

Mould making - make your own mould



Cast nature using moulding compound! Make a mould from items like acorns, shells, fossils, or twigs, and cast Art Clay Silver into it to give you a real silver replica.

Follow the instructions in this kit and you can have a silver cast ready in a few hours!

What can I make moulds from?

You'll get the best success if you use items that are clean and without a dusty or waxy surface. If the item is crumbly it might not survive the moulding process, or parts will get stuck and be hard to remove from the mould.

Use items either with a well defined and interesting shape, or a tactile texture which will transfer well into the silver.

SCAN ME
FOR A VIDEO



Sometimes it works best to mould just a part of an object, like the tip of a shell, or the tip of an asparagus - look out for interesting shapes and textures.



Make sure the piece you are making a mould from is clean, dry, and dust free.

Don't make the mould too thick or it won't be very flexible

Create your mould...

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AND CHOOSE OPTION 4 OR 5 DEPENDING ON YOUR PROJECT BEFORE YOU START.

1. Take out **equal amounts** from each pot. *Make sure you don't get any of the parts mixed into the wrong pot.*
2. **Mix carefully together** until the putty is an even colour with no dark or light patches.
3. **Shape into a ball** or other shape that is suitable for the original you are making a mould from.
 - i. *When you mix the two parts they start to harden. Depending on the room temperature and how much you've kneaded the compound, you have 3-5 minutes to get your original into the putty.*
4. For moulding **delicate items** like flowers or plants (if you're moulding larger more 3D shapes go to step 5);
 - a. Add a very thin layer of vegetable oil to one side of the Acrylic Mould Press (*make sure you have removed the protective plastic film first!*) and put to one side for now.
 - b. Flatten the putty slightly until it is roughly the size you want your final mould to be.
 - c. Place the putty on a playing card or teflon sheet, a piece of clingfilm will work too.
 - d. Arrange the original you are making a mould of on top of the putty.
 - e. Use the Acrylic Mould Press to flatten and push the original evenly into the compound. Gently press until you have a smooth level surface.
 - f. Leave to harden for 15 minutes. Go to Step 6.
5. For larger or more **3D-shaped pieces**, like a shell or acorn;
 - a. Place the original (what you are making a mould of) on the Acrylic Mould Plate.
 - b. Shape the putty into a ball and gently push it down over the original. Push and shape until the compound reaches the Acrylic Mould Plate, making sure it is pushed evenly and firmly all around the shape.
 - c. Leave the original in the putty to let it harden.
6. After about 10-15 minutes it should have cured. When you press a fingernail into the putty it shouldn't leave a mark.
7. Carefully bend the mould slightly to take your original out. Ta-da - you have made a mould!

Mould making - cast nature in silver



Using your mould to cast your silver

Metal clay is a wonderful, almost magical material. It's made from extremely fine particles of metal, mixed with organic binders and water.

Shape it like modelling clay, leave it to dry, and then fire to burn off the binder - you're left with just pure real fine silver!



The process of
using Art Clay
Silver is like
modern-day
alchemy.

Create your silver cast...

1. When you use your mould to cast silver clay, you can coat the mould thinly with a very small amount of olive oil or badger balm, to make it easier to release your clay from the mould. However, the mould is self lubricating, so for most textures this isn't necessary. As the mould gets older and is used lots, you might need a release agent.

2. Take a small amount of silver clay and squish into a ball, and push firmly into the mould - this will give you a solid heavier piece. Alternatively you can roll out a sheet of clay and lay that into the mould, giving you a hollow backed shape - this is a good way to save on clay!

3. After you press your clay into the mould, use the end of your brush or your fingertip and gently push the clay properly into all parts of the mould. This ensures the clay is picking up all details. Be careful it doesn't move around too much.

4. The back of the clay doesn't have to be level with the mould, you can push a small indent into the clay (or scoop out) to give you a more hollow shape.

5. Smooth out and tidy up the back of the clay.

6. You can either pop your clay out of the mould straight away or leave it to dry in the mould. To speed up the drying put it in a warm spot like an airing cupboard, or even an oven kept at no more than 80C.

If you remove the clay whilst soft, be careful so you don't distort the shape.

7. Once the clay is fully dry, fire and finish! If you need instructions on how to fire silver clay, go to our Learn More page on the website for firing information and other tips and tricks.