



## FastMache'® Instructions & Techniques

FastMâché is an instant papier mâché with a unique formulation that allows it to dry faster than other papier mâché products. It mixes easily with water and dries to a durable finish.

### Mixing Instructions

- Mix FastMâché in a large bowl or zip top plastic bag. Warm water is best, as it allows for faster activation of the product.

### STEPS:

1. Measure out the desired amount of dry FastMâché and place in the bag. Add the recommended amount of water to the bag.

| Consistency Type | Dry-to-Water Ratio          | Uses   | Yield (from dry)    |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Firm             | 7 parts FastMâché : 2 water | Building structures without armatures, slab techniques       | 1/3 original volume |
| Average          | 3 parts FastMâché : 1 water | Armature work, push molding, adding detail to masks/surfaces | 1/2 original volume |
| Ultra Pliable    | 2 parts FastMâché : 1 water | Smoothing, texturing, surface design, bas-relief             | 2/3 original volume |

2. With the dry FastMâché and water in the mixing container or sealed bag, work together with hands until the ingredients are generally combined. Then, switch to a kneading/wedging motion until activated FastMâché forms a cohesive “ball.” FastMâché that is stiffer than desired can be made more malleable by adding a bit more water and wedging to a desired consistency. FastMâché that is too soft will set up in a relatively short period of time when exposed to the air.

### Drying Guidelines

- As FastMâché shrinks ever so slightly when drying, it is important to use strong attachments when adding pieces and to keep the thickness as even as possible to prevent cracking while drying. The drying time is dependent upon the weather (heat and humidity), as well as the initial firmness of the clay and the thickness of it. Generally, a hollow FastMâché piece made from about a “fist sized” amount of product will take about an hour to harden and 24 to 36 hours to dry. A piece is dry when it no longer feels cold to the touch. Slow drying will be less stressful to the piece than fast drying. Slow drying can be accomplished by covering the piece loosely with a damp cloth. Drying can be accelerated in a low temperature oven, with the door cracked open to allow for moisture to escape.

### Tools Needed

- Basic tools needed are water, measuring cup, mixing container or plastic zip top bag, paper towels, slick working surface, and a simple drying rack.
- Add details to FastMâché surface while wet with fingers or modeling tools. \*We recommend our Activ-Clay Tools Set to apply, smooth and texture the FastMâché.
- Once dry, it can be sanded, sawed, nailed, and drilled.

## **Armatures**

- Styrofoam shapes, crumpled newspaper, cardboard, wood, aluminum foil, wire, tubes, boxes, bottles, latex balloons, etc. all can serve as armatures. \*We recommend our ACTÍVA's Activ Wire Mesh.
- To create hollowware, wrap an armature in aluminum foil or plastic wrap before covering with . While wet, use a knife to score form deeply so that when almost dry, the two halves can be separated. After completely dry, rejoin halves with glue, tape, or more FastMâché.

## **Special Techniques**

- FastMâché accepts and holds a variety of materials embedded - from dried floral materials to, mosaic tiles, beads, wires, and sea glass.
- FastMâché can be colored in its wet form, if desired. For a solid color throughout, add paint or fabric dye to the mix in the plastic bag when initially activating. For a stone-like, somewhat mottled color, add the colorant at the mixing and wedging stage.

## **Slab Construction**

- The easiest way to form slabs with FastMâché is to roll activated FastMâché between sheets of plastic. Use thickness strips to ensure a consistent depth. Slabs can be used for construction and tile work or as an economical material for draping over cut and formed shapes.

## **Using Molds**

- FastMâché can be formed in any non-porous mold. Prepare the mold with a dry release agent such as cornstarch or liquid detergent thinned with water.. Push in an amount of fairly stiff activated FastMâché. Allow it to semi-set up, then un-mold. It is recommended that molded pieces be formed hollow - with an open bottom to ensure even drying - conserving both weight and material.

## **Finishing Options**

- Tempera, acrylic, water colors, and oil paints can be applied to FastMâché's dry porous surface.
- Dry FastMâché surfaces can be decouped using a variety of tissues and papers.
- Metal leafing can be done once dry.
- To achieve a sculpture patina look, use thin washes of variegated paint colors, reapplying as the project dries. When dry, sand highlights and polish surface with paper towels. Apply wax or varnish to complete.
- Once dry, embellishments such as buttons, feathers, rhinestones, beads, yarn, tissue paper, glitter, etc. may be adhered to FastMâché with glue.
- Seal finished projects with shellac, varnish, clear acrylic nail polish or other sealers, as desired.

## **General Techniques**

- For easier control and best results, it is recommended that you work from large general forms to finer details. Pay attention to the desired surface texture as you go. It is easiest to establish a smooth surface while wet, refining the degree of smoothness as the material dries. However, FastMâché can be sanded smooth in the leather hard or dry formed state.
- Keep hands damp while working with FastMâché for smooth application.



## FastMâché Quick Guide

**FastMâché** is a quick-drying papier mâché with a unique formula that mixes easily with water and dries to a hard, durable finish—faster than traditional papier mâché products.

### Mixing Instructions

| Consistency Type | Dry-to-Water Ratio          | Uses   | Yield (from dry)  |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Firm             | 7 parts FastMâché : 2 water | Building structures without armatures, slab techniques       | 1/3 original volume  |
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- Use warm water for faster activation.
- Mix in a large bowl or zip top bag.
- Combine with hands, then knead until cohesive.
- Adjust consistency by adding water or allowing to air-set if too soft.



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## Drying Guidelines

- Shrinks slightly — use strong joints and even thickness.
- Dry when no longer cold to the touch.
- For **slow drying**: loosely cover with a damp cloth.
- For **fast drying**: use low-temp oven with door cracked open.



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## Tools Needed

- Water & measuring cup
- Mixing container or zip top bag
- Paper towels
- Slick surface for working
- Drying rack
- *Recommended: Activ-Clay Tool Set*



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## Armatures

Suitable materials:

- Styrofoam, foil, cardboard, newspaper, wood, wire, tubes, bottles, balloons, etc.
- *Recommended: Activ Wire Mesh*



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## Special Techniques

- While wet: accepts and holds a variety of embedded materials.
- Color while wet: mix paint or dye into activation water.

### Slabs:

- Roll between plastic sheets with thickness guides.
- Great for construction, draping, tile work.

### Using Molds:

- Use **non-porous molds** only.
- Prep with cornstarch or diluted detergent.
- Use stiff FastMâché and unmold when semi-set.
- Leave pieces hollow for drying.



### Hollowware:

- Wrap armatures in foil or plastic for hollowware.
- Score wet pieces deeply to separate later.
- Rejoin dried halves with glue or more FastMâché.

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## Finishing Options

- **Paint:** tempera, acrylic, watercolor, oil.
- **Surface finishes:**
  - Decoupage, metal leaf, washes, patina
  - Sand dry for highlights
  - Seal with shellac, varnish, or nail polish
- **Add-ons (when dry):**
  - Buttons, glitter, beads, yarn, rhinestones, etc.
- Can be sawed, nailed, drilled, and sanded when dry.





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### Working Tips

- Work from general forms to fine details.
- Keep hands damp for smooth application.
- Best to smooth while wet, but sanding is also possible when dry.