

Ways with water

Want to have water in your miniature scenes? **John Bristow** of Deluxe Materials explains how to use Solid Water to create just such an effect

Solid Water is a crystal clear resin with almost no odour making it ideal for simulating clear still water scenes, ponds and lakes etc. Solid Water can't re-melt like Scenic Water but when set you do have a hard, durable water that will stand touching and the inevitable investigation of young fingers. Although you can't re-melt Solid Water, it does not mean you can't mould and work with it. This masterclass will hopefully encourage you to try some water projects to bring your garden to life.

It may take a little practise but Deluxe Materials Solid Water really is like real water and with practise can be made to flow and add more realism to your work. It's easy when you know how and really satisfying to use when you see the life-like effect. Look out for more on master classes www.deluxematerials.com.

You can buy Deluxe Materials Solid Water from all good dolls' house shops. It is distributed by Blackwells of Hawkwell Tel: 01702 200036 and Hobby's Tel: 0208 761 4244. In case of difficulty order on line at www.deluxematerials.co.uk Telephone orders only 0800 298 5121.



PHOTOS: BY AUTHOR

Thank you to Dolly Daydreams dolls' house shop for supplying all the garden props. Telephone: 01256 889111, www.dollydaydreamardenpond



1 Solid Water Resin and Hardener mixing containers and equipment. You can fill any hole or vessel you want provided it does not leak! If it has a hole fill it with Speed Epoxy to seal it first before pouring in the Solid Water. The Speed Epoxy will be invisible under the Solid Water



2 Use the pot to pour precisely 10ml into the mixing pot. Graduations are on the mixing pot. Add half volume of the Solid Water hardener direct from the hardener bottle



3 Mix the two together with the spatula wiping the sides of the container. Thorough mixing of the right proportions, two parts resin to one part hardener is critical! Adding more hardener will not speed up the setting and will stop the Solid Water hardening fully. The picture shows streaking meaning the resin and hardener and not full mixed yet



4 You can tell it's fully mixed now because it has gone clear with no streaking



5 Here the first bucket is about to be filled. We used the spare syringe to draw up the resin mix



6 Adding to the bucket



7 Let's fill a second bucket with some spare resin and work out how to get George to pour the water into our pond. We propped up the bucket at an angle and filed it to the brim and left it to start to set. There is plenty of working time (about 18-24 hours) with Solid Water



8 Use a length of wire to 'tease' the resin mix now and again to see how well it holds its shape. We found after nine hours it seemed about right condition to 'tease' it out and lift some over the bucket edge as if it was being poured. Any thinner and the resin flow would break



9 A heat gun or hot air dryer was useful to add fluidity to the resin and speed up both the flow and the hardening cure. Some practise here got it right first time. Leave the bucket overnight to cure



10 By tipping the bucket over and teasing out the Solid Water you get the effect of spilt water. We poured the nearly set Solid Water onto a flat polythene bag sheet. This way it set hard but did not bond to it. Hence it could be placed anywhere in the garden (or on a dolls' house kitchen or bathroom floor)



11 The bucket was also firmly bonded with Speed Epoxy to the pond side where it rests



12 A small blob of mixed four minute crystal clear Speed Epoxy bonds the end of the Solid Water flow to the pond surface. This Speed Epoxy glue dries clear, is gap filling and is compatible with the water; thus it 'fuses' the water to the surface of the pond