

Immer yours

FINE ART KEEPSAKE JEWELLERY

Keepsake Craft Kit Tutorial

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WELCOME

Our Keepsake DIY craft kits are a great way to craft in the comfort of your own home. Whether it's a gift for yourself or you wish to craft for friends and family, our deluxe kits are lovingly designed to provide you with a DIY kit that allows you to create your own personalised keepsakes.

Immer yours was born out of my love for beautiful keepsakes. There is something special about handcrafted pieces designed to be loved and treasured. Every story matters and precious memories should be captured in the most beautiful pieces as a bond between past, present and future generations.

I also understand that crafting can be healing for the soul. This craft kit was designed to provide you with a craft experience in the comfort of your own home, express yourself and capture your story in a one of a kind keepsake.



I wish you a soulful crafting experience and would love to see images of what you've created.

Yours sincerely,

Anja



Before You Begin



What exactly is Epoxy Resin?

Let's get started with the fundamentals. Epoxy resin is a type of resin that is used to make shallow items or to coat items.

Curing epoxy resin involves adding a hardener, which causes a chemical reaction that causes the resin to harden over several hours. As the resin hardens and transitions from a liquid to a solid, it will heat up.

Carefully read through the entire tutorial. You can download this brochure to your mobile or desktop. Or print if need be.

Reading the instructions first ensures that you don't miss anything during the crafting process. As you only have a short time to craft with resin once mixed, it really helps to be familiar with this craft kit guide and make this crafting experiment pleasurable.



Safety

You can access the Resin Safety Data Sheet through our website

Always follow all safety measures.



I recommend wearing old protective clothing when working with any type of resin. Resin is very sticky and difficult to remove from clothing and skin. When working with resin, you should, at the very least, wear gloves.

Those who are more chemically sensitive should consider wearing a mask to mitigate the effects of coming into contact with resin.

I wear a mask, gloves, and long sleeves and pants to keep my skin from contact with the resin in the studio. I also work in a well-ventilated, well-flowing room. An allergic reaction to epoxy is possible. If you experience itching or swelling while using epoxy resin, stop using it and consult your doctor. When there are children present, do not work with resin

CHECKLIST

Your Kit

- Resin Part A and B
- Mixing Cup
- Mixing Stick
- Pigments
- Jewellery Settings

Recommended

- Facemask
- Gloves
- Protective Clothing
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Vinegar or similar for Turps for cleaning
- Parchment Paper
- Sandpaper for beads
- Epoxy Glue

Keepsake

- 1 pinch of remains
- Lock of hair
- Lock of fur
- Other

Other

- Well ventilated room
- At least 2 hours of free time for crafting
- A level Surface to craft on
- Room temperature below 25C

For Breastmilk Jewellery

- Glass jar with Lid
- Stove
- Pan and Pot
- Spatula

5

STEPS TO SUCCESS

Prepare your resin crafting area.

01

Gather your supplies, including resin kits, resin colours

02

Prepare your keepsakes, such as ashes, hair, fur or breastmilk and items for your resin jewellery

03

Make yourself familiar with the instructions

04

Trust the process and enjoy crafting such a sentimental keepsake

05



Preserving Breastmilk

01

STEP 1

Start with 20 ml of expressed breastmilk. We highly recommend using previously frozen breastmilk. Please thaw your milk before creating your keepsake.

02

STEP 2

Fill 20ml of thawed out breastmilk in a clean empty glass jar with fitting lid. That can be an old unused glass jar, as long as it is clean and the lid fits tightly.

03

STEP 3

Your jars and lid should be washed in hot soapy water. You can sterilise the empty jars by placing them in hot (but not boiling) water up to 2 cm above the jar tops. Allow them to soak in hot (but not boiling) water for about 10 minutes.

04

STEP 4

Remove your jar from the hot water and let it cool down on a wire rack. After your jar has cooled down, measure 20 ml of thawed breastmilk, fill your jar and close it tightly with the lid.

05

STEP 5

Fill a deep enough pot halfway with water, make sure your jar is completely submerged with water, and bring to a boil. Boil for 12 minutes.

Preserving Breastmilk

06

STEP 6

Remove your jar, and let it cool down until it is safe to handle.

07

STEP 7

Now measure a minimum of 5 ml of the previously heated breastmilk.

08

STEP 8

Set up your two pots as a double boiler, adding water to only the bottom pot, let the water come to a simmer and heat up the pot.

09

STEP 9

Add measured breastmilk to the top pot and warm the milk. Once the milk is warm, add the entire packet of "milkies preserving powder." Stir the powder into the breastmilk thoroughly until the milk becomes thick and forms a thick paste.

10

STEP 10

Spread the milk onto the parchment paper and let dry for 24 - 48 hrs (if it feels cold to the touch, it is most likely still not dry enough for the next step)
Once the milk is dry, place the milk into a mortar and pestle or your bowl to grind the milk into the most delicate powder you can. (if the milk sticks to the sides of the mortar and pestle, then it is not dry enough)



IMPORTANT



Don't worry; it is entirely normal to lose some volume during the heating process.

A slight caramelisation and /or colour change can occur and is completely normal due to different diets.

The heated milk is no longer safe for consumption, do not feed your child the heated breastmilk.

You can discard the remaining breastmilk or freeze it if you wish to craft another batch in the future.

Drying botanicals for your keepsake jewellery



Step 1

Remove your flower petals and/or leaves from the stem. Place the flowers for your jewellery in a dry and dark place so they can dry completely. Botanicals that are not dried will start to mould later on.

You can place the flowers in a sealed container that contains a layer of crystal cat litter/ or silica. A great way to keep the colours

You can use a dehydrator or an oven on low temp. Place your flowers in between a paper towel and place them in the middle of a heavy book. You can also laminate your flowers.



Step 2

After all your flowers are dried, it is essential to seal them before placing your keepsake into the resin. You can seal your flowers with a thin coat of mod podge or clear acrylic spray.

The sealer needs to be completely dry before you place those into your resin mould.

Coat your flowers in a thin coat of resin before placing them into your mould. This will prevent air bubbles from forming.

You can start crafting with your keepsake, the same manner as you would treat hair. Either layering it in a pendant or pushing it to the side for keepsake beads.



Crafting with precious remains, sand or soil from a final restin place

Crafting with precious remains can be highly emotional but also healing for the soul. If you don't feel comfortable crafting on your own, please ask a friend or family member to be with you while crafting.

A pinch of precious remains is usually more than enough for your keepsake. Set the carefully selected remains aside and check that they are dry and free from moisture and oils. This is the same for crafting with sand or final resting place soil.

Always wear a mask when crafting with ashes. You can gently return any ashes that have been mixed with resin (and cured) but are leftover from your keepsake to the urn.



Crafting with a lock of hair or fur

Doesn't matter if you have one strand of hair or plenty available, keepsake jewellery with hair can make a wonderful personal keepsake.

Always ensure the hair or fur is dry, free from any moisture, oils and dirt. If you feel you need to wash the hair first, do this gently and let it dry completely.

White hair can become translucent in resin. Don't worry; that is completely normal.

Always coat the hair in a fresh mix of epoxy resin. Make yourself familiar with the instruction. Youtube is also an excellent source for watching craft tutorials.



MIXING YOUR RESIN

01

The resin supplied for your jewellery kit is a two-part epoxy art resin. Part A is the Resin, and Part B is the Hardener.

04

Always mix Part B (hardener) into Part A (resin) and ensure to scrape all around the edges.

You will need to mix thoroughly and slowly for 3 minutes to ensure the mixture is well combined.

This prevents excessive air bubbles from forming in your resin.

Once you combine Part A and B together, you have 30 minutes to create your keepsake.

02

The measurements are 1 Parts A & 1 Part B.

For example, if you need 4ml of resin, you would mix 2ml of Part A with 2ml of Part B.

There is plenty of resin to create a test piece. We recommend using the example above to make a test piece if required.

05

The cups are not reusable as the resin is not water-soluble and can not be washed out.

However, to be kind to the environment, clean your stir stick with a paper towel, and let your resin harden in the mixing cup.

03

Before you start your creation, check that everything you need is readily available, including safety equipment. Refer to the checklist. Please ensure your room is well ventilated and below 25C.

06

After everything is cured, you can reuse the stir stick and the cup.

Your craft kit packaging can be used as a protective mat underlay, and the tissue paper can be used for cleaning up.

CRAFTING YOUR RING AND PENDANT

Rings and Pendants are a little less time consuming because you can pour the resin into your ring and pendant directly.

You can secure your ring with a piece of blue-tack, so the setting is even and secure, or use a peg or similar to hold your ring up.

Use good quality duct tape or sticky tape to close the opening on your pendant and ring; otherwise, the resin will flow out.

You are now ready to start crafting.



immer yours



Layering Your Keepsakes

There are many different techniques to create beautiful resin pieces.

For the purpose of this Craft Kit, we have created this easy to follow tutorial.

Layering is probably the most popular technique. It allows you to create layers and embed small keepsakes like flowers, sand, hair and more at different levels.

It's a way of adding dimension to a piece.



"I can't believe the results - it's amazing!"

Step 1

Prepare 2ml of Part A with 2ml of Part B per instructions.

This layer can be your background colour, a mix of precious remains or preserved breastmilk. Pour your first resin layer into your ring and/or pendant setting and remove any air bubbles with a fine toothpick.

The resin provided doesn't produce significant air bubbles, so you shouldn't have to remove many bubbles to create a beautiful resin pour. Let this layer cure for at least 4 hours.

Step 2

Prepare another 2ml of Part A with 2ml of Part B per instructions. Here, you can add any additional keepsakes, such as a lock of hair, fur, or flowers.

To avoid introducing air bubbles, we recommend coating the object you would like to embed with resin first on a transparent sheet of plastic. You can reuse the packaging from your craft kit for this purpose.

Carefully place your keepsake on top of the already poured resin. You can finish your keepsake with a clear drop of resin to dome your keepsake jewellery. Allow your creation to cure completely before removing it from the mould.



CRAFTING KEEPSAKE BEADS



MEMORIAL KEEPSAKE BEADS WITH HAIR OR FUR

Crafting keepsakes with hair can be tricky. However, if you have the patience, I have no doubt that you can master your keepsake.

There are many ways to craft. For the purpose of this DIY kit, we list a few different techniques. You are welcome to choose whatever seems more convenient to you.



Option One

Step 1

Create your own bead core flecks. Prepare 2ml of Part A with 2 ml of Part B per instructions. You can add precious remains, the pearlescent powder of your choice and add opal flecks of your choice.

Use this mixture to fill in your heart mould for your charm.

Use clear plastic and spread the resin mixture evenly only the plastic and let it cure. After it is cured, for at least 24 hours, finely cut up your flecks into small pieces (the size of a small fingernail is perfect). This mix is perfect to also fill in your heart charm mould or ring if applicable.

Step 2

To prepare the hair, take an even lock and place it on some clear plastic paper. You can reuse the packaging materials that came with the kit; we created this craft kit intending to reuse all materials wherever possible.

Pour a drop of resin on top of the plastic and soak your lock of hair. Use a toothpick or similar to pick up the hair and place it around the inner edge of your mould. Make sure there's enough resin on it, or you'll get microbubbles that leave lines around the edge of the finished piece.

You can now add your previously coloured flecks as the background. Make sure you cut your prepared flecks, so they do not stick out of your mould. This method prevents your heavier items from sinking to the bottom but are evenly distributed in your bead.

After you have filled enough of your flecks, you can fill your bead with clear resin. Now let cure for 24 hours.



Option Two



Step 1

Prepare 3ml of Part A with 3 ml of Part B per instructions. This will be plenty of resin for your two keepsake charms.

Add in any pearlescent powders until you reach your desired result. To keep the integrity of your piece, we suggest not adding more than 10 % of shimmers to your resin. Don't add any Opal Flakes as yet.



Step 2

Add your keepsake to the mix. That can be finely cut up hair or fur, ashes, sand or even dried umbilical cord. For a more subtle look, you can wait to add ashes until later.

Pour your mix into the provided moulds and slightly overfill. This will allow for possible air bubbles to rise to the top.



After 60 minutes, you can add any Opal flakes with a fine toothpick. Gently push the fragments into the charm and move them towards the outside wall. As the fragments are heavier, they tend to flow to the bottom of the mould if the resin isn't thick enough yet. If you have chosen a more subtle look for your keepsake, you can now add a small amount of remains to your piece.

Gently remove any excess resin from the top of your mould using the mixing stick provided. Now let cure for 24 hours.

Option Three

Step 1

Prepare 3ml of Part A with 3ml of Part B per instructions. Pour it onto a sheet of parchment paper. Spread the resin into a rectangular shape using a wooden stick, creating a puddle.

Add your keepsake, shimmers or other delicate objects to the puddle.

Allow the puddle to cure for 6-8 hours. The time frame is essential because the next step requires the puddle to be pliable but not fully cured.

Step 2

Using household gloves, cut the puddle into strips representing the length of the bead.

Roll the strips into a bead and apply tape to the end. The tape will keep the end in place as the bead finishes curing.

Cure beads for an additional 24 hours. There will be a natural hollow core to each bead. Cutting the puddle into different shapes will create other shaped beads.

Use your imagination and explore the possibilities.



CRAFTING BREASTMILK BEADS



Option One - Without Hair

Step 1

Create your own bead core flecks. Prepare 2ml of Part A with 2ml of Part B per instructions. You can add the pearled powder of your choice and add opal flecks with a small amount of preserved breastmilk.

Use clear plastic and spread the resin mixture evenly only the plastic and let it cure. After it is cured, at least 24 hours, finely cut up your flecks into small pieces (the size of a small fingernail is perfect). This mix is perfect for filling in your heart charm mould.



Step 2

Mix a new batch of resin and add a small amount of preserved breastmilk to your mix. You can add pearled powder if you wish. Make sure your mix is of similar colour as your previously prepared flecks. Fill your mould halfway with your mixture.

Now you can add your previously coloured flecks into the bead. Make sure you cut your flecks, so they do not stick out of your mould.

This method prevents your heavier items from sinking to the bottom but are evenly distributed in your bead.

After you have filled enough flecks, you can fill your bead with the remaining resin if needed.

Now let cure for 24 hours.



Option Two - With Hair



Step 1

Create your own bead core flecks. Prepare 2ml of Part A with 2ml of Part B per instructions. You can add the pearled powder of your choice and add opal flecks with a small amount of preserved breastmilk.

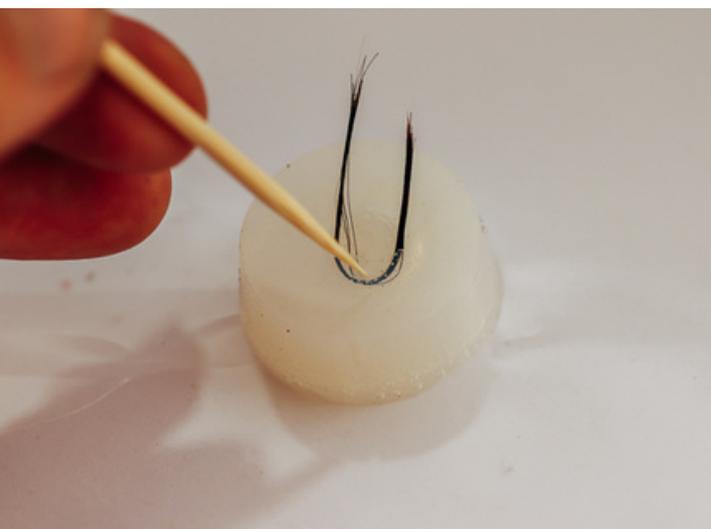
Use clear plastic and spread the resin mixture evenly only the plastic and let it cure. After it is cured, at least 24 hours, finely cut up your flecks into small pieces (the size of a small fingernail is perfect). This mix is perfect for filling in your heart charm mould.



Step 2

To prepare the hair, take an even lock and place it on some clear plastic paper. You can reuse the packaging materials that came with the kit; we created this craft kit with the intention for materials to be reused wherever possible.

Pour a drop of resin on top of the plastic and soak your lock of hair. Use a toothpick or similar to pick up the hair and place it around the inner edge of your mould. Make sure there's enough resin on it, or you'll get microbubbles that leave lines around the edge of the finished piece.



You can now add your previously coloured flecks as the background. Make sure you cut your flecks, so they do not stick out of your mould.

This method prevents your heavier items from sinking to the bottom but are evenly distributed in your bead. After you have filled enough of your flecks, you can fill your bead with clear resin.

Now let cure for 24 hours.

Option Three - Without Opal Flecks



Step 1

Prepare 3ml of Part A and 3ml of Part B as per instructions provided. This will be plenty of resin for your keepsake charms.

Add a small amount of breastmilk powder to your mix and stir until dissolved. Some people create with fine powders, while others love the texture and look of breastmilk flakes. Either option will work.

Add in any Pearl shimmers until you reach your desired result. You can not pour more than 10% of your total additives into your resin.

Step 2

Pour your mix into your mould until slightly overfilled. This will allow for any possible air bubbles to rise to the top outside your mould.

After 60 minutes, gently remove any excess resin from the top of your mould using the mixing stick provided.

Wait patiently for 24 hours before demolding your keepsake charm. To de-mould your charm, gently push your charm up from the bottom of the mould.

ATTACHING BEAD CORES

If necessary, you can lightly sand the ends of your bead as per instructions before adding the bead cores.

We recommend using a two-part epoxy glue (your local hardware will be able to assist) for your bead cores. Or you can mix a small amount of epoxy resin and let it sit for 1 hour, allowing the mixture to thicken up for the best results. Attach the bead cores with the resin in the same manner as you would glue. Let sit for 24 hours before wearing.

Enjoy your beautiful creation.





Caring For your Keepsake

We know resin can and will yellow over time, so we need to make sure we look after our keepsakes as best as possible.

It doesn't matter if it is your precious diamond ring or a piece of keepsake jewellery. All jewellery should be taken off first and put on last.

Please remove your jewellery when:

- Applying lotion, perfume, hairspray or other beauty products
- Showering or swimming due to soaps and chemicals
- Washing hands, using alcohol wipes (if wearing a keepsake ring)
- While cleaning due to contact with chemicals, cleaning wipes included
- Sunbaking, Gardening
- Prolonged exposure to fluorescent light
- While cooking as the heat from the stove can damage your stone
- Preparing food, remember we use vinegar in the studio to clean resin spills

Some clients enjoy maintaining their keepsake as it can bring comfort and bring back memories. Our polishing cloth sets are suitable for your keepsake stone as well as the metal.





Q and A

Anja answers your questions...

Q When can I wear my resin keepsake jewellery?

Wait at least 24 hours before touching or wearing your resin piece. Our personal recommendation is to wait 48 hours.

Q What keepsake should I not place in my resin?

Epoxy resin is exceptionally versatile. However, epoxy resin does not like moisture or anything containing alcohol.

Q How do I clean the Epoxy resin of my skin?

Wear gloves whenever possible. Otherwise, if soap and water don't work, soak a cotton ball in vinegar and gently rub it on the epoxy until the resin softens enough that you can peel it off.

Q Is resin easy to craft with?

As long as you familiarise yourself with resin and follow the instructions, the resin can be easy to use. We recommend crafting a test piece, mixing 2ml Part A and 2 ml PartB, if you like to get a feel for Epoxy resin.

Q What else can I make with my craft kit?

You can reuse the moulds over and over and turn the finished pieces into charms, keychains or pendants.



'I LOVE MY KIT. I HAVE CRAFTED KEEPSAKE BEADS FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY.'

THANK YOU

We hope you enjoy crafting with your DIY kit. As each keepsake is different, we would love to see what you've created.

You are very welcome to email us any images of your keepsakes to admin@immeryours.com.au.

Anja



COPYRIGHT DISCLAIMER

Please note that we will provide detailed instructions on using the resin and tips on how to craft. While we are happy to assist wherever possible, we are not available for one on one mentoring you while you're crafting at home. We hope that this handbook will give you information and ideas. You are welcome to mix colour and keepsake as you please and let your imagination lead the process of crafting.

Our DIY KIT is only for personal crafting and should not be used for commercial purposes (crafting for yourself or someone close to you). Special equipment and chemicals are usually recommended for a professional finish when crafting for professional purposes. As a result, while we put much thought into our high-quality DIY Kit, it is only for DIY use and not suitable for professional use.

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