye Annealing Chart.

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Gold Hold Temperature Variation for Projects over 14″ Diameter

Sometimes people choose a Gold Hold at 1225 °F. Why choose a Gold Hold temperature higher than 1200 °F?

If the project is larger than 14″ × 14″ and requires a Bubble Squeeze hold to allow air to escape from between the layers of glass, 1225 °F is the recommended hold temperature.

- For the darker transparent gold-bearing styles, dark pink, purple, and coral, 1225 °F works as a Gold Hold just as well 1200 °F in many kilns.
- The lighter transparent pink styles may strike well using 1225 °F in some kilns, but not in others. These styles are especially affected by small temperature differences commonly seen between kilns. We highly recommend test firing in your intended kiln.
- Kiln performance varies. If a particular kiln runs hotter than the programmed temperature it can overshoot the Gold Hold causing the sensitive transparent light pink styles to appear weak or underdeveloped in color. Lowering the Gold Hold to 1200 °F will ensure these styles strike and also serves as an effective Bubble Squeeze temperature.

If a Bubble Squeeze is not required, we recommend using 1200 °F as your Gold Hold temperature.

How to Test

Testing prevents costly surprises in large projects.

1. Use a small, unfired piece from the test sheet.
2. Fire using this short schedule with a 2-hour Gold Hold.
3. Record results, including sheet style and production date, and which kiln was used. Results can vary with different production dates.
4. If a test held at 1225 °F results in blue or brown tones or weak, uneven, or absent color, the kiln has overshot the Gold Hold. Test again with the Gold Hold at 1200 °F.

Gold Hold Test Firing for Projects over 14″ Diameter

SEG	RATE	TEMP	HOLD
1	400 °F / 222 °C	*	2:00
2	600 °F / 333 °C	1460 °F / 793 °C †	0:05
3	AFAP ‡	70 °F / 21 °C	

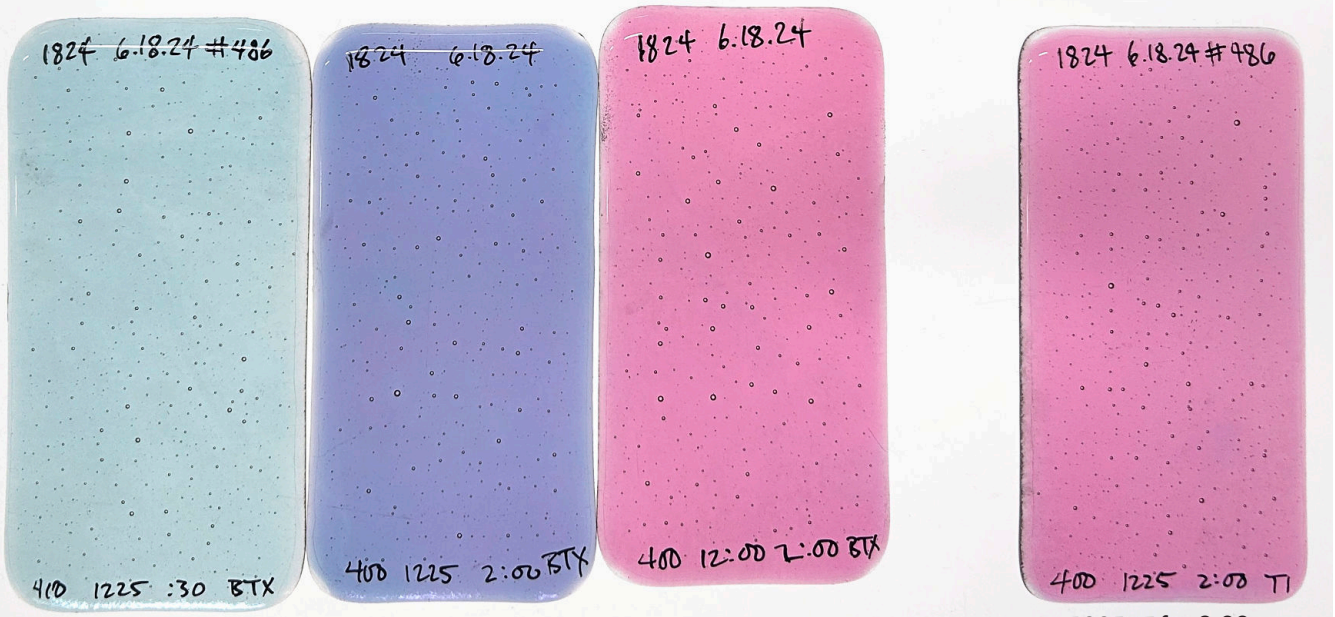
* Gold Hold temperature, 1225 °F or 1200 °F.

† If planning to fire to a tack fuse, try firing to that temperature and planned hold time. A range of process temperatures can develop proper color if the glass is heated correctly.

‡ As fast as possible. The glass does not need to be annealed to get the information about color.

Test Results

Testing results from a single sheet of Ruby Pink Tint (001824), show that the optimal Gold Hold temperature differs between Kiln 1 and Kiln 2.



1225 °F for 0:30 Kiln 1 | **1225 °F for 2:00 Kiln 1** | **1200 °F for 2:00 Kiln 1** | **1225 °F for 2:00 Kiln 2**