



Baby Hand Casting Kit

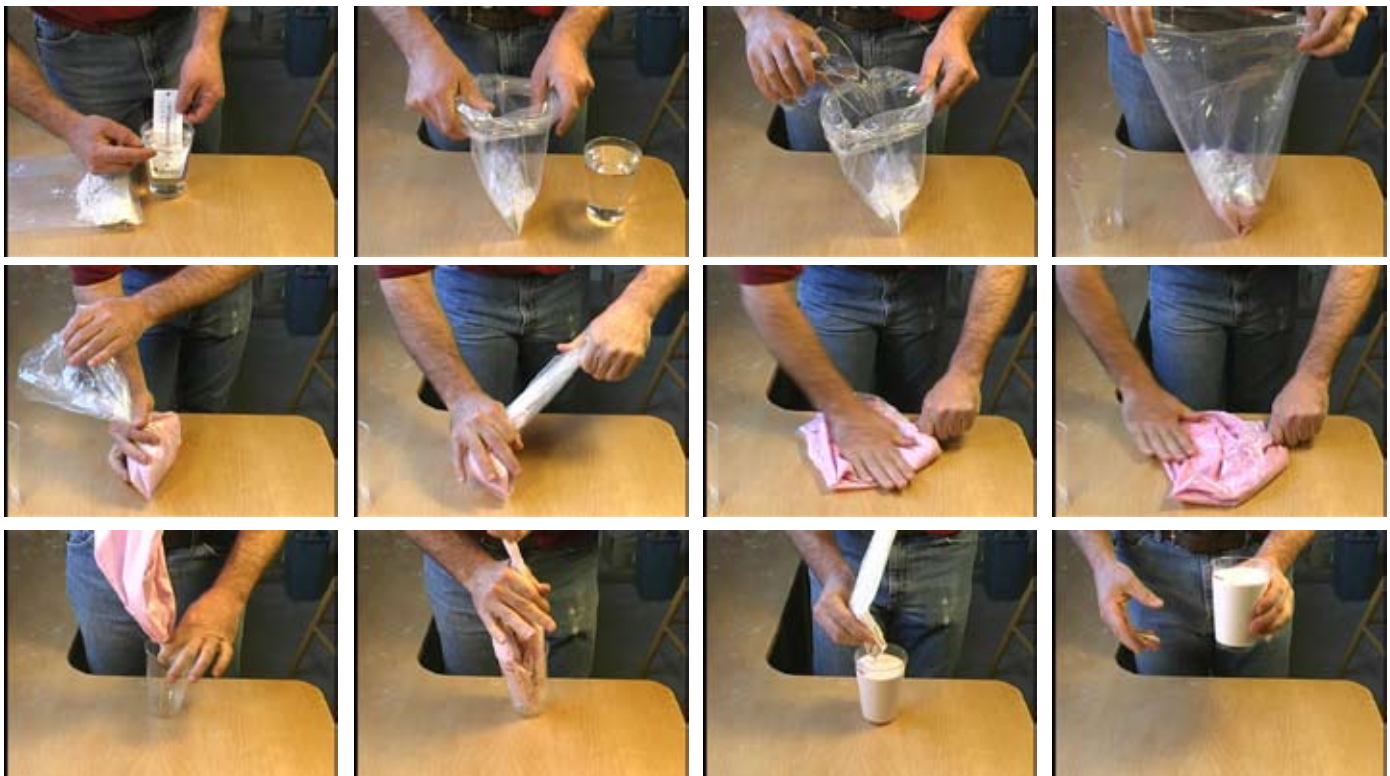
Procedural Instructions

This kit is recommended for the hands of babies, newborn to approximately 6 months.

MIXING THE ALGINATE

NOTE: HandGEL alginate is “color-changing”. This means that it will turn bright pink when you begin mixing it and it will slowly fade to white 30-45 seconds before it “sets”. When it turns white you must get the baby’s hand into the alginate quickly. As long as it is pink, you know you still have more time.

1. Use the thermometer to adjust your water temperature to about 90°-92°F. (*With this water temperature you will have about 2 minutes 15 seconds of total time from when the water goes into the alginate powder until it sets. Once you add the water to the alginate powder, do not get distracted with other things.*)
2. Fill the clear plastic cup up to the line with this water.
3. Open the bag of alginate and roll down the sides about half way.
4. Pour the water into the powder and roll the sides back up.
5. Encircle the bag with your index finger and thumb down at the top of the water powder mixture. This will push out any extra air from the bag.
6. Grab the bag at the top very firmly.
7. Lay the bag down on a tabletop and begin rubbing and massaging the mixture. Push with the flat of your hand against the table. Pay special attention to the bottom corners of the bag and the neck of the bag near where you are holding it closed.
8. Mix in this way for about 45 seconds.
9. Turn the bag upside down and put the top of the bag into the clear plastic cup.
10. Squeeze all of the alginate out of the bag into the clear plastic cup. If you do this carefully the alginate level in your cup should be back up to about the line. Don’t take too much time with this.
11. The alginate should be very light pink at this point. If it is already white, hurry on to the next step.



MAKING THE MOLD

12. Pick up the cup and gently insert the baby's hand, wrist and a little bit of forearm into the alginate mixture. It may be necessary to tip the cup a little bit to fit the baby's hand in. Be ready if some of the alginate flows out of the cup. Protect your clothes and those of the baby. Alginate is tricky to get out of your clothes.
13. Watch that the baby's hand doesn't touch the inside of the cup. It will be very easy to see this because you will see the skin through the clear plastic. Move the baby's hand away from the cup if you see this. If the baby is awake, its a good idea to try to distract them with something else.
14. Gently hold the baby's hand in the alginate until the alginate is no longer "sticky" on the surface. Wait another 30 seconds before removing the baby's hand.
15. Gently rock the cup back and forth until you see the "seal" around the baby's arm break loose.
16. Slowly pull the cup down and off the baby's hand, tipping the cup back and forth a little to help.

IF ANYTHING HAS GONE WRONG, NOW IS THE TIME TO START OVER AGAIN WITH THE SECOND BAG OF ALGINATE. Just pull the set alginate out of the cup and start again. If the baby is cranky or too awake, consider waiting until the baby is more relaxed.



Make sure the baby is in a position where the hand can hang almost straight down for the molding procedure.

**DO NOT WAIT TO DO THE CASTING PART.
PROCEED IMMEDIATELY FOR BEST RESULTS.**

POURING THE CAST

17. Open the LifeCAST bag and roll down the sides about half way.
18. Fill the enclosed measuring cup with tap water and pour it into the bag (3.5 ounces).
19. Squeeze out the extra air like you did before, grab the neck of the bag tightly and mix like you mixed the alginate. Pay particular attention to the bottom corners.
20. With a pair of scissors, cut off about 1-inch of the bottom corner of the bag. Be careful not to spill the stone mixture.
21. Pour a small amount (about 1/3 full) of the stone mixture into the mold. Set down the bag.
22. Tip the mold over so that the finger holes are pointing down. Tap the side of the plastic cup a dozen times or so. You are doing this to work the stone mixture down into those fingers. No air can remain in the finger holes ore the casting will not come out well. If a little stone mixture drips out, don't worry about it.
23. Add more stone mixture until the mold is almost full. Tap the side of the plastic cup a dozen more times. This drives out any trapped air bubbles.
24. Fill the mold the rest of the way with the stone mixture. Tap the sides of the plastic cup again several dozen times.
25. Wait for at least 1 hour, but not more than 3 hours before unmolding.



UNMOLDING

26. With a pair of scissors, make a small cut on the top rim of the plastic cup. Crack the cup down the side and slide out the alginate mold.
27. With a small kitchen knife, begin cutting the alginate away from your hand cast. Do this slowly and carefully because the tiny fingers in the casting are delicate and can easily break if too much force is applied. Be especially careful when removing the alginate from around the fingers. Take the alginate off in very small pieces.
28. You may need to use a small tool like a toothpick to remove the last small traces of alginate from in between the fingers.

CLEANING UP THE CASTING

There are three types of imperfections common in baby hand castings.

1. Completely Missing Fingers- caused by not getting stone mixture into the finger parts of the mold.
2. Distorted Fingers- caused by the baby moving their fingers during the critical few seconds when the alginate was setting or held onto some alginate when the hand was being removed.
3. Surface Imperfections- these take the form of bubbles (innies or outies) or little “rivers” in the stone cast- usually on the back of the hand or wrist area.

Problems #1 and #2 are difficult to fix and require resculpting the fingers involved. Problem #3 can be fixed quite easily and this is what we will concentrate on here.

29. “Outie” bubbles sit on the surface like a little round bump. Most of the time they are in anatomical creases of the palm. Small ones can be found on the fingernails and in the small creases of the knuckles. These all can be carefully removed with a sharp knife by scraping or cutting them off. If you have a magnifying lens, you will be able to see these imperfections better.

30. “Innie” bubbles are like little holes in the surface of the stone. These you must fill with more stone. Here’s how. Wet the surface of the casting. Mix a small amount of LiquiStone (from the small bag). With the enclosed popsicle stick, put a little stone mixture into the hole. Carefully wipe any extra stone off with your fingertip or a small tool.

31. Little “Rivers” in the surface of the stone are caused by water running up between the alginate and the setting stone. They can be fixed the same way we fix “innie” bubbles (described in #30 above).

PAINTING YOUR CASTING

Wait a couple of days to allow your casting to dry before painting. You can use any type of paint. Acrylics, oils or spraypaints. Krylon and others make wonderful metallic paints that can make your casting look like bronze, copper, gold, pewter or brass. Be careful with white and gold spraypaints as they have a lot of pigment and can quickly fill in all the details. A clear finish will protect your cast from dirt and skin oils.

Included in the kit:

- 2 bags of HandGEL alginate
- 1 bag of LifeCAST casting stone
- 1 plastic molding cup
- 1 thermometer
- 1 small bag of LifeCAST, popsicle stick
- 1 water measuring cup (for the LifeCAST)
- Instructions



If you have questions about or problems with this kit, visit our website- www.LifeCastingArts.com or contact the Retail Art Store that sold you this kit.

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