

Flat Putty technique

This technique is one of two that allows a modeler to create flat sheets of epoxy putty that can have serious multiple uses, for figure sculpting and Diorama making.

The first step is to get a sandwich bag and trim off all of the edges except the end that is the “natural fold”.



Next, take the plastic and open it up, laying it flat. Then, take a can of cooking spray and lightly spray one side of the unfolded plastic. Then the plastic should be folded over and the sides smoothed together, in order to distribute the oil evenly on both sides of the plastic.



At this point, mix up some epoxy putty (i.e. A&B, Magicsculpt or Aves) using enough to make a ball 3cm in diameter. Allow it to rest for 10 minutes and then work it by hand until it is oblong shaped and about 6 to 8 cm log, and flat. Place this in the fold of the sandwich bag and fold the other side over.



Then take a small rolling pin (or piece of 1" pvc piping) and start rolling out the putty. Taking your time, and with practice, you can get the putty as thick or thin as you desire. In this case, I am rolling out a saddle blanket so I wanted the putty 2-3 mm thick.



Once rolled to the desired thickness, allow the putty to rest another 20 minutes. This will allow the putty to stiffen enough to be easy to handle. I usually take this time to measure and cut patterns for the parts I plan to cut out. Here I have cut out a pattern for the blanket out of paper towel and laid it on top of the plastic covered putty to figure where I want to cut. I usually try to cut this kind of thing out of the middle, as the edges tend to taper from the rolling process.



After cutting out the blanket pattern, I test fitted the saddle and cut out a girth strap out of 1mm thick lead foil. It was important to have these parts prepared, because they will need to be pressed into the surface of the putty blanket.



Once the putty is stiff enough, I cut out the blanket with a scissors leaving the plastic on the putty to protect the surface.



I then peel one side of the plastic off the putty and clean that side with a wipe or two of an alcohol wet paper towel (to remove the oils). Then I placed the blanket on the back of the horse. Once in place, I removed the other piece of plastic. To add detail to the edges of the blanket, I had cut up some paper-thin copper stampings from an antique portrait frame. This was applied to the edges of the putty after a 3-4mm edge had been cleaned with a q-tip and alcohol.



Here you can see that I have started to apply the edging and press the girth and other straps into the surface.

Finally, Here you see the figure test fitted to the saddle. This allows me to double check what part of the blanket shows and what does not. As Shep Payne states “If it does not show, then don’t sculpt or paint it”.



A great use for this technique is to make capes for figures. The oil allows the putty to be removable from the figure for subsequent painting.

Here is an example of the putty being rolled very thin and used to portray a cape that is in motion.



The other option for rolling out the putty is to do it similarly to rolling out cookie dough. The difference being that you would substitute corn starch in place of the flour to keep the putty from sticking.

Epoxy putty links:

Aves Epoxy Sculpt:

http://www.avesstudio.com/Products/Apoxie_Sculpt/apoxie_sculpt.html

Magic Sculpt:

<http://www.magicsculp.com/>

A&B Epoxy:

http://www.nerace.com/miva/merchant.mv?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=NRCP&Product_Code=35560

Kneadtite (Breen and Brown):

<http://www.reapermini.com/store/customer/home.php?cat=29>