

MAKE RESIN PENDANTS



You must wear disposable gloves and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Resin – I use Gedeo Crystal Resin which is available from most UK craft shops. It comes with plastic measuring spoons.



Moulds – use proper resin casting moulds (not easily available in the UK) or silicone ice cube trays (great for unusual shaped pendants but the result will have a frosted appearance rather than being shiny)

Mixing pots - I use graduated medicine cups but you can use plastic cups – they must be polypropylene or polyethylene NOT waxed, paper or Styrofoam

Stirring sticks – I use medical tongue depressors – you could use wooden or plastic craft sticks

Inclusions – seed beads, candy cake decorations, small sweets, glitter.....



You must work in a well ventilated place and cover your worktable with newspaper to protect it. You are going to have to leave the resin to cure for at least 24 hours so make sure you can leave the resin safely on the table for this time – away from children & pets.

Resin cures quicker under lights so if you have a small spotlight lamp this will help speed up the process.

Instructions

Mix a small amount of resin following the manufacturer's instructions & wearing disposable gloves. Gedeo Crystal Resin is two parts resin to one part hardener i.e. 10ml resin, 5ml hardener.

Stir the mixture gently for a few minutes making sure you scrape the sides and mix really well - but don't "whip" it as you don't want air bubbles. Gedeo Crystal Resin starts cloudy and then becomes clear, like water. There may be a few air bubbles but if you leave the resin to stand for a couple of minutes they should disperse.

Take your mould and place on newspaper under the lamp (if you have one). You don't want to have to move the mould after you have filled it with resin.



Pour some resin into each mould, about 2mm deep. Now you need to leave it to partly cure before you add any inclusions. This will take about 2 hours – until the resin has started curing. Test by touching it with a toothpick to see how “sticky” it has become. It needs to have started to “set”.



Add your inclusions – for your first attempt I would suggest you use seed beads, glitter, candy cake decorations or jelly tot sweets. You can move them around gently with a toothpick but be careful not to scratch the bottom of the mould & it’s best to leave the glitter till last – just sprinkle some over. Remember you are creating your pattern or design upside down!

Now leave the resin for another couple of hours – until it is very sticky or until the next day when it will have cured. If you have used a lot of glitter it will be best to let the resin cure fully as glitter tends to rise up and float on the surface of the resin.

Mix another batch of resin and add enough to each mould to cover the inclusions.

Leave for 24 hours to cure. Always test with a toothpick not your finger. You should never touch the resin until you are certain it has fully cured.

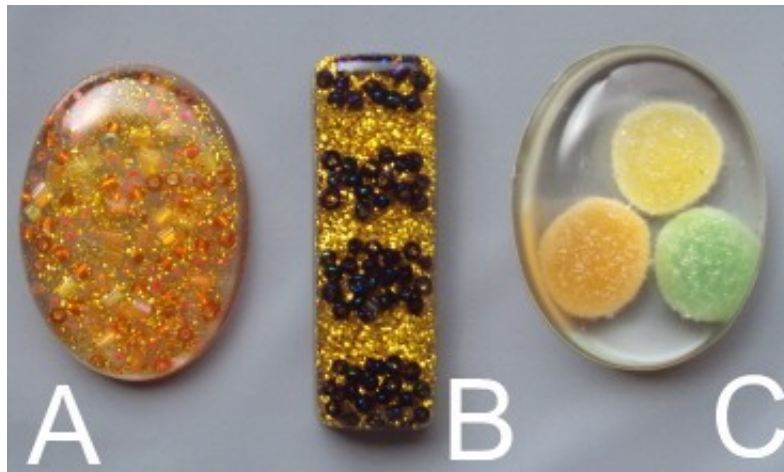
Now the fun bit – time to demould your resin & find out if it worked!

Silicone moulds will release the resin easily – the jewellery casting moulds will need flexing & pressing gently on the bottom to release (be careful not to use your nails as this will mark the mould for future pieces). If they don't pop out then leave for a few more hours.

You must now leave the resin pieces for another 24 hours to cure fully.

Pendants A – C were made in jewellery casting moulds

Pendants D – G were made in a silicone ice cube tray



- A** – a mixture of orange & yellow seed beads with gold glitter
- B** – dark blue seed beads laid roughly in rows & finished with lots of gold glitter
- C** – 3 jelly tot sweets
- D** – a mixture of pale blue, lime green & purple seed beads
- E** – cake decoration letters first then finished with candy cake sprinkles (remember you are working back to front - lay your word out & then put into)
- F** – a mixture of white, pink, yellow & blue seed beads
- G** – silver glitter

the resin the opposite way, right to left, with the letters being the wrong way round)

F – candy cake sprinkles & silver glitter

G – clear flower arranging crystals & silver glitter

The next stage is to finish each piece. There will be rough, slightly raised edges on the back which you need to rub down – I use 600 grade wet & dry paper.



The easiest way to hang your pendant from a necklace is to attach a pendant bail to the back – I use pendant bails for dichroic glass, called anraku bails. Glue them to the back of your pendant with clear epoxy adhesive. Alternatively if your pendant isn't too thick and you feel confident enough to use a drill then you can drill a hole through the resin and use a large jump ring instead.

Whichever brand of resin you decide to use you must follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully and wear disposable gloves.

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