

# 3-D AND MOLD-MAKING SUPPLIES

At Opus Framing and Art Supplies we carry a wide range of products from clays, mold-making materials to sculpting and pottery tools. This particular handout lists some of our 3-d products and briefly describes more unusual 3-d products at Opus. In addition, we have detailed handouts specifically for plaster mold-making and mask-making ideas.

## LATEX RUBBER MOLDS

### Materials:

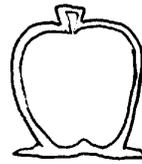
- cheesecloth
- old brushes
- modelling clay
- plaster bandage or Rigid Wrap

**Using Rubber Latex:** Rubber latex is an excellent choice where extensive detail is desired, or where small undercuts and fissures occur — features which might normally cause problems in mold-making. Use it in a well ventilated area as there is some odour due to the ammonia content. Using a brush, apply liquid latex directly to the surface of your original piece. Apply in thin layers. You do not need a release agent. If possible, extend your application of latex to create a flange\* around the outside edge of your piece to aid in easier removal. Apply several coats of latex, allowing each coat to dry thoroughly before re-applying. (Note: rubber latex can take several hours to dry).



You can build up between layers with cheesecloth (optional) if you desire to improve the strength of the cast, but be aware that the latex is designed to remain flexible and adding cheese cloth may reduce flexibility.

Once you have 5-6 good layers, create a “saddle” mold using plaster or plaster bandages to provide support to the mold. Once dry, release the original from the plaster saddle and the latex mold. You are now ready to cast final pieces using plaster or other suitable media. The latex mold will remain resilient for an extensive number of final castings.



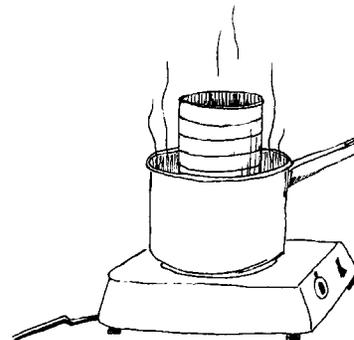
\* A flange is necessary to add strength to your mold. So that when you pull it apart you have a rim to hold on to.

## FLEX WAX MOLDS

### Materials:

- petroleum jelly or commercial release agent
- double boiler
- old brushes
- cheesecloth
- old tin cans

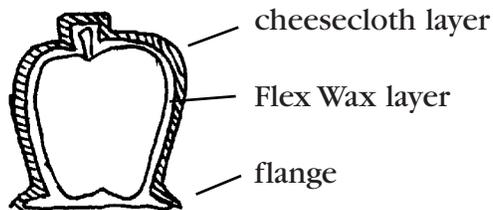
**Using Flex Wax:** You can make an original sculpture from modelling clay and cast a mold using Flex Wax, then pour a final cast with plaster of paris. Prepare your clay original by applying a release agent of petroleum jelly. Heat the Flex Wax in a double boiler at a medium setting (or use an old tin can for the wax and place it in a pot of water).



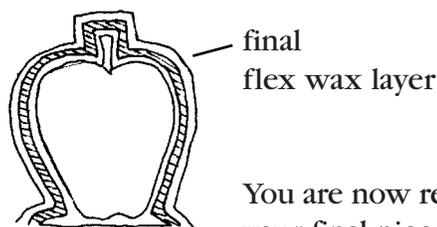
Flex Wax has a low melting temperature so be careful not to overheat. Gently brush or pour a layer of wax over your original, it will harden quite quickly.

Like the rubber latex compound you can extend the layer of wax to create a flange around the exterior of your piece for easier removal and cleaner edges. Use cheesecloth to build up subsequent layers to improve strength. (Tip: if you add cheesecloth you cannot reuse the wax as easily). The mold does not have to be excessively thick to provide strength, and the thinner it is, the easier it is to remove.

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Once the wax is set but still warm, it will be flexible enough to gently pry away from the original. Remove the original carefully by rocking the edges of the mold back and forth. (If using a clay original you can just peel the clay out of the back of the mold). If desired, you can cool the mold in the refrigerator to improve it's hardness. (Flex Wax is great for making party ice cubes!)



You are now ready to pour your final piece. Applying a thin layer of petroleum jelly to the mold will aid in easier removal. The Flex Wax mold can be re-melted for future use. (Note: because Flex Wax has a low melting point it can also be applied directly to skin. Follow the directions above, or immerse the body part in a container of wax — ALWAYS testing temperature prior to immersion.)

## Staff Tips:

- ~ If you are sensitive to odours consider using a respirator when working with the rubber latex. Also, use a dust mask when working with plaster powder. -Alison
- ~ Pick a simple object your first time, one with few undercuts or appenditures, to ensure a good first-time cast. - Nadine

## ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS:

### Clays:

- modelling clays (air dry, oven-fire, or kiln-fire)
- Self-Set Clay
- polymer clays (Sculpey & Fimo)
- plasticine (non-hardening)
- modelling tools

### Casting and Mold-Making:

- |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Pottery Plaster | Plaster of Paris       |
| Hydro-cal       | Permastone             |
| Rubber Latex    | Flex Wax               |
| Rigid Wrap      | Paris Craft            |
| Celluclay       | Liquache               |
| Sculptamold     | Pure Lube Mold Release |



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