

# Art Clay – Mold Making

Deborah E. Love Jemmott © 2001

Microsonic, Inc. – blue mold making material (solo packaging)

This mold material is designed for making molds of ear cavities for hearing aids. It makes very accurate, detailed molds in a very minimal amount of time. It remains flexible indefinitely and can withstand being placed on the warming tray as long as it is not too hot.

To use the mold material:

- Mix the two parts together very well. The colors should be fully blended.
- There are two basic methods to get a mold. The second one is particularly good for deep models or for very intricate items. It is best used with items which have a flat back.
  1. Place mold material on flat/slick surface (plastic, metal or glass – not wood) or into a small plastic container. Push the model into the mold material. This one works well for items that have small holes. Watch so the mold material does not come through the holes and create undercuts.
  2. Place the model onto a clear sheet of plastic face up. Tear off small pieces of the mold material and force it into the small cracks and crevices of the design. Continue adding pieces fairly quickly until the model is covered with ¼” to ½” of the mold material all over. The thinner molds are more flexible. Check the bottom of the mold through the plastic to be sure the mold material is surrounding the model with no air space.
- If more than 1 item is being molded simultaneously, all of the items should be of similar depths.
- If the piece being molded has deep, detailed areas (such as a rose), pack small pieces of the mold material into the deep crevices. Add material until the model is covered. The mold material will stick to itself very well.
- After the pieces are positioned in the mold, DO NOT TOUCH any part of it until the mold is fully cured. This mold material sets up in about 5 minutes, but is not fully cured for 10-15 minutes. It will set up faster in a warm environment than in a cool one. Test the mold by trying to make a small imprint on the edge. If it makes an imprint at all, leave it alone until it bounces back. It should leave no mark. The mold is more difficult to damage if it is fully cured.
- Remove the imprinted items.
- Check for holes or imperfections in the mold. The mold can sometimes be patched. Use a tiny bit of the mold material from the next mold and put it in the area to be patched. Press the item back into the mold cavity. Leave it until it is set. The mold material sticks to itself VERY well.