

Supply List

- Cookie Mold *
- Cotton linters* or 100% cotton paper
- Water
- Mold release spray* (optional, highly recommended)
- Clean absorbent towels
- Blender
- Strainer
- Tweezers
- Knife
- Teas/coloring

Materials marked with an asterisk (*) can be purchased from house on the hill.



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The House Teaches

PAPERCASTING

Our instructions are general. In time you may find your own techniques that work better for you. Don't be afraid to experiment with different kinds of paper. Water based liquids such as teas can add color to your castings. Do not add paint to the pulp as it will discolor your mold. Food coloring tends to fade in the sunlight. Always remove the casting from the mold to dry. *Do not expose the mold to prolonged moisture.*

Preparing the mold:

Make sure the surface is clean and dry. Spray mold with release spray. (Read directions before spraying.) We recommend spraying the mold every 3rd or 4th time it is cast. Place your mold face up on a clean absorbent towel or cloth on a firm surface.

1. Prepare Pulp

Arnold Grummer's Cotton Linters

This product is finely shredded, giving a smoother finish to your casting. With practice you will have a better idea of how much pulp you will need for the mold you have chosen to cast. Fill blender 3/4 full of water. Add a handful of lintners into the blender and mix until well blended into a pulp. Pour into strainer to drain off excess water. Gently squeeze some water from pulp. Do not squeeze pulp dry. If the pulp is too dry it will not cast the delicate details of your mold.

Cotton Paper Pulp

With practice you will have a better idea of how much pulp you will need for the mold you have chosen to cast. We suggest using 2 sheets to start with. Tear paper into small squares approximately 1 inch square and put in blender. Fill blender 3/4 full of water. Soak for 15 minutes. Chop or puree until you have a fine pulp. Pour into strainer to drain off excess water. Gently squeeze some water from pulp. Do not squeeze pulp dry. If the pulp is too dry it will not cast the delicate details of your mold.

2. Fill the mold

Place a "pancake" of pulp on the mold. Be sure to cover carving and allow for extra "white space" around image. This will allow space for a deckled edge.

3. Extract the water

Gently push pulp into the carving with fingers. Cover pulp with toweling and continue to blot excess water. Make sure to press firmly over the detailed areas of your mold to ensure they will appear on your casting. Use dry toweling as needed.

4. Remove the casting

When toweling no longer soaks excess moisture, gently turn mold over onto a dry surface. Slide sharp knife down the sides to Use the knife to gently release the sides and corners of the casting, careful not to tear into the casting or scratch the mold.

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5. Deckling the edges

At this stage, the casting is very fragile and will tear very easily. However, controlling the tear of “deckled edge” can be tricky...

To help control the tear try this tip: Apply gentle pressure to the area you wish to retain with a dull knife as you use a tweezer to pull away tiny pieces of pulp to create a deckled edge. Remember, you can always remove a tiny bit more pulp, but once you pull off a section too big, it can be difficult to re-apply. Go slowly, and gently.

6. Prevent warping

Gently place weights along the edge of the casting to prevent warping. We have had success by placing cutlery across the corners. Experiment with items that will not leave an imprint.

7. Drying the casting

Allow the casting to dry completely overnight. Drying time may vary depending on humidity or temperature. A cookie cooling rack works well for this by allowing air to flow on both sides.

8. Bad result

If you are not happy with the casting, crumble it up and place it back in the blender!

9. Creative ways to use paper castings...

Wall decorations, scrapbooking, greeting cards, stationary, invitations, announcements, picture frames, gift tags, ornaments and more...



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