



Making a Mould

Make your model out of clay, with no undercuts. Your model should be conical so that the mould pulls clean off. It should also be made 13% bigger than you want, to allow for shrinkage.

Prepare a shiny surface on which to make your mould and stick your model to it.

Set mould templates 1" away from your model, all the way around. Hold these in place with scrap clay.

Use scrap clay on the inside of your template to "waterproof" your mould, making sure the plaster won't leak.

Clean your shiny surface in between the model and the templates.

Mix the plaster, for the mould this should be made in parts of: 1kg plaster to 600-650ml water. The mixture will be quite firm but this will ensure a strong mould.

Pour the water into a container for mixing, ensuring the water is cold.

Sprinkle in the plaster, if the plaster is added in small amounts it will absorb the water itself, whilst you add in the remaining plaster. Try to avoid large lumps and adding air to the mixture.

Once all the plaster has been added to the water, mix this with your hand, sieving any lumps and making sure the mixture is smooth.

Once the mixture is lump-free, start pouring it onto the more detailed aspects of your model and fill in all the gaps from there.

The next step is to get rid of all the air bubbles from inside the plaster, to do this you must bang on the surface of the table. As you are doing this, you will see the air bubbles rising and popping.

Leave this to dry for an hour, the mix is exothermic so it will get hot.

When it's set, flex the sides to loosen the edges of the mould. Then remove the clips and turn it over.

Sponge the sides to tidy the mould, remove your clay from the model and there you have it.

We wish you well with your mould making.