

from the workbench ... Claying up



How to clay up your master for mould making ...

Your clay work will be the basis of a good cast. The smoother and more accurate your clay work, the better your cast result, the less clean up and finishing required.

Decide ... where will be the seam line? - Remember, the seam will need to be cleaned on your cast, therefore place it in a smooth clear area, with easy access, but in the most inconspicuous way. Once decided, embed your Master in non-hardening clay (klean clay works really good) to the seam line.

Embed your master – There is two ways you can do this –

You can roll out your clay to about 25mm wider than your Master with a depth equal or slightly higher than your decided seam line. Or You can “build” the clay around your Master until the required depth and shape is achieved

Now, either

1. push your master into the clay, gently but firmly embedding it securely to the decided seam line OR
2. Place your master onto the clay. Using a tool, draw a rough outline around your master and remove this clay. Place your master where the clay was removed.

Your clay can be shaped to suit the Master's form

You can add more clay where needed.



PERFECT YOUR SEAM LINE –

Using a suitable tool, such as a Leaf Spatula, smooth, remove, add and even out the clay around the decided seam line.

The clay should follow the shape of your Master exactly. It is important to remember to do around the inside and outside of legs, arms, holes etc. The clay should be at approx 90° angle to your Master. Clay should be smooth and even, with no visible gaps between the master and your clay.

Trim your clay to approx 12mm – 20 mm from the edge of your master. This distance will be the thickness of your mould walls.

Add registration keys – use the end of a paint brush, pencil etc to push holes into the clay. Have enough “keys” to ensure the mould fits together securely without going overboard



You are now ready to build your mould box around the edge of the clay and make your mould.

Some Tips:

- # Wipe your master with a suitable cleaning solution to ensure there is no residual clay on the master.
- # On large moulds, try using a clay block as registration keys, for a firmer more accurate fit
- # Check, double check, then check again that your clay work is smooth and clean.

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