

Solid Water review

This is summer with Deluxe Materials Solid Water

BY CATHERINE DAVIES

Deluxe Materials Solid Water DBD35 90ml is a two-part mix that can be used to make crystal clear water effects for your miniature scene. However, it can also be colored and shaped easily to create and enhance miniature foods – just perfect for summertime treats and coolers on a hot day.

I have found the best results are achieved mixing Solid Water with oil/solvent based paints. I have used solvent-based glass paint for the translucent effects and enamel paint for the opaque effects for this

project, although you can substitute artist's oil paints for enamel to achieve the same results.

There is already a great range of oil/enamel colors available on the market but you can blend different colors of the same paint type together to get the perfect shade before adding to Solid Water.

Solid Water can be mixed successfully with some acrylic paints - Tamiya Color and Americana DecoArt work particularly well for example - but generally most water-based

Materials:

- Solid Water by Deluxe Materials
- Solvent based (oil based) paints
- Silicone molds
- Humbrol enamel paint number 63 (sand)
- Humbrol enamel paint number 9 (tan)
- Humbrol enamel paint number 41 (ivory)
- Marabou glass art solvent based paint (green)

paints WILL NOT combine easily (if at all) with Solid Water."

1 Solid Water can also be accurately measured two parts resin ideally by weight to one part hardener and mixed thoroughly together until the mixture goes crystal clear. You are then ready to shape and color.

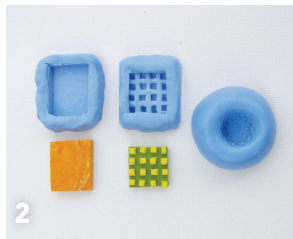
2 For creating shapes, I recommend using a silicone mold since Solid Water can be easily poured in when freshly mixed, then pushed out cleanly as a



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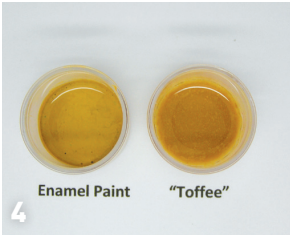
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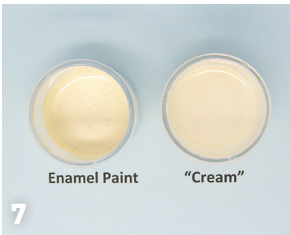
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perfect shape (from the simple to the intricate) when set. For this project, I have made two of my own molds starting with formers I first made from Fimo (polymer clay) which I then pressed into the blue silicone molding paste to produce the mold itself. A bought round silicone mould (for Jell-O) is also shown.

Making toffee

3 To make toffee, add a few drops of Humbrol enamel number 63 (sand

and number 9 (tan) and mix paint together with already prepared Solid Water to create a scrumptious toffee color. An alternative to enamel is to mix a small amount of toffee colored 'Daler Rowney' oil paint.

4 Mix together thoroughly until it turns opaque (like toffee!).

TOPTIP:

For opaque effects, use enamel or oil paint.

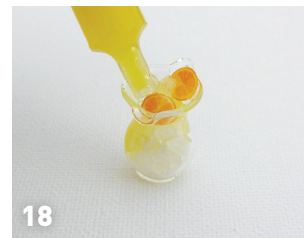
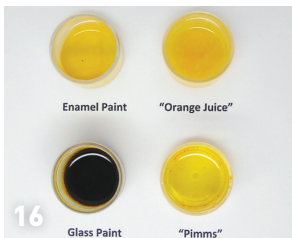
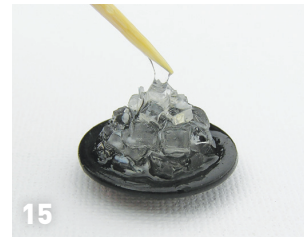
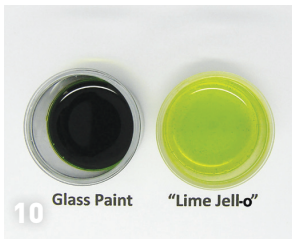
5 Pour the colored Solid Water into your mold straight away.

6 Leave the mixture in the mold until it has set hard for a simple slab of toffee. For toffee pieces however, remove while it is still a little soft and cut into the desired shapes with scissors.

Making cream

7 For succulent strawberries (or any other summer fruit) what can be better than adding a little

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decadent single cream? No molds or scissors are needed here, just some fresh Solid Water colored and mixed well with cream enamel paint.

8 Next, simply pour over your fruit, allow to set.

Making Jell-O

9 Coloured Solid Water makes perfect miniature Jell-O! This time, for a realistic translucent effect, add a little solvent-based glass paint in the color of

your choice to Solid Water.

10 Mix together thoroughly.

TOPTIP:

For mixing Solid Water and adding colors: Always make sure the 2 parts resin to 1 part hardener is ACCURATELY measured either by volume or weight (adding more hardener will not shorten the setting time).

11 Pour into a Jell-O mold and allow to set hard before removing it. (Note - Solid Water Jell-O doesn't wobble!)

TOPTIP:

For finishing pieces, use varnish...eg to give a finishing gloss to Jell-O.

Clear and ice cool

12 Make your own ice-cubes from Solid Water - just what you need on a hot summer's day. Start

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Mixing Guide

1. 'GlasArt' paint mixed with Solid Water for making lime Jell-O.
2. 'Humbrol' enamel paint mixed with Solid Water for making cream.
3. 'Daler Rowney' oil paint mixed with Solid Water (alternative to enamel) for making toffee.

with uncolored Solid Water and add this to your ice-cube mold. Using a syringe fitted with a needle tip to do this aids precision.

13 For realistic detail add a speck of neat white glass paint into your ice cubes, leaving some clear if you wish.

14 Remove the ice cubes from the mold when they are set hard.

Melting ice cubes

15 To show what ice cubes do best when they are removed from the freezer, pile the ice cubes up together in a dish and finish by drizzling over some freshly prepared un-colored Solid Water for melting ice (and adhesion). A great addition to a cook out!

TOPTIP:

When mixing paint into Solid Water, only use the minimum amount of paint you need to get the desired effect and color. This will ensure that the Solid Water sets properly.

Drinks...and "Cheers!"

16 You can make any drink you like with colored Solid Water – cloudy or clear depending on the paint that you use. Remember to always mix well for best results.

17 As a serving suggestion, first fill a jug with ice cubes (and maybe your own ready-made fruit slices), then add freshly mixed 'orange juice', allowing it to sink and settle through the ice cubes.

TOPTIP:

Do not leave colored Solid Water exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods as some discoloration may occur.

18 Or first fill the jug with "Pimms" like liquid and leave until it has half set (quite firm but still pliable). Push in any of your own fruit slices and top with some ice cubes to look as though they are floating/sinking. You should be able to see the detail of the ice cubes and the fruit through this translucent mix.

Deluxe Materials products are available in USA miniature stores and distributed by Aztec Imports. Or they can be purchased direct from: www.deluxematerialsus.com.

