

Muddy Minnow Crankbait Building Instructions

SUMMARY: The mold and casting resin should not be below room temperature before mixing. To greatly speed up curing time, put the two mated halves of the mold into a microwave for 40 seconds on high **AFTER** you put the three “figure 8” eyelets and the transparent plastic “lip” into the mated mold (Figure 3). Before putting the mold into the microwave, you should have both casting resins A and B measured out with the included vials, but not yet mixed. Stir the combined casting resins for about 75 seconds. Demold time is about 4-8 minutes depending on how hot the mold still is by the time you pour in the mixed casting resins. Resin B will separate into two layers. Therefore, it is vital to shake Resin B aggressively for about 60 seconds (or longer if necessary) to mix the two layers into a single, homogenized solution. Resin B is much easier to shake up when it has been stored laying on its side. Resin A only needs to be gently shaken for 1-2 seconds. You will notice that there are brown beads contained in the Resin B bottle (to absorb water). Beads that end up cast into the lure body are not problematic. This summary is not meant to replace the following instructions.

Figure 1



An Ultra Fine Sharpie works great for marking the measuring vials. Although it may be difficult to tell from Figure 2 pictured below, the mL lines serve as convex guides for marking your measuring vials. Fill measuring vials until the resins match their respective marked lines (Figure 2).

Figure 2

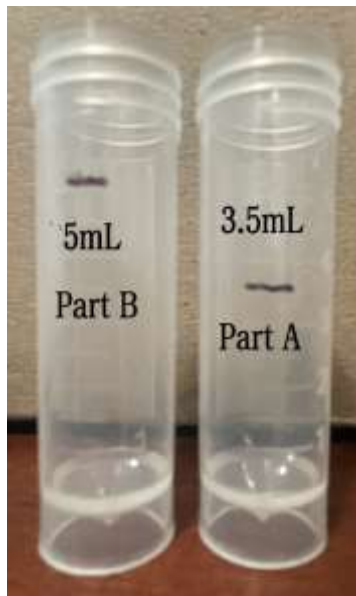
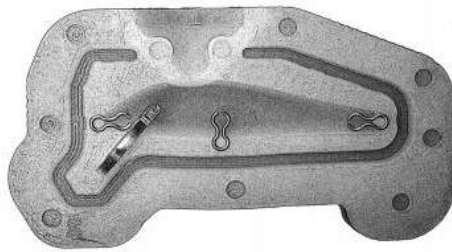


Figure 3



Insert the plastic transparent “lip” and the three “figure 8” eyelets over the small rubber posts (that exist only on one side of the two-part mold). Carefully mate the two halves of the mold together. Make sure every part of the mold halves are firmly mated to avoid resin leakage.

Figure 4

When making consecutive lures, there is no need to clean out the measuring vials between lures. However, after you are finished casting lures, thoroughly clean the threaded portion of both the inside of the cap and the outside threads on the neck of both bottles with a paper towel. Ensure that the caps of both bottles are tightly closed when not in use. Also, when not in use, keep the resin bottles in the included metalized (Mylar) bag with the zip-lock properly sealed—otherwise the resin will spoil. When you are done making consecutive lures, use a tightly packed and/or rolled paper towel that fits tightly into each measuring vial. Twist the paper towel within the measuring vials to clean out the vials when not in use.

Put down a disposable sheet of some kind to protect your table. NOTE: You should measure out both casting resins to their respective marks (Figure 2). However, do NOT mix resin A with resin B until AFTER you have microwave heated the rubber mold for 40 seconds on high. Pour the contents of both vials A and B into the included, reusable mixing cup. Place the mixing cup on the table and hold the lowest portion of the mixing cup in place with one hand. A low grip will allow you to sense any warming of the stirred resins. Use your other hand to stir/mix the combination of Resin A and B (using the included popsicle stick) for about 75 seconds, or until your fingers sense a barely perceivable warming of the thoroughly mixed resins (whichever happens first). At this point, the mixed resins are ready to be poured through the built-in funnel of the microwave heated rubber mold. The mixed resins may or may not slightly swell during the approximate 4-8 minute curing process, thus causing resin to more thoroughly protrude from the rubber funnel, but this is not a problem.

With time, cured casting resin will build up in the mixing cup. However, the resin does not adhere tightly to the mixing cup. Therefore, the hard, cured resin is easily dislodged by deforming (gently squeezing) the mixing cup.

Decal Application

Select the decals of your choice. First, carefully center the head/back decal along the “spine” of the lure, as shown in Figure 5 below. Next, apply the side decals (Figure 5.5) while minimizing decal on decal overlap. Ensure that the side decals are placed high enough to nearly overlap or barely overlap with the head/back decal. Focus your gaze on the bottom edge of the side decals to facilitate placing them parallel to the bottom contour (belly-line) of the crankbait body.

After getting the decals in place, you will need to heat-seal the decals to the crankbait bodies using an ordinary hair blow dryer set to the highest and hottest setting. Use the included clothes pin to grip the lure by the transparent “lip” to keep from burning yourself. The hair dryer should be used to heat-seal the decals at “point blank range” for 1 or 2 minutes. Although all surfaces of the decals should be heated-sealed aggressively with the hair blow dryer, focus more time on both sides of the nose and both sides of the tail end of the side decals. Although properly heat-sealed decals tend to adhere very well, the occasional decal flap may need to be super glued back into place. To accomplish this, the lure must be bone dry and you should use only a tiny quantity of super glue. Hold down the flap with something other than the fleshy portion of your finger until the glue sets. In some cases, the decals may not stick strongly enough to the lure body to proceed with the heat-sealing process (this “pre-heating” step only applies to decals that have red markings on the blank side of the decal sheets). In this case, simply clip the included clothes pin to the decal sheet in question (to keep the decal sheet from flying away) and use a hair blow dryer on high at “point blank range” to briefly heat a single decal sheet for 10-15 seconds.



Figure 5.



Figure 5.5

Attaching Hooks with Patented Easy-to-Use Split Rings

Insert the extension of an Easy-to-Use split ring through the eyelet of a treble hook and then thread the extension through the lure eyelet as shown in Figure 6 below. Push the coiled portion of the split ring toward the eyelet. This motion causes the wire form of the lure eyelet to act as a “wedge” that opens the split ring, thus getting the split ring started on the eyelet. Maneuver the extension around until the split ring is almost all the way onto the eyelet. **It is vital to learn to use your fingernail to push the final portion of the split ring the rest of the way onto the eyelet.** Break off the extension by pulling the extension slightly upward, then slightly downward on an angle that exploits the weakness produced by the notch at the base of the extension. Repeat this motion up to a dozen times if necessary. However, a fraction of the split rings are too stubborn to be broken off, no matter how many times the extension is

wiggled up and down. It is for this purpose that we have included wire cutters in kits that contain a fraction of stubborn split rings. To deal with the occasional stubborn split ring, force the extension up to about 70 degrees. To avoid fighting against leverage, use the innermost portion of the wire cutters near the “mouth” (as opposed to using the wire cutter tips) to clip off the extension close to the main body of the split ring. We sincerely apologize for the occasional stubborn split ring! In fact, the problem has now been fixed but we lack sufficient inventory to put the new split rings into every kit.

Figure 6



Figure 6.0



Figure 6.5

Tips on Use

Synching the fishing line tightly to the lure’s front eyelet may decrease its action. To prevent this, use a swivel or a non-slipping loop knot on the front eyelet of the lure. **To produce a more consistent action and deeper diving depth, I recommend the “default” configuration of 1 to 2 inches of included lead wire wrapped around the belly eyelet and/or split ring (see Figure 6.5).** For a wilder, more erratic action, wrap only the trailing split ring with 1 to 2 inches of lead wire. In some cases, you may wish to wrap both the belly split ring and the tail-end split ring with about 1 to 2 inches of lead wire. This configuration results in a faster, narrower wiggle as well as a deeper retrieve. Whichever configuration you choose to employ, note that using too much lead wire will diminish the overall action of the lure.