



## Rigid Wrap Instructions & Techniques

Rigid Wrap plaster cloth is a premium quality plaster of Paris gauze bandage that has become a staple in the art of casting and mold making. It is versatile and can be used for various applications such as body casting, face casting, mask making, casting forms, modeling, and mold making. This material is excellent as a general-use sculpting medium for a range of art and craft projects, including figurines, animals, characters, props, home decor, volcanoes, and 3-D models. Rigid Wrap activates easily when dipped in water and sets quickly, making it convenient for artists. It contains more plaster per square inch than leading brands, ensuring a superior, thick plaster consistency. Rigid Wrap is available in widths of 4 inches, 8 inches, and 12 inches to suit different project needs.



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**Directions**

- Cut plaster cloth into desired length strips.



- Dip strips in clean warm water one at a time, lift out and gently squeeze out excess water and apply.



- Apply the wet plaster strip over the armature one at a time. For best results, overlap a portion of the previous strip until the surface is covered. 3 layers is sufficient in building up a strong shell.



- Gently smooth over holes in the gauze strips with a fingertip.



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## Application Methods

### Drape

Cut appropriate lengths of Rigid Wrap for 3 or 4 layers, depending on your chosen form. Dip and drape the strips over your armature, making sure to overlap them for added strength. The Rigid Wrap will take on the texture of the surface beneath it.





## Wrapping

If you want to incorporate any objects inside your piece, wrap plaster strips around them. This could include items like bottles, foam shapes, or even balloons. For the best results, smooth the surface while the material is still wet and creamy.



## **Scrunching**

To gain more control with this free-form method, begin scrunching or pushing the wet Rigid Wrap into the desired texture as it starts to stiffen. The more layers you apply and the stiffer the material becomes before scrunching, the more dramatic the shapes you can create.

**\*TIP:** You can combine scrunched shapes with other Rigid Wrap forms to build combination pieces, attaching them with more Rigid Wrap, glue, or a mix of techniques. Bows can be easily crafted by scrunching and draping a scrunched strip over a ball of plastic wrap.



## **Rolling & Folding**

Shapes can be rolled or folded, which is particularly effective for beads and small jewelry items once the Rigid Wrap is dry. After establishing the basic form, activate the plaster by wetting the shaped Rigid Wrap with a spray or brush of water. Make sure to support the piece before wetting it. As Rigid Wrap sets consistently and quickly, you only need to hold it in your desired shape for a few minutes before it hardens. Once the initial form is cured, you can reinforce it for strength by adding more layers one at a time.

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### **Drying Guidelines**

- The plaster coated Rigid Wrap strips will begin to set up within 5 minutes. Drying time varies depending on the thickness of layers and the surrounding environmental conditions. You can tell if a sculpture is completely dry by the way it feels. If it feels cold it's still curing.
- Once dry, it can be sanded, sawed, nailed, and drilled.



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### **Tools Needed**

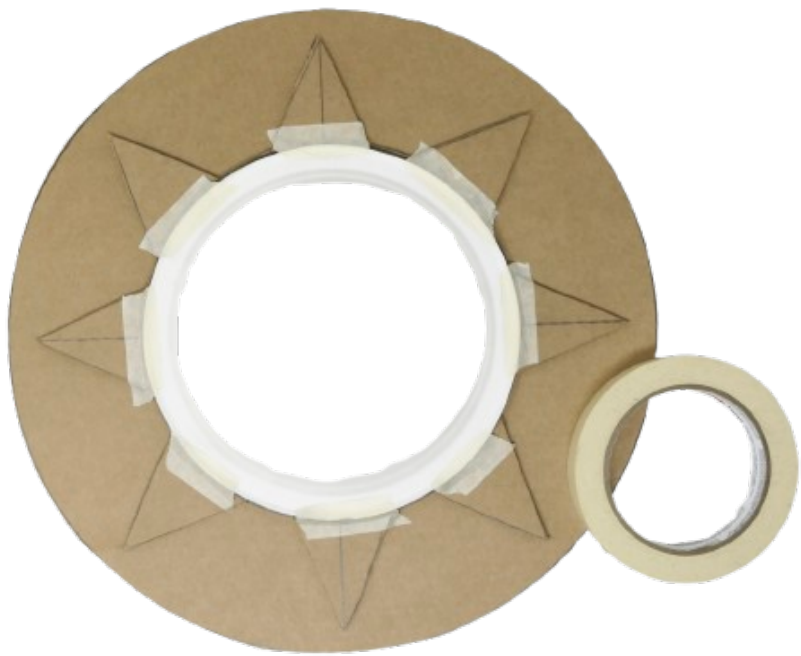
- Scissors, armature supplies (cardboard, wire, wire mesh, plastic, wood, recycled materials), warm water, paper towel and protected work surface.

## Armatures

- An armature in sculpture is a supporting framework, often made of wire, that provides structure and support for the soft, pliable material used to build the sculpture. It acts as a skeleton, allowing artists to create complex forms and poses that would otherwise sag or collapse under their own weight. Various materials can be utilized to create armatures, including Styrofoam shapes, crumpled newspaper, cardboard, wood, aluminum foil, wire, tubes, boxes, bottles, latex balloons, etc. For constructing strong armatures, our ACTIVA® Activ-Wire Mesh Flexible Structure Material is a recommended option.







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### Using Molds

- To create a casting, use non-porous molds. Start by wetting plaster strips and working them into the mold for a moment to activate the plaster. Next, layer on a couple more pieces of Rigid Wrap into the mold. Once the cast is stiff but still cool, carefully peel it away from the mold. You can trim the edges with scissors either while the cast is still slightly wet and cold, or once it has fully dried. Finally, place the cast on a drying rack to allow it to dry completely.



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## Casting

- Rigid Wrap can be used to make a casting of a human face or another body part. Before applying the Rigid Wrap plaster strips, it's important to apply a resist, such as Vaseline or plastic wrap, to the skin surface being cast. Once the resist is in place, apply several layers of the plaster strips until the casting is thick enough to be safely pulled away from the body part.



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### Finishing Options

- Any paint, marker, pencil, chalk, varnish or sealer can be used effectively onto Rigid Wrap. Every painting technique you can imagine works well so that the dimensional form you make can take on the appearance of whatever material you desire, yet remain light-weight.





- Dry Rigid Wrap surfaces can be decouaged using a variety of tissues and papers.
- Seal finished projects with shellac, varnish, or other sealers, as desired.



- Embellishments (ribbon, yarn, feathers, fabric, glitter, buttons, etc.) may be added to the sculpture with adhesive.







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