

How-to Instructions

1. Cut the STYROFOAM block into a 12" x 12" square.
2. Cut off approximately 2 1/2" to 3" off the top of the cone. Put 5 toothpicks in the bottom of the cone, put glue on the bottom of the cone and on the toothpicks. Put the cone in the center of the square. Let the glue dry.
3. Tear off approximately 12" sheets of foil, start at the top and wrap the foil around the cone, crunch it up at the bottom, form the volcano in any shape you want, tall, wide etc. Just keep adding foil until you are happy with the shape, form a shallow well at the top.
4. Mix 6 cups of dry Fast Mache with 2 1/2 - 3 cups of warm water in a plastic bowl, knead the mache like bread dough.
5. Cover the volcano with Fast Mache, use your finger to carve some grooves in the Fast Mache where the lava will flow, this is not an exact science don't worry you don't want it to be too smooth, mountains are rough.
6. When you are happy with your volcano put it in a warm, dry place to dry, this may take a couple of days depending on how thick the mache is.
7. Some shrinkage may occur, just mix up a small amount of mache and fill in where needed. This won't take too long to dry.
8. When dry, paint your volcano. The mountain is Hunter Green and Fresh Foliage, with Licorice, and Buckskin Brown dry sponged on in small areas.
9. The lava is a mix of Medium Orange and Engine Red and Bright Red Glitter paint.
10. My volcano is an island so I painted the water Navy Blue dry sponged* with Wicker White.
11. Spray with acrylic spray sealer.
12. Note: you can add trees, Spanish moss etc.

* Dry sponge/brush, put paint on a paper plate, dip the sponge or brush into the paint, dab onto the volcano, look at the picture when painting.

Working with Fast Mache

Fast Mache can be mixed/activated with water in any kind of a container. For clean, easy preparation use a ziplock plastic bag. Measure out the amount of dry Fast Mache desired and place in the bag. Add the recommended amount of water to the bag. Warm water is best as it allows for faster activation. Cold water is fine as long as you wedge the Fast Mache mix adequately to allow for a smooth working consistency.

FIRM Clay: For initial building; structures without armatures and slab techniques.

- 7 Parts Dry Fast Mache to 2 Parts water.
(Will take extra effort to mix.)
- Yield: 1/3 volume of original dry material.
About 4 cups per pound of dry material.

AVERAGE Clay: Usually this is needed for small pinch pots; armature work; layering/building up; finishing detail; push molding and adding on details to masks and other bas-relief surfaces.

- 3 Parts Dry Fast Mache to 1 Part water.
- Yield: 1/2 volume of original dry material. About 6 Cups per pound of dry material.

ULTRA PLIABLE Clay: Where a soft and exceptionally malleable form of clay is desired: smoothing surfaces; texturing layer of laying up; Impressionist style bas-relief work or general surface design.

- 2 Parts Dry Fast Mache to 1 Part water. (Stays softer – longer.)
- Yield: 2/3 volume of original dry material.
About 8 cups per pound of dry material.

With dry plus wet ingredients in bag – push out excess air and close bag. Work together with hands until generally combined – then switch to kneading/wedging until activated clay forms a cohesive "ball" inside the bag – not sticking in general.

Clay that is stiffer than desired can be made more malleable by adding a bit more water and wedging to desired consistency. Clay that is too soft will set up in a relatively short period of time when exposed to the air.

GENERAL TECHNIQUES

For best results – easiest control – it is recommended that you work from large general forms to finer details – paying attention to the desired surface texture as you go. Fast Mache can be sanded and even polished in either the leather hard or dry formed state. It is easiest to establish a smooth surface while wet, refining the degree of smoothness as the material dries.

As Fast Mache shrinks ever so slightly when drying, it is important to keep in mind strong attachments when adding on pieces and to keep the thickness generally as even as possible to prevent cracking while drying. Slow drying will be less stressful to the piece than faster drying, though drying can be accelerated in a low temperature oven, with the door cracked open to allow for moisture to escape. Slow drying can be accomplished by covering the piece loosely with a damp cloth. The drying time is dependant upon the weather – heat and humidity – where you are as well as the initial firmness of the clay and the thickness of it. Generally, all things considered, an Fast Mache piece made from about a "fist sized" amount of clay – hollow – will take about an hour or so to harden and 24 to 36 hours to dry. A piece is dry when it no longer feels cold to the touch – that is the point it needs to reach before applying paint to the surface. Painting a "wet" sculpture can cause the paint to not dry or to peel off.

Fast Mache can be painted, dyed, or otherwise surface colored after it is formed and dried. It can also be colored in its wet form if desired. For a solid color throughout, add paint or fabric dye to the mix in the plastic bag when initially activating. For a stone like, somewhat mottled color, add the colorant at the mixing and wedging stage. Additives, such as large flake and other glitters or sand, will enhance the stone-like appearance of Fast Mache and can be added up to 50% of the volume of dry Fast Mache. Additives can also be wedged in, using less, as the visual effect is generally apparent only on the surface.

SLAB: the easiest way to form slabs with Fast Mache is to roll activated clay between sheets of plastic. Use thickness strips to ensure consistent depth. Slabs can be used for construction and tile work or as an economical material for draping over cut and formed shapes.

ARMATURES: Wire mesh; newspaper; formed and coiled wire; balloons all provide easy and affordable ways to add support to a sculpture. Constructions of paper or board – flat or tubes – are also effective. If making parts that extend, be sure to provide an inner support – wire or even chenille stems work well.

PUSH MOLDS: Fast Mache can be formed in any non-porous mold. Prepare the mold with a dry release agent such as cornstarch or baby powder. Push in an amount of fairly stiff activated Fast Mache – allow to semi set-up then unmold. It is recommended that molded pieces be formed hollow – with an open bottom to ensure even drying – conserving both weight and material.

Cost of each project will vary depending on materials used.

The information on this instruction sheet is presented in good faith, but no warranty is given, no results guaranteed. Activa Products Inc. disclaims all liability for any injury to anyone undertaking the construction of this project as a result of improper safety precautions. Since we have no control over physical conditions surrounding the application of information herein contained, Activa disclaims any liability for unforeseen results. ©2006, Activa Products, Inc.

Activa Products, Inc.

Marshall, TX 75670 USA
1-800-883-3899