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Bronze Casting Manual

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How to cast a small bronze sculpture.
A detailed tutorial for artists, sculptors and hobbyists.



by
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Synopsis

How to cast a small bronze sculpture in a week. A detailed DIY tutorial for artists, sculptors and hobbyists. Learn the lost wax, ceramic shell technique. If you happen to be one of those crazy individuals that insists on doing everything by themselves, this tutorial will show you a simple, safe and easy way to cast a small, fist size sculpture in bronze at little cost and little effort. This book demystifies the bronze casting process. Follow the step by step instructions and make a small bronze object in your backyard. The method described in this manual is called the thin ceramic shell, lost wax technique. There are many other methods to make a bronze figurine but the lost wax, thin ceramic shell method is the easiest way for the home founder to make a small sculpture to a high degree of quality at little cost and with easily found tools and materials. This is the same method implemented by professional art foundries. We have simply scaled it down and adapted some aspects of the process to make it easy for anyone to complete successfully in a few days without any heavy equipment. This manual focuses on a simple yet rewarding project that will allow the novice to cast a small piece safely, quickly, cheaply and to a high degree of quality. More advanced casting techniques are discussed in the second part of the book. What does the manual cover? The tutorial takes you through all the steps necessary to make a small, fist size bronze sculpture, from making the original sculpture in wax to finishing the final bronze reproduction. The manual will introduce you to the basics of wax working, "sprueing" a wax model, mixing and applying a ceramic slurry, making your own crucible and making an efficient yet affordable furnace, melting and pouring the metal and finally chasing the bronze before applying a simple patina. Advanced casting techniques such as hollow casting are discussed in later chapters of the manual. What tools and materials are required? Most of the tools and materials you will need are fairly easy to find, you may even have them already. However you will also need some more specialised materials that are more difficult to source: To make it easy to find these tools and materials, an appendix lists a large number of places where such tools and materials can be purchased in different countries around the world. (UK, US, Canada, ZA, OZ, NZ, France, Ireland and more...) This will save you much time and effort and will allow you to quickly gather all necessary materials and equipment. How much will this all cost? You should not have to spend more than \$300 and perhaps as little as \$100 depending on what you already have and on whether you buy or rent some equipment. How many people are needed? All steps can be easily managed by one person and no particular physical strength is required. How much time is needed? The project will span over 5 days but it does not have to be 5 consecutive days. You could work one day a week over a 5 weeks period if you prefer.

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Customer Reviews

Some typos, and I am finding the list of materials as named in the book are an awful pain to hunt. Make your own slurry or just buy it from a vendor as a slurry for less. Great info on the process though make no mistake.

Great as a starting point for amateurs

Love this book

I have to say that in addition to the content/subject of this book, the fact that it was a print on demand book from Amazon. Caused me to order it. This is the new direction that people are taking in getting their work out there with a minimum investment of money. The quality of the book along with the color photo's is very good. Matter a fact it is better than I was expecting. Plus on the last page it is dated the day that it was printed. Which was interesting. After watching his video on casting some

small bronzes, on U tube, the conversion of and successful application of a minimal furnace kiln structure as they do in the pottery field. And the fast easy home made low cost crucibles, along with some of the other aspects of his and his mentors techniques for the waxes models, the thin shell ceramic molds. The simplified, melting, casting, and other procedures. Made it a must read book! I can safely say that by following the information in this book, not only is it low cost, but puts the casting of parts for model engines, shop projects, art projects within the reach of everybody young or old. From the use of the weed burner torch as a heat source, the koawool (ceramic fiber blanket) furnace shell. To the heavy duty BBQ tongs, welding gloves, face shield. It is one of the best books on the subject and will I'm sure to become the foundation standard of small time casting in the future. It covers every part of the process starting with the bronze casting itself. Tools, materials and equipment, moving on to a Project overview and then to Process overview. Before starting gives some tips and into before you jump into the project. Then moving on to the wax sculpting, taking a lot of the mumbo jumbo out of it and giving tips, short cuts and the reasons for doing things this way. He doesn't just tell you, he tells you his thinking behind doing it this way. A big problem area in the wax model making is spruing, He goes over the why's and wherefores of doing it correctly. And the reasons of doing either the top or bottom feed system. Carrying on with making a Wax crucible, Constructing the wax shell, Dewaxing, Reinforcing the shell. Constructing the furnace will change the way people think about small scale metal melting. With a furnace that can be rolled up and stored till the next time it is needed. Baking the shell, melting the metal, and pouring the piece. Chasing and fettling the finished piece and patination of the item, if art work. Then he moves on to the more advanced multiple pieces at one time, larger pieces, Hollow castings, steel handles for larger shells. To advance feeding system designs. Another great part of the book is his Appendices They are for the world in addition to being divide by subject/materials they are divide by country listing and the type of materials, along with websites. Appendix A There is an index of tools and materials**** B Check List C Art Foundries ***** D Foundry supply ***** Workshops and Courses ***** F other resources It may be light on the tech stuff, but it is heavy on the practical of doing of a casting. His U tube video, is worth the time looking it up, is the title: Casting a small object in Bronze or Olivier O Duhamel one word for his video index.

This book explained very well the process of casting bronze at a home foundry, with a small cost to the artist.

Brilliant manual. Oliver takes one through each step very well and provides information in a clear

manner. As a result of Oliver's instructions I am now getting good castings of my engine parts. Most recently I have cast two pistons for an engine I am rebuilding. I have also recently cast a beautiful elephant ornament. A must have manual for people interested in casting their own pieces.

Very helpful and useful. I'm having trouble locating ceramic shell materials at a reasonable cost, (Shellspen is too expensive for me) so I'm going to use solid investment instead (sand and plaster) and bought a new pyrometer online for \$50.

Great, simple, easy to read book that gave an informative insight to bronzing. Great for someone just starting out. Helpful tips also. Still best to do a introductory class first, before trying this at home.

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