for the hobbyist
for the handyman
for the professional craftsman

Adventures in Water Putty
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You may not have thought that working with water putty could be an adventure. But many have found it such. For some, it's an adventure in creativity when used to make an art object. For others, it's an adventure in achievement when used to restore a priceless antique or make a do-it-yourself or professional repair.

The purpose of this folder is to explain both art and utility uses of Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty. However, space does not permit describing all its uses. For additional information on art projects involving putty, books are available in libraries and in art, hobby and handcraft shops. For further details on utility uses and directions for using, check the label on each can of Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty.

It is our hope that you will find working with Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty can really be an interesting adventure.

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Creating Art Objects

You'll enjoy a sense of accomplishment in casting - sand sculpting - carving - modeling - developing mosaics - restoring antiques - achieving interesting color effects.

CASTING:

It's easy to make fascinating figurines, relief sculptures and other items of art to beautify your home or to give to your friends. Simply cast them with Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty using any suitable mold - ceramic, plastic or flexible rubber.

Start by mixing Durham's Putty and water together to the consistency of heavy cream. Immediately, pour the mixture into the mold, tapping the mold gently while filling to bring air bubbles to the surface. After the putty has set, carefully remove the cast from the mold and fill in any air bubbles which might remain with a new mixture of putty.

Flexible rubber mold is placed in a glass to provide support while casting. Both partridges pictured are painted green and highlighted with a paste-type dull gold.
CASTING, CONTINUED

An interesting way to give an attractive carved appearance to plain furniture, doors or walls is to make a number of casts from molds of carved plaques. These molds may be purchased, or you may make them yourself from your own favorite plaque by following the instructions in the section of this folder entitled "Restoring Art Objects."

Water putty casts made from such molds may be joined together and fastened to the flat surface of the item you wish to transform. With these casts you can duplicate the appearance of beautifully carved Spanish furniture.

Casts may be painted or colored as described on the page headed "How to Color Your Art Objects."

Molds are available in a wide range of materials and subjects. This plastic mold is used in casting the Aquarius plaque. The mold is quite deep but need not be filled to the top if a thinner cast is desired.

This plaque, suitable for hanging on a wall, has a cameo effect achieved by painting the entire surface a cameo brown, then applying two coats of light ivory paint on the raised portions.
SAND SCULPTING:

Here is a fascinating way to produce plaques with attractive relief designs, ideal for wall hangings or for displaying on an easel.

The process is simple. Just pack wet sand in a box, filling it to about \( \frac{1}{2} \) inch from the top, depending upon the thickness of the cast desired. Level the sand. Then with a pencil, nail, spoon or any appropriate tool, draw a design in the sand and set aside to let the sand dry. As an alternative, make an impression with a figurine or other art object, pressing it into the wet sand.

The next step is to prepare the putty. Mix water and Durham's Putty to the consistency of heavy cream.

Wet sand packed in a wood or sturdy cardboard box serves as the starting point for drawing any design in the sand which appeals to you. Then, after allowing the sand to dry, it is used as a mold, with the design of the sculpture cast from it appearing in relief.
A sand sculpture of the sun, displayed on an easel made from a weather-beaten lobster trap, gives a nautical effect especially appropriate for use in a sportsman’s den.

SAND SCULPTING, CONTINUED

Then carefully spoon out a small amount of the putty into the dry sand mold, being careful not to disturb the design. After the design is covered, the balance of the putty may be gently poured in until the box is filled. Then level the top surface. After the putty has dried, carefully remove the sides of the box and brush off the excess sand. The remaining grains of sand will give your plaque an attractive surface. The putty will dry to a light ivory color. Apply clear shellac if desired, or if you wish a deeper color, follow the directions in the section headed “How to Color Your Art Objects.”

For a different effect, place bits of stone, beads, shells or other objects part way into the sand design before pouring the putty.
CARVING:

If you have always had a desire to carve, but hesitated to work with wood or stone, putty carving is for you. If you make a mistake of any kind, all you do is to fill it with more putty, let it dry, and proceed with your carving.

The first step in putty carving is to form a block of water putty. Mix Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty with water to the consistency of thick cream. Then pour into a mold such as a milk carton or cardboard box, tapping gently while pouring to bring air bubbles to the surface. Let the putty set. Then remove the mold and start carving, forming the general contour, and gradually carving it into the finished art object. The putty need not be completely dry when you start to carve. In fact, you will find it easier to carve if you start when it is the consistency of hard soap. The completed object may be sanded and polished, or for an interesting effect, left with the tool marks showing.

Refer to the section entitled "How to Color Your Art Objects" if you want a color other than the light ivory of the putty itself.

With a block of water putty and sharp knives or carving tools, you can create interesting carved animals and other objects. This carved cat makes an interesting art object for the home or office.
Using Durham's Putty for modeling is for those who enjoy creating unusual effects.

For example, since putty mixed with water alone sets up faster than clay and other modeling materials, interesting surface effects may be achieved not possible with other materials. When desired, you can slow down the setting-up process by adding up to one half vinegar with the water when mixing the putty.

Another advantage of using putty is that it lends itself to a combination of modeling and carving. What's more, Durham's Putty has exceptional durability.

What can be made? Interesting figures, birds, animals, abstract designs, and objects. You can let your imagination run riot.

In some instances, the putty is formed directly over a mount called an armature, or over supporting material placed over an armature. In either case Durham's Putty has the important advantage of sticking and staying in position.

Your sculpture may be left in the putty's natural ivory tint or colored as explained in a later section.

This large abstract bird has been modeled with Durham's Putty brushed over a wire armature anchored in a stone base. The unusual effect is enhanced by painting it black and white.
CREATING MOSAICS:

An interesting project consists of adding mosaic designs to objects such as trivets, coasters, wall plaques, table tops, box lids, ashtrays, and many other items. This can easily be accomplished by embedding pebbles, shells, mosaic tiles, and other colorful materials in Durham's Putty. An alternative is to use this putty as a grouting material.

For a vacation hobby when you're near the beach, pick up an assortment of colorful pebbles which have at least one fairly flat side and are not more than about 1/4-inch thick. They should be washed and dried, then arranged in a design that appeals to you. Or ask your hobby, handcraft, or art store for other suitable material for your mosaics.

Mix Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty with water to the consistency of heavy cream. Pour this into the object.

The mosaic design on this trivet is made with a border of black pebbles from Japan, tumbled abalone shells in natural mother-of-pearl color, and pebble tiles in white, ivory and brown—all embedded in Durham's Putty.
you have selected so putty is slightly shallower in thickness than that desired for the finished mosaic. Smooth the putty surface. Then carefully embed the pebbles or other materials in the putty with the smooth side up, arranging them in any design you wish. After the putty is dry you may color it, or you may prefer to color the putty at the time you mix it with water. See the suggestions in the section entitled “How to Color Your Art Objects.”

Attractive vases may be made by applying a coating of Durham’s Putty mixed with water to the clean outside surfaces of glass jars or bottles. Then while the putty is still moist, embed shells or other interesting materials in the putty so they will adhere. Shell macaroni may be substituted for natural shell, then shellacked or sprayed with metallic or colored paint.

Jewelry box has ornamental top of shells set in Durham’s Putty. Other interesting effects may be obtained with mosaic designs of tiles or pebbles.
RESTORING ART OBJECTS:

Cracks or chips in art objects and furniture may be easily and quickly filled with Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty. The color of the original object can be matched with a little patience by following the suggestions in the section headed "How to Color Your Art Objects."

Ornate picture frames from which portions are missing or damaged can be duplicated and replaced with Durham's Putty. Just make a rubber mold from a corresponding portion which is not damaged. Your art, handcraft, or hobby store has a liquid rubber substance specially prepared for making such molds. Then make a putty cast from this mold and use this cast to replace the missing section of the frame.

If you carve wood and a slip of the chisel damages the carving, this can be filled with Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty. When set, the putty can then be carved exactly as you would carve the wood. The same repair procedure applies when carving putty.

A chip on this Fu Dog is being filled with Durham's Putty. When dry, the repair will be painted to match the original bronze-effect finish.
HOW TO COLOR YOUR ART OBJECTS:

The natural color of Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty is a light ivory. It can be colored throughout before mixing with water by adding powdered tempera or dry earth powders such as umbers, siennas, ochres and other available colors. Acrylic, casein paint, Rit, Tintex and coloring matter which will mix with water are also suitable. However, do not use oil-base paints, since oil and water will not mix.

If you prefer, you can wait until your art object is finished and the putty is dry. Then apply two coats of shellac thinned with alcohol. While the second coat is still tacky, bronze powder or dry colors may be dusted on. Or wait until the shellac is dry and apply a thin wash of oil paint thinned with turpentine. Acrylic paint may also be used but the surface should be primed first with an acrylic primer. Interesting effects may be obtained by applying a bronze solution over or under washes of acrylic or oil paint. Your art, handicraft or hobby store can supply glazes for giving various antique effects and can usually offer other helpful suggestions.
UTILITY USES

If you are a handyman or a professional craftsman, you will find hundreds of uses for Durham’s Rock Hard Water Putty. It’s the all-around repair material that sticks and stays put, does not shrink, dries rock hard, and is easy to use.

USES: Here are just a few of its many utility uses:
- Patches cracks and holes in walls
- Fills knotholes and defects in wood
- Repairs furniture
- Tightens loose wood joints
- Fills holes in wood so dowels and/or screws can be reset
- Fills edges and imperfections in plywood
- Repairs antiques of all kinds

Knot holes, nail holes and other defects in wood are easily filled with Durham’s Water Putty. The putty may be left uncolored if surface is to be painted, or colored if wood is to be matched.

To tighten drawer knobs which have become loose from wear, the oversized hole is filled with Durham’s Putty, the shaft is inserted, and the knob installed so it fits snugly. Putty is then allowed to dry.

Door bumpers often become loose with constant banging of doors. To tighten, fill the oversize hole with Durham’s Putty, insert the bumper and let set. Chances are it will hold better than when originally installed.

Professional painters and handymen like to use Durham’s Putty to fill cracks because it sticks and stays put—does not shrink. Sets quickly too, so painting may proceed without undue delay.
UTILITY USES, CONTINUED

Corrects woodworking errors • Repairs wooden patterns and core boxes • Sets loose handles or knobs in furniture • Sets tiles.

USERS: Durham’s Rock Hard Water Putty is used by painters, decorators, woodworkers, electricians, carpenters, cabinet makers, handymen, housewives, pattern makers, manual training schools, manufacturers, TV and other repairmen, stores, offices, heating and air-conditioning installers, in fact by practically everyone who has a repair job.

SUGGESTIONS FOR USE: Mix Durham’s Rock Hard Water Putty and water to a fairly stiff consistency, about like dough. Press firmly into cavity with putty knife adding more and pressing again until putty “bounces” back, leaving an excess of the putty. Do not attempt to smooth off this excess putty while it is wet.

Let set about fifteen minutes. Then the water putty will be like hard soap. At this stage you can shave off the excess with a putty knife leaving very little sanding to be done. This method gives a firm, smooth texture. The water putty at this stage can be shaved, cut, or carved easily.

Fifteen to 30 minutes after this, it becomes very hard and has great strength. It is well to let it set until thoroughly dry before sanding if an especially smooth, light ivory surface is desired.

For special jobs where slow hardening is desired, add a small amount of vinegar or milk to retard setting time. Read container for further information.

COLORING: To color Durham’s Putty, add dry colors such as umber, sienna, ochre, or poster black. Other coloring materials which will mix with water such as acrylics and casein paints may also be used. With a little experimenting, it is possible to obtain almost any color or shade desired.

If the use you are making of the putty does not require its being colored throughout, you may wait until the putty is dry, then seal and paint it the color desired. The natural color of Durham’s Putty is ivory.

For special effects, see the section earlier in this folder headed “How to Color Your Art Objects.”
WHY "DURHAM'S" IS BETTER

Whether you plan to use putty for art or utility purposes, there are many reasons for specifying Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty.

A very important one is the fact that Durham's does not shrink. This is especially helpful to the handyman and professional craftsman when filling holes in wood, plaster and other materials. It is important to the hobbyist who is interested in having his art objects hold their fine details and shapes.

Another advantage is the ability of Durham's Putty to stick and stay put. It adheres in oil-free material such as wood, cement, plaster, tile, glass, stone and composition. Doesn't drop out when dry. For the artist or hobbyist, Durham's holding power makes it possible to embed pebbles, shells and other materials in the putty when making mosaics and not have to worry about their falling out. The same advantage applies in sand sculpting when objects are added to the design.

The words "Rock Hard" in Durham's name denotes another feature of Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty. It assures you that its hard surface is not easily scratched, that repairs are more durable, and that art objects made from it are stronger. They require no firing.

Ease of preparation is important. Just mix Durham's Putty with water to the desired consistency and begin your work. Since it is a powder, it lasts indefinitely when kept sealed in its container, thus eliminates waste. You mix only the quantity you need.

Adaptability is also important. This putty can be sawed, chiseled, sanded, polished, molded, painted, varnished, waxed or colored.

Durham's Putty is dependable — made that way since its introduction in the mid 1930's.
You can get Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty at your paint or hardware store, home center, lumber supply dealer, and at many hobby, handcraft, and art stores. It is packed in 1-lb. and 4-lb. cans and in 25-, 50-, and 100-lb. drums. If your dealer cannot supply, contact Donald Durham Company at the address below.

THE ORIGINAL

DURHAM'S

WATER PUTTY

STICKS, STAYS PUT
WILL NOT SHRINK

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