

Basic Instructions

Preparing the Moulds

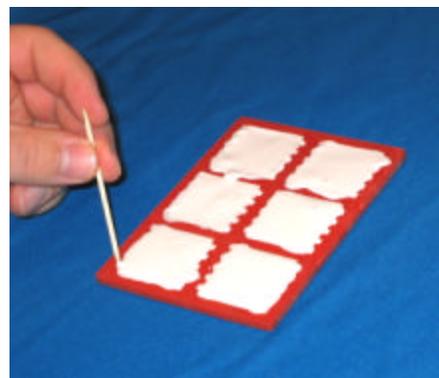
1. Make sure the moulds are clean and free of plaster residue (see our "CARE & CLEANING" instructions for more information).
2. Rinse the moulds in warm water and shake off the excess. Be sure to leave some water in the mould – this will help the plaster to reach all corners of the mould cavity.
3. Lay the mould on a flat surface covered by newspaper, paper towels, or other suitable foundation.

Mixing the Plaster

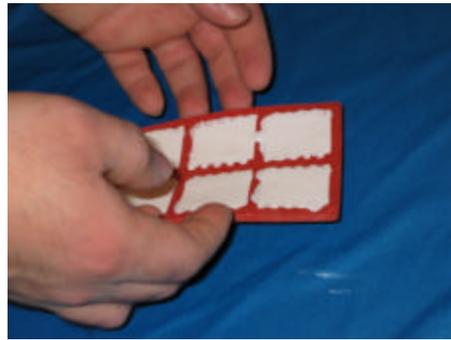
1. Follow the product-specific mixing directions found on whatever brand of plaster you have chosen (see our "CHOOSING A PLASTER" file for more information). For most plasters, the ratio will be 1 ½ parts plaster to 1 part water. Check your product information to be certain.
2. Stir the mix GENTLY to reduce the presence of air bubbles in the plaster.
3. Most plasters begin to set quickly so only mix a small batch at a time (usually just enough to fill a complete mould).

Casting

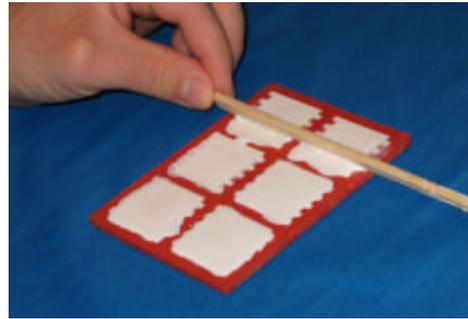
1. Either pour or spoon the plaster into the cavities of the mould until filled level.
2. Coax the plaster into the corners and teeth of the cavities with a toothpick or other suitable instrument.



3. Tap the mould gently or drop it from a very short height to help work out any air bubbles in the cavity.



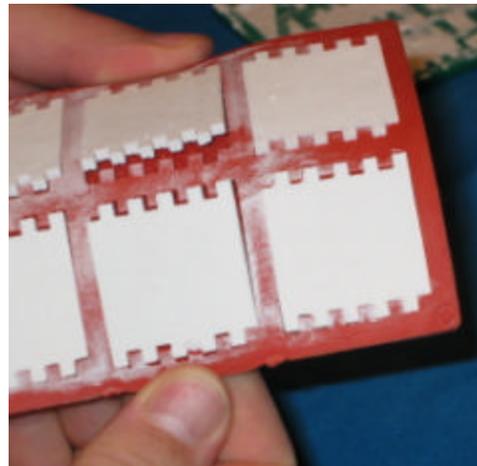
4. After 3-5 minutes, draw a straightedge across the mould to level the castings and remove excess plaster.



5. Allow 45 minutes to an hour for the plaster in the mould to set (this time will vary by product) before removing. Leaving them overnight makes them very easy to remove.

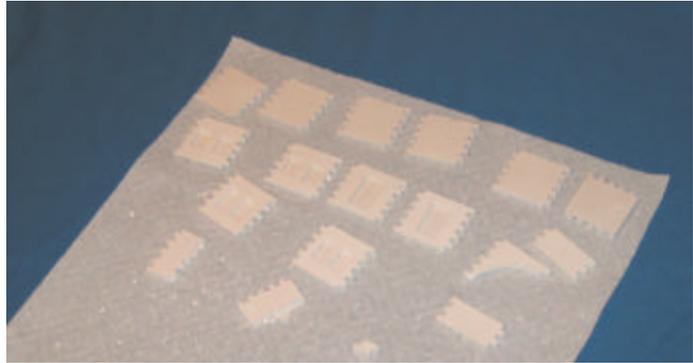
Removing the Castings

1. Carefully test to make sure the plaster has set by gently flexing one corner of the mould. The casting should easily come away from the edge.
2. Hold the mould in both hands with your fingertips underneath the casting you wish to remove. Gently flex the mould next to the casting (DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FLEX THE CASTING!). Use your thumbs to carefully ease the rubber teeth away from the mould.



Drying & Storing the Castings

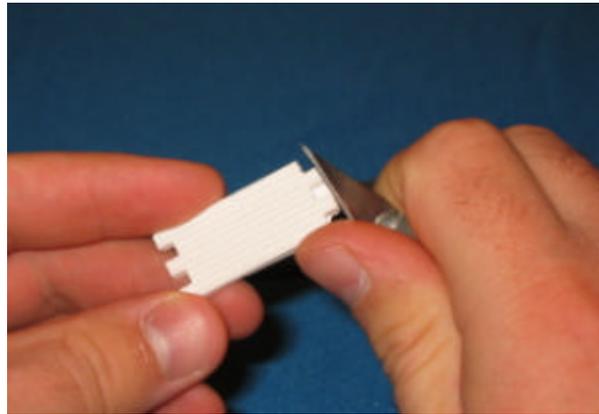
1. Lay the castings out on newspaper or paper towel and allow them to dry completely for up to 24 hours (again this will depend on the brand of plaster used).



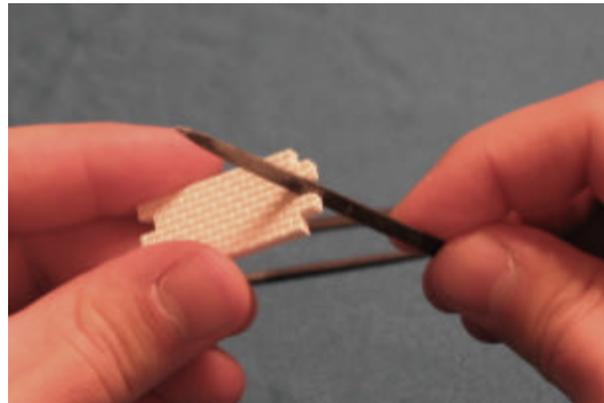
2. Store the castings in an airtight container until ready for use.

Cleaning & Preparing the Castings

1. With a sharp hobby knife, carefully remove any extra plaster flash or burrs.



2. Gently smooth the edges of the piece paying particular attention to the area between the teeth of the casting. Using a square metal file is the preferred method.



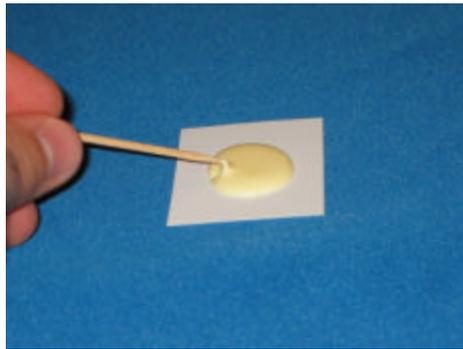
3. Wipe the sanded area with a clean cloth or paper towel. The piece is now ready for construction.

Joining the Castings

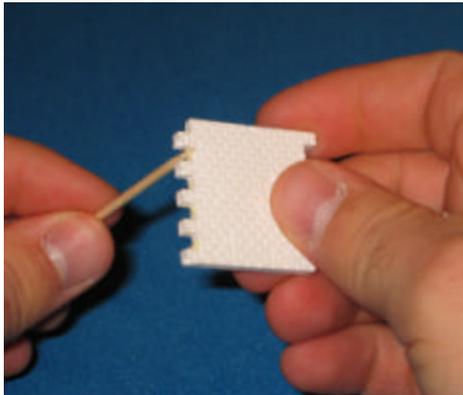
1. For best results, Linka World recommends using regular yellow wood glue (also called carpenter's glue) to join castings together.



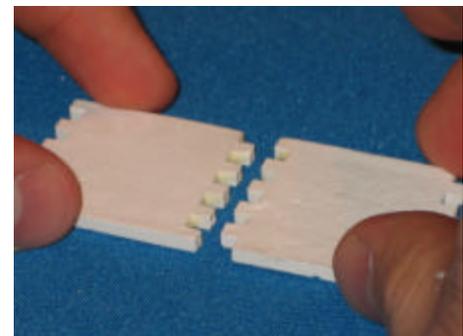
2. Place a small amount of glue on a scrap of plastic card or other smooth clean surface.



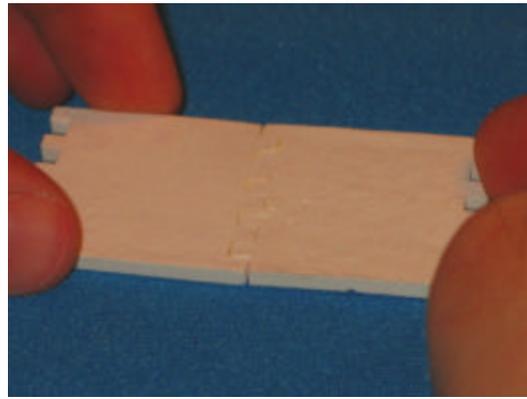
3. Apply a small amount to the castings to be joined together. Apply sparingly to the area between the teeth of the castings.



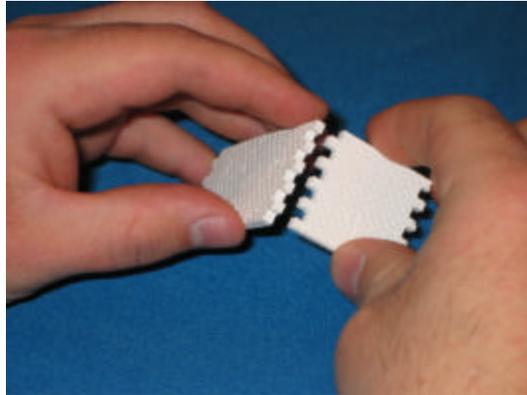
4. For a straight joint, lay the castings face down on a flat surface. This will ensure that the engraved sides match up evenly.



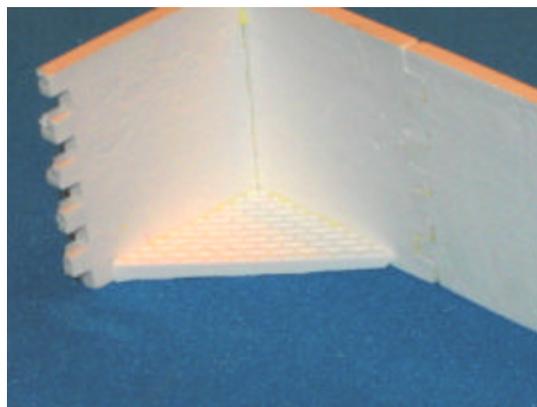
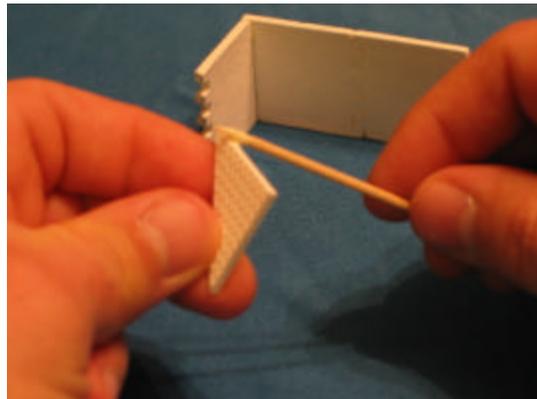
5. Slide the pieces together carefully. **DO NOT FORCE THEM TOGETHER.** If the pieces do not fit cleanly, check to be sure that the area between the teeth has been cleaned and sanded smooth. Hold the glued pieces together for minute or until the glue has taken hold. Set the glued pieces aside to dry.



6. For corner joints, put a little glue on the flat areas between the teeth of the castings and press them together.

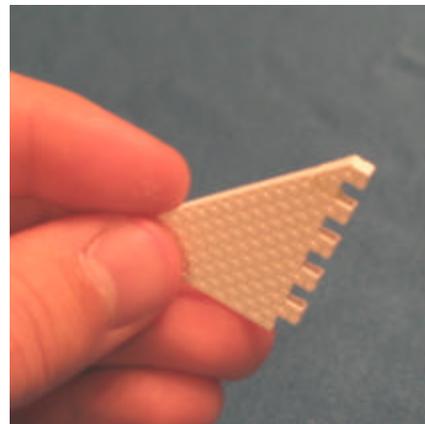
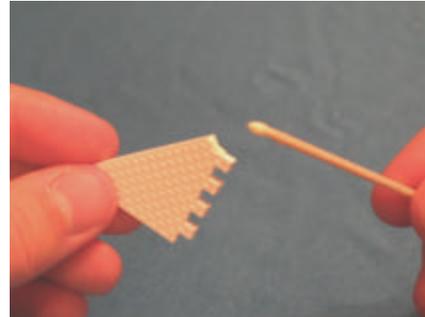
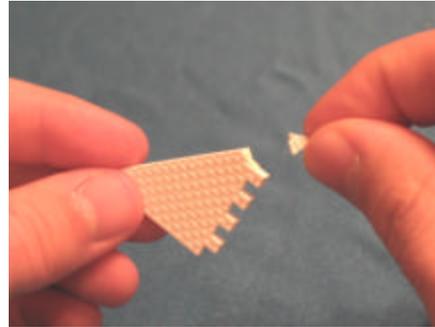


7. Strengthen the corner by gluing a right-angle piece into the corner of the joint. This will also ensure a nice, square construction.



Additional Useful Tips

1. If a casting breaks while removing it from the mould, do not discard it. Most breaks will be clean and can be easily mended with a little glue applied to the point of the break. If the break is not repairable, portions of the piece may still be useful. Keep a stock of scrap pieces on hand during construction. They may be put to great use.



2. Mix your plaster in disposable plastic containers such as a yogurt or pudding cup. They are practical and make clean up easier.



3. DO NOT WASH LEFT OVER PLASTER DOWN THE DRAIN! This will ruin your plumbing. Instead, wrap used plaster in a paper towel or newspaper and dispose of in the garbage. Wash all bowls and utensils with hot, soapy water taking care to remove large bits of caked-on plaster prior to rinsing.
4. Store extra castings in an airtight container such as a margarine tub or baby food jar (for small pieces).

5. Keep a ready supply of all types of castings on hand to test out any details or tricky joints when planning a new building or structure.
6. Once you get the hang of the casting process, set up your moulds and cast in assembly-line fashion to save time.

Congratulations! You now have a working knowledge of all the basic techniques needed to build solid models with Linka Moulds. Increase your skill by moving on to advanced techniques such as painting and weathering or casting curved pieces.