

Using Epoxy Putty

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It's not as scary as you think!

What you need:

- Epoxy putty of your choice
- #11 blade, tooth picks, various sculpting tools
- Petroleum jelly
- A little patience & practice

Epoxy putty is not as scary as you might think it is. The basics are all the same.

The basics:

Epoxy putty consists of an epoxy resin & a hardener. By mixing the two parts you create a chemical reaction hardening the resin. You generally have an hour or so of work time once you have mixed the resin before it becomes too solid to work.

During this time the epoxy can be cut, sculpted, molded, and generally mashed around.

Once the epoxy has dried, certain types can be sanded and carved. Yellow/blue epoxy does not sand or carve particularly well. Milliput & Tamiya (pictured above) epoxies sand



and carve very well.

Give the epoxy a few minutes to cool down once you have activated it. The putty is very sticky when first activated & will stick to your tools if you are not careful.

Saliva or petroleum jelly will help keep the epoxy from sticking to things that you do not want it to.

Once the putty has 'cooled' enough, you

can begin to work it in a number of ways.

When applying epoxy putty to plastic, it is always a good idea to give the plastic a 'tooth' for the epoxy by roughing it up with a fine sand paper. No deep gouges are needed, just a rough texture for the putty to bite into.





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Filling Large Gaps:

This is probably the most common use for epoxy putty on the work bench. One benefit of doing this is that you can eliminate most sanding by smoothing the putty with a wet finger tip. This is particularly helpful on wing-root gaps and when fairing in ill-fitting resin conversion components.

Figures:

Detailing your figures & sculpting is ideal for epoxy putties. The putty can be formed and shaped to any desired look, and will hold that shape.

Changing hair styles is the simplest thing you can do.

1. place a small amount of putty on the figures head.
2. Using a tool or flat knife push the putty into the rough shape.
3. Once the putty has set for a minute or so, 'cut' the hair into the putty by

dragging your #11 blade or tool from the figures crown downward in a natural direction. Beards can be made the same way.

Press Molding:

If you need to make a copy of a simple part, press molding might be your answer.

1. Mix a blob of putty & press it over the piece to be copied. You may have to make two molds to get the entire shape (It's a good idea to smear a thin coat of petroleum jelly on the master to make sure it cleaning releases).
2. Once the mold has dried, pop the original out and once again lube the mold.
3. Now press another blob of putty into the mold. Once it has dried, pop out your new part. Attach with cyano-glue & paint as normal.

Seat belts:

This is a new one to me, but one that holds great promise. This is how the aftermarket companies make their seatbelts look so dynamic in many resin cockpits.

1. Roll a thin sausage of putty onto your work surface.
2. Now roll the putty flat with a round tool (make sure you have wet the surfaces to keep the putty from sticking to your tools & flat surface).
3. Once you have achieved the desired thickness, cut strips the appropriate width with a straight blade.
4. Now it gets tricky. Using a moistened tweezers, place the belt in its desired position, twisting & draping it as you see fit. Hardware can be added using Evergreen or photo-etched components.

