Li-Qua-Che Instructions & Techniques

Li-Qua-Che is a versatile, fiber-reinforced, polymer-based compound designed specifically for use with plaster ceramic molds. This unique casting material is air-cured rather than fire-hardened, resulting in a product that dries to a hard, durable, and break-resistant finish. Its pourable, liquid papier mache formulation allows for easy application with minimal shrinkage, making it ideal for a variety of creative projects. Li-Qua-Che comes ready to use, although it can be diluted if needed. It's crafted from recycled paper, ensuring an eco-friendly approach to your crafting. With a creamy consistency that pours easily into molds, it minimizes wear on the molds while delivering impressive results. Li-Qua-Che castings take paints and finishes exceptionally well so the final product is decorated without compromise. Perfect for crafting dolls, pottery, fine detailed cast reproductions, and for use in classroom art activities, Li-Qua-Che offers a user-friendly solution that meets all your casting needs. Perfect for fine artists, crafters and art teachers.

Tools Needed

- Mixing bowl, mixing stick or spoon, distilled water, pouring pitcher, mold, trimming tool, sandpaper or rasp.

Mixing Instructions

- Li-Qua-Che should be poured at the consistency of cream. Li-Qua-Che comes ready to use, although it can be diluted if needed.
  *TIP: We recommend using *distilled water f*or he best results.

- Stir the mixture with a mixing stick or spoon, making sure that any material which has settled on the bottom has been completely blended in.

Using Molds

- Li-Qua-Che works best with plaster molds. Plaster molds are porous and able to absorb water allowing the Li-Qua-Che to set up. Shallow, one-part, and two-part molds may be used.

- Li-Qua-Che pours better if the mold is not completely dry. Mist the mold with water before pouring.

Pouring Instructions

- Use the pouring pitcher to pour the Li-Qua-Che slowly into the mold to avoid bubbles. You can use a spoon for smaller molds.

- Be sure to fill the mold to the top of the pour hole or edges. As the water is absorbed into the mold, the level will fall.
- If any air bubbles are present, gently rock the mold back and forth to pop the bubbles.

- Once the mold is full, set it aside for 15-30 minutes depending on the size of the mold.
- After the product has set in the mold for a period of time, decant the remaining mixture.

- Turn the mold upside down and let stand, to allow the Li-Qua-Che' to drain out of the mold.

Drying Instructions

- As the Li-Qua-Che begins to dry, it will gradually shrink and pull away from the sides of the plaster mold.

Removing Instructions

- Once the mold looks and feels dry, gently remove the casting from its mold.

- Once removed Li-Qua-Che will be rigid but fragile. Handle the casting carefully.

Finishing Instructions

- The tools used to finish greenware in traditional ceramics can be used with Li-Qua-Che.

*TIP: Cleaning the casting is easiest when the raw material comes out of the mold. The casting will get progressively more difficult to clean over the next few hours as product is hardening.

- When the casting is totally hardened, it may still be cleaned by softening the seams with a small amount of water. Parts of the casting can be sanded using sandpaper or a rasp. It can also be drilled like soft wood.

*NOTE: The curing process, after the casting is removed from the mold, takes up to 24 hours at room temperature. At this time you can finish the casting even though the curing process goes on for another 24 hours. When the casting is totally cured it is water resistant, but not totally water proof. This product is not dishwater safe.

- When the Li-Qua-Che casting is hard and thoroughly dried, you can apply paints. It can be painted with acrylics, watercolors, oils, tempera, or stains.

*NOTE: The only finishes that should not be used are those that need to be fired in a kiln. Li-Qua-Che' will not take the high temperatures of a kiln firing.

- Seal finished projects with shellac, varnish, clear acrylic or other sealers, as desired.

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BASIC MATERIALS FOR CREATIVITY

Li-Qua-Che