



Brian Somerville – Alternative Materials

Industrial products are made to be effective and safe when used properly.
Read directions , follow them and wear all recommended safety equipment.

Safety Equipment:

- Safety Glasses – I wear glasses when using anything but clay. You have two eyes and you need them both.
- Latex Gloves – Good to keep stuff off your hands and your hands out of your eyes
- Industrial Nitrile Gloves (black “Venom”) – Better for toxic materials
- Respirator – If you need a mask, you need a respirator. Get a good one and keep it updated
 - Get form fitting mask with filters (carbon and felt)
 - Change felt filters daily
 - Change carbon filters frequently
- Fresh Air – Make sure you are always in a well ventilated area
- Sleep – Being too tired either leads to mistakes or accidents (whichever happens first)



Epoxy and Glue:

- **Bondo** - All Purpose Putty – good adhesive and filler. Sets fast and strong and sands easily. Available at any hardware store.
- **Liquid Nails or PL** (Construction Strength) – excellent adhesive but stays flexible. Available at any hardware store.
- **PC-7** (black marine epoxy) – Strong paste epoxy. Will not stick to metal, glass or glaze. Available at any hardware store.
- **PC-11** (white marine epoxy) – The white version of PC-7. Available at any hardware store.
- **JB Weld** (white epoxy) – Just like PC products, but easier to find. Available at any hardware store.
- **Loctite epoxy** – very strong 2 part epoxy. Get 5 min set time or longer (shorter will set too fast). Available at any hardware store.
- **A-poxie Sculpt** (2 part pliable epoxy) – easy to sculpt, sand and paint. Not a great adhesive. Available Online.
- **Polygem’s Armorcoat** – Good Styrofoam sealer/primer/texture coat. Can be mixed with thickening agent. Dries rubbery.
- **Polygem’s Armorstone** – Good Styrofoam sealer/primer/texture coat. Can be mixed with thickening agent. Dries as hard shell.
- **Polygem’s Cammo Flex** – Good epoxy for areas that flex. Tricky to use. Can be tinted. Sands and takes thin patinas.
- **Polygem’s 307 FR Lite** – Excellent epoxy!!! Peanut Butter consistency. Can be tinted. Sands easily.

Polygem:

www.polygem.com

Foam:

- **Polystyrene Foam** – Blocks available commercially. Pink, Blue and White board available at Hardware Stores
- **Great Stuff** – 1.5lbs density, but “great” stuff in limited situations. Wear glasses and gloves! Available at any hardware store.
- **Smooth-On Expandable foam** (10lbs. – 16lbs.) – great filler, great adhesive, heat sets, limited shelf life.

Mold Making:

- **Mold Max Series** – (tin-cured silicone rubber) – molds great detail with high tear strength. Measures out by weight. Links below:
- **Dragon Skin Series** – (platinum-cured silicone rubber) – mixes (50/50). Molds great detail with high tear strength. Links below:
- **Equinox Series** – 2 part putty system. Mix like clay, press on and let set. Perfect for quick on-site work. Links below:
- **Rebound 25** – (platinum-cure silicone) for brushable applications.
- **Smooth-Cast 25** – good 2-part casting resin/plastic. Takes tint well. Does not survive outdoors. Use other version if not using tint.
- **So-Strong Colorants** – colored tints for casting resin/plastic and epoxy.

The Engineer Guy:

www.theengineerguy.com

Concrete:

- **Stone Edge Wall Mix**– Sculpting concrete – can spray and carve. Sets in 2-3 hrs. (24 hrs with additive) Link below:
- **Kingdom Products’ Superbond** – Bonding agent (glue between concrete layers).
- **Smith Paints Stains and Sealers**– amazing variety of reliable stains and corresponding sealers. Must buy direct
- **DECO GUARD**– one-part, low-sheen concrete sealer

Miscellaneous:

- **Industrial Velcro** – Good to stick things together (velcro is stronger than adhesive on back). Available at any hardware store.
- **Fiberglass** – Polyester Resin and fiberglass cloth or mat. EXTREMELY TOXIC!!! Available at any hardware store.
- **Aluminum Foil** – Best Styrofoam sealer (works better than all products below). Available everywhere.
- **Electrical Tape** – must-have in every studio. Available at any hardware store.

“The better something works, the more toxic it is.”