

LEARNING RESOURCE



Paper 'Memory' Castings

Capture the memory of an object using this simple but effective paper casting technique.

Casts are three-dimensional impressions in which the surface details of an object are preserved. Casting with paper involves covering an object in wet paper and drying it before removing the object. This creates a cavity that contains the exact imprint of the object. Paper has a remarkable memory and dries to create very detailed imprints, reminiscent of fossilised remains.

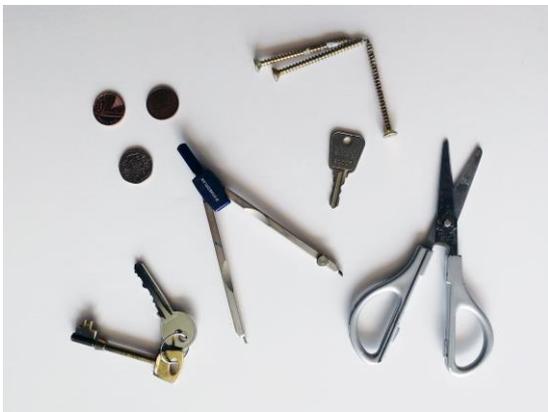
What will I need for this project?

- Range of small household objects or natural objects to cast
- Waterproof mat or old board to work on (it will get very wet)
- Toilet roll paper or kitchen roll
- Container of water mixed with a small amount of PVA glue
- Old tea towel or rag
- Hairdryer (this can be handy to speed up the drying process)

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Step one:

Collect some objects that are fairly flat and contain a range of surface textures. Household objects such as tools, keys and coins, as well as natural objects like shells and twigs all work well. Lay them out on a surface such as an old board or plastic mat. This surface will get wet and gluey!



Step two:

Take some toilet roll paper and fold it up a few times. Dip the paper in a container of water mixed with a small amount of PVA glue. Lay the wet paper on top of your object and gently push the paper so that it follows the form of the object.



Step three:

Cover the whole object, building up several layers of wet tissue. Use a tea towel and gently press on top of the paper to soak up all the excess water.



Step four:

Press into the cracks and crevices of your object. This will help the cast to pick up all the details and surface textures of your object.



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Step five:

Leave your cast until it is completely dry (around 24 hours). You could use a hairdryer to help speed it up. When completely dry, turn the cast around and take out your object.



Step six:

Reveal your collection of fossilised paper objects.



Ways to develop your casts further:

Try using pastel, crayons or charcoal to pick up the texture of the embossed paper surfaces. Experiment with colour by dropping paint or pigment onto the tissue whilst the cast is still wet. Combine several casts together to create a collage or larger sculpture.

