

# **Douglas and Sturges, Inc.**

## **SCULPTURE TOOLS, MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES**

**Warehouse and Store: 1023 Factory St. Richmond, CA 94801**  
**Store: 730 Bryant St. San Francisco, CA 94107**  
**Ph.: (510)235-8411 Fax: (510)235-4211**

## **MOULAGE**

MOULAGE is a gelatinous material, that when melted in a double boiler, becomes liquid and can in this state be used to make molds of almost anything. It is particularly useful in making molds of various parts of the body, as it is non-toxic. A Moulage mold can be melted and reused over and over again, so this also makes it an economical mold material. Moulage is mainly used for casting wax (Posmoulage) or various kinds of gypsum (plaster) positives. Plastic resins and rubber materials do not work well in a moulage mold and will not be discussed here.

If you have never made any kind of mold before and you want to use the moulage materials, we suggest you try a small amount first and make a mold of your hand or finger to familiarize yourself with the process.

First, you will need a double boiler to melt the moulage in. This can be stainless steel, glass, or porcelain (DO NOT USE ALUMINUM). Put the desired amount of moulage into the double boiler and heat until melted. It helps to stir the material often and the pot should be covered so that excess moisture is not allowed to evaporate. When the moulage becomes creamy and smooth, it is ready to use. If a mold is to be made of a living subject, it is necessary to cool the moulage to about 110 degrees Fahrenheit before it is applied. To accelerate the cooling process, the bottom part of your double boiler should be filled with cold water and the moulage stirred constantly. After the material reaches an acceptable temperature, fill the bottom of your double boiler with hot water and proceed to make your mold. This will prevent the moulage from becoming too cool too fast.

For most surfaces, no mold release or lubricant will be needed. If hair on a person's head or face is to be included as part of a mold, it will sometimes be necessary to mat the hair down with petroleum jelly so that the moulage does not become embedded in the hair (this will of course depend on the length of the hair). When making a mold of the face, it is a good idea to use cardboard to frame the face. Cutting a hole in a piece of cardboard so that the person's face just fits through can do this. This will prevent the moulage from running into the ears and onto the back of the head.

Now you are ready to apply the moulage. The initial layer can be applied with a brush, but your hand will work well too. A completely cooled layer of moulage should not be allowed to form before more is applied, as you will get separations in your mold. Rubber tubes may be used in the nostrils so that your subject may breathe, but with a little practice, you will find that it is not too difficult to work around the nostrils so that no breathing tubes will be necessary.

Normally, a face mold must be supported in some way, because the moulage by itself is not enough to withstand the weight of the casting material without distorting. This may be achieved by laminating wire screening (not aluminum) into the moulage, or by applying a plaster shell to the back of the mold.

If wire screening is to be used, it should be applied after the initial layer of moulage has been put on the face. More moulage is applied over the screen and after the mold is cooled, it is taken off as a unit with the screen embedded inside the moulage. Cotton gauze can also be used as a reinforcing agent, and is used in much the same way as the wire screening.

If a plaster shell is to be used, it is applied after the moulage has gelled, and again it is removed as a unit with the moulage. Normally the mold is removed from the face by lifting at the top of the head first.

One item that has been found to be invaluable when making a moulage mold is a hand held blow dryer. This can be used to help cool the moulage as it is being applied, so that your subject doesn't have to "stay under" for quite so long.

Other parts of the body can be easily molded with moulage. Sometimes a unique method can be used for a specific part. For example a hand or foot can be put into a cloth bag that is filled with liquid moulage and then cut away when the moulage cools. For more information on other applications, refer to Molding and Casting by Carl Dame Clarke.

POSMOULAGE is a wax material that is used to cast into a moulage mold. It will reproduce the finest details, and like moulage can be used over and over again. Posmoulage can be melted directly over a low flame in a metal, glass, or porcelain pot. Do not allow the posmoulage to get too hot, as it can "flash". The posmoulage should be allowed to cool to about 130 – 140 degrees Fahrenheit before it is poured into a moulage mold. Also, the moulage mold should be daubed dry before any posmoulage is poured into it.

MOULAGE HARDENER is a material that is used whenever an especially tough mold is desired. It has a tendency to thicken the moulage if too much is used and can also make the moulage stringy. As a rule, 4-6 grams per pound of moulage is sufficient. Also, as the moulage is reused, it may be necessary to add a small amount of water each time it is melted. Usually ¼ to ½ cup of water per pound of moulage is adequate. A little experience and you will be able to gauge exactly how much water you will need to add depending on the application.

MAGIC SPRAY DUST HARDENER is a material that is used to harden the surface of soft dirt or sand. This is useful when one wants to make a mold of a footprint or other impression that would be distorted under normal mold making procedures. The dust hardener is applied with a hand sprayer and allowed to dry thoroughly. This will form a hard surface onto which the moulage can be applied. After the mold is completed and removed, it will probably be necessary to wash off any excess dirt or sand that has adhered to the moulage. This can be done by rinsing the mold in cold water and gently rubbing the surface.

With a little patience and practice, we're sure you will find that mastering the use of moulage materials is not too difficult.

Any recommendations, test results or suggestions are offered as a guide in the use of these materials. Inasmuch as the company has no control over the storage, handling and use to which others may put the materials, no guarantee expressed or implied is made regarding their stability or performance.