

# Resin Heart Charms

## Layering Transparent Images in Resin

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### Supplies Needed for Resin Hearts:

Resin mold - Flat Heart ([sherrihaab-shop.com](http://sherrihaab-shop.com))  
B&W image printed on transparency film - cut to fit in mold  
2 part epoxy resin - EasyCast ([sherrihaab-shop.com](http://sherrihaab-shop.com))  
Mixing cups and sticks ([sherrihaab-shop.com](http://sherrihaab-shop.com))  
Hand drill  
Colored paper  
Scissors  
Polishing compounds - A&B ([sherrihaab-shop.com](http://sherrihaab-shop.com))  
Cord for hanging

### General Instructions

To work with resin, cover your work area with a few sheets of wax paper in case of spills. Small graduated cups with measurements are handy for accurate measuring and mixing. You also need stir sticks; wooden ice cream sticks work well for mixing the resin. Other supplies include a heat gun for removing bubbles, sanding papers and a hand drill for finishing the cured pieces.

### Safety

Be sure to follow all of the manufacturer's safety guidelines when working with resin. Work in a well-ventilated area away from food preparation areas. Wear a respirator with filters for fumes when mixing resin (these are available at hardware stores). Also wear nitrile gloves and goggles for eye protection. A dust mask should always be worn when working with pigment powders that are added to the resin. Also wear a dust mask while sanding or buffing resin.

### Measuring and Mixing Techniques

Accurate measuring and mixing are the most critical factors for resin to properly cure. To mix resin with hardener; measure equal amounts of each into a graduated mixing cup, using the measurements on the side of the cup for accuracy. Stir well to incorporate the resin and hardener by stirring and scraping the sides without whipping or folding, as this will cause air bubbles to form. After mixing the resin, pour the mixture into a clean cup and mix again briefly, this will insure that the mixing is complete. After you have mixed the resin, you should have 30 minutes or longer to work with the resin.

### Air bubbles

To avoid air bubbles in your resin, warm the resin and hardener up a bit before working. Set the bottles under a light bulb or in a warm place. You will be amazed at how well this method works to avoid bubbles in the resin after mixing. Of course if you are working on a warm day this may not be necessary. To remove air bubbles manually from the surface of the resin, you can heat the surface of the resin. The easiest method I know of is to use a heat gun, which is sold in craft or hardware stores. Hold the heat gun over the liquid resin a short distance away for a brief time to remove the air bubbles. You can see them dissipate quickly. You don't want to risk overheating the molds, paper inclusions or other elements that might be damaged by heat. Be cautious not to hold the gun at an angle where you might blow the resin, causing it to splash out of the mold. I check the resin after 5-10 minutes and repeat the process if any bubbles remain.



## Curing resin

Warm temperatures are essential for curing resin. After working at room temperature to mix the resin, move the resin to a place where it can remain undisturbed for about 2 days. Resin will cure at room temperature, but you can speed the process by curing under a low watt light bulb. A 60-100 watt bulb over the resin will generate the heat needed to hasten curing. Resin is fully cured when it is tack free, and feels hard to the touch.

## Steps:

1. Mix a small amount of resin, mixing equal parts and pour a thin layer into the bottom of the mold. Let this layer cure until firm.
2. Mix a very small amount for the next layer, just enough to “glue” the transparency layer down. Press the transparency film onto a thin layer of resin in the mold, pressing firmly to make sure no air is trapped underneath. Resin will flow onto the back of the transparency, which is good. Make sure the transparency doesn't float to the top and trap air bubbles under it. Push on it with a wooden craft stick to make sure.
3. Let that layer cure until almost set. Add a cut piece of colored (red) paper onto the resin.
4. Finish with a final layer of resin to fill the mold.
5. After curing, flex the mold and release the piece. Sand the edges using wet/dry sandpaper and polish using buffing compounds if you want the edges perfectly shiny.
6. Drill a hole in the top for hanging the charm.

## Finishing techniques

Wet/dry sand papers can be found at auto body supply shops. Use these to sand the edges of your finished resin projects. Sanding under water will help to keep the dust out of the air as well as keeping the plastic from re-depositing back onto the resin (this creates white spots on the surface). Start with coarse grits and work progressively finer for a smooth finish. For a professional finish, use a slow speed bench lathe and muslin buffing wheel after sanding. Apply polishing compound to the wheel for more shine. A manual hand drill is idea for drilling holes in resin. Fiskars makes a drill that is easy to use with resin. Place the piece in a vise or secure the piece to an old phone book and drill through the resin slowly to avoid melting the resin as you drill.

Create your own variations on this technique!

