

Liquid Latex

technique focus

TF0010

Step by step

1



Latex can be used to produce casts from plaster moulds using the pour-in method. Dampen your mould by lightly spraying the cavity with water, or swilling water around the inside before pouring it away.

3



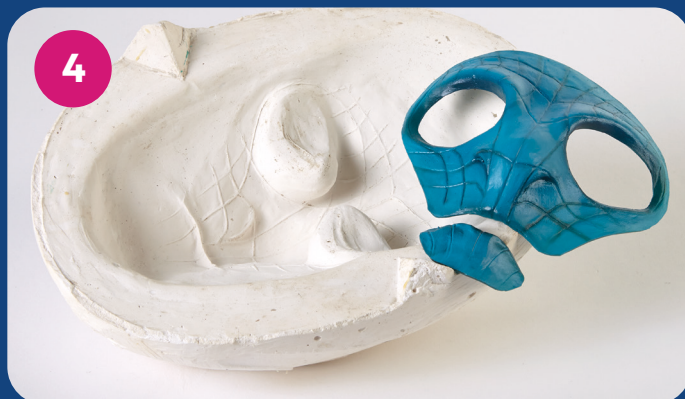
After an hour, the latex can be poured from the mould back into its original container, and can be used again. Stand your mould upside down to allow the remaining excess latex to drain out, and leave to dry thoroughly.

2



Latex colour can be mixed into the latex before it is poured into the mould to produce a coloured cast. Once dry, the colour will be several shades darker than the colour of the liquid emulsion. Slowly pour latex into your mould, filling it to the top. Gently tap your mould with a rubber mallet to help release any trapped air bubbles.

4



Lightly dust talc over the inside surface of the latex before de-moulding to ensure it does not stick to itself. Latex can be painted by mixing a small amount of latex with acrylic paint.

5



Latex is a natural air-drying liquid rubber easily used to produce thin skinned, highly elastic moulds and casts. Latex may be used to make moulds from masters (originals) made from a wide variety of materials such as plaster, clay, glass and concrete or even shells. Ensure the master is clean, dry and free of grease or oil. Fasten the master to a firm, non-porous surface so that the entire piece can be moved without handling the coated areas.

7



Once your mould thickness is sufficient (usually about 6-8 coats), and the latex has thoroughly dried (at least 3 hours), your master can be de-moulded after putting a thin layer of washing up liquid over the outside, to prevent the mould from sticking to itself. For best results, allow the latex to cure for a day before using the mould for the first time, then wash it thoroughly in warm water with a mild detergent using a soft sponge or cloth and allow to drain and dry throughout. Latex moulds can be used to produce casts in plaster and resin, and can be released with Mould Release Spray.

6



Brush a thin layer of latex onto your master, ensuring it is thoroughly coated. Air bubbles can be removed by gently stippling over the surface. Brush from the top of the model to the bottom and continue out from the base to a distance of approximately 4cm on the supporting substrate. Build up layers of latex by repeating this process, allowing 15-20 minutes between each layer. The previous coat should still be slightly tacky but firm. As it dries the latex will turn from white to a creamy yellow colour.

Hints and Tips



To prevent latex attaching to the bristles of your brush, soak in washing up liquid and squeeze out the excess before beginning. Wash it out with warm, soapy water after each coat, dry, and reapply washing up liquid before the next coat. Alternatively, leave the brush in a reservoir of latex to prevent the latex or brush from drying out.

Avoid contact with petroleum-based substances such as Vaseline, and substrates containing copper, as this degrades latex.

By adding Latex Thickener to your latex, a non-slump mixture can be produced which can help to build up even layers over uneven surfaces. Remember to keep layers thin to facilitate short drying times.

Porous masters can be dipped into a volume of latex to build up layers. Latex Coagulant facilitates faster drying times between layers.



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What you'll need

PM310...Liquid Latex Emulsion - **PM311C** Latex Thickener - **PM312A030** Black Latex Colourant
BR900A...Student Round Synthetic Brush - **PM591** Mould Release Spray