

Making bowls

I decided to use cellulose paste as the medium for this project. Many people like to use cellulose paste to make bowls because it is easier to apply than liquid medium. It also allows you to make a stiffer vessel that will stand more easily. Cellulose paste without fungicide is widely available from DIY and craft stores. Choose paste that is intended for super-durable anaglypta or heavy embossed papers. For a bowl you only need about a pint of liquid, so do not make up the full amount in the packet. If you choose to use an acrylic medium instead, make a strong mixture and be prepared for a little difficulty when removing the cast from the clingfilm.

YOU WILL NEED:

- large bowl or jug for the paste
- cling film
- an object to mould around
- brown paper
- cellulose paste or medium (1 tbs to 300ml/½ pint) of cold water)
- paintbrush
- dyed hankies
- ruler
- black marker pen
- latex or rubber gloves
- scissors



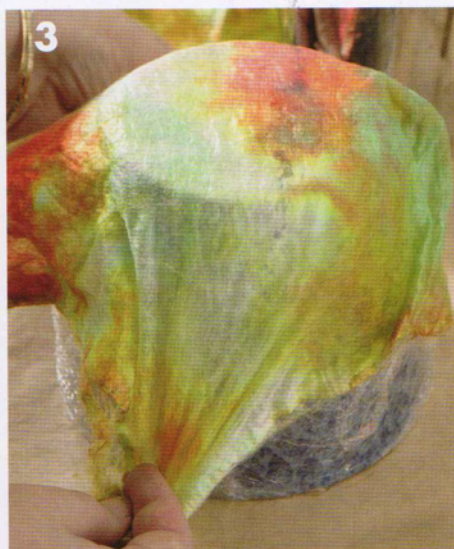
1 Cover your chosen mould with generous layers of good quality cling film.

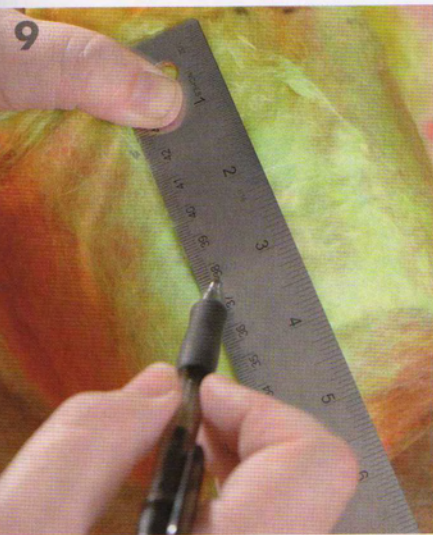
2 Protect your work surface with brown paper. Separate out two or three layers of dyed hankies. Using the cellulose paste, paste the covered surface of the wrapped mould.

3 Place a stretched silk hankie over the mould. Pull it down to cover the mould.

4 When the hankie is fully stretched over the mould, reapply a generous layer of cellulose paste over the entire surface. You will notice that the silk becomes translucent as the cellulose paste soaks in.

5 Continue adding layers of stretched silk hankies over the mould, covering each layer with plenty of cellulose paste. You should repeat at least three to four times. If you require a very substantial bowl, I would recommend using six to eight hankies. A delicate bowl with a translucent effect would only require two to four layers.





- 9** With a ruler and a pen, measure and mark a line along the top where you want to remove the excess from the cast.
- 10** Using a sharp pair of long-bladed scissors, cut decisively along the marked line. If small-bladed scissors are used, a smooth cut line will be difficult to achieve.
- 11** At this stage, you can add a small amount of sealant (either more cellulose paste or acrylic medium, depending on what you used) or some acrylic paint to the cut edge to seal it. Alternatively, it can be left as it is. I finished the edge of the bowl with individual leaves made using the stitched method, described on page 94. The veins of each leaf were defined with machine stitches before each piece was stitched on by hand.