
MAN CRATES
PROJECTS
BREAK
THE
MOLD
DIY LURE MAKING GUIDE
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LURE ALLURE

Some say, “You can catch more flies with honey than vinegar,” to which we’ve always replied, “Why the heck are you wasting your time catchin’ flies when there are fish to be had?” Some people just don’t get it.

The secret to reeling in the real big ones is to have the most alluring lure in the water. Those mass-produced, shelf-stocked lures aren’t catching any fish’s attention, or any fish at all for that matter.

If you want the bite, you’ve got to delight.

The Lure Making Kit gives you the gear and guidance to mix and mold tantalizing, one-of-a-kind lures that’ll entice even the most prudent of fish.


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The Molds

We've partnered with Lure Craft, the finest fish tantalizers this side of the water's surface, to design three unique, soft-bait lure injection molds. Made in America with polycarnobate plastic to withstand the high temperatures of lure making, these molds include quick-release spring clips for the easiest, peasiest of removals.

The Materials

Plastisol may sound like an as-seen-on-TV, pseudo-science superpill, but it's actually a soft plastic that begins in liquid form. Once heated to a molten 350˚F, plastisol cools into a solid, yet flexible plastic, kind of like a real worm.

We've also included color, glitter, and fish-attracting scent options so you can experiment to find the most alluring lure. You'll also find a glass measuring cup for all your plastic heating needs. It's important you only use this container. The plastic can reach temperatures that are too hot to handle for most containers, and microwaves are expensive.

* **Additional Equipment:** You will need access to a microwave and cooking oil or spray. A candy thermometer is also nice to have.

SAFETY

You'll be heating the plastisol in your microwave to over 350˚F, a range of heat scientists refer to as "really freakin' hot." Again, ***never use plastic containers*** unless you really enjoy microwave shopping or severe burns.

Don't heat more than a half cup of plastic at a time.

Always wear heat-resistant gloves when handling the measuring cup. Remember: ***hot glass looks like cold glass.***

Finally, make the molds in a ***well-ventilated area***. The molten plastic can have a strong smell, so open a window and run a fan to get the air moving. Feel free to wear a mask for theatrics.

HEATING UP

Safety first! Set up any necessary ventilation equipment and don your heat-resistant gloves. Shake the plastisol bottle before use each time, then pour one half cup or less into your measuring cup.

Heat the plastisol in your microwave for one minute. Remove the glass cup and stir the plastic with a metal utensil, like a knife or spoon, to ensure it heats evenly. Continue microwaving in 20-second intervals until it reaches 350˚F.

If you don't have a thermometer, employ the equally respectable scientific method of guess-and-check. The plastisol should be very runny, but not yet smoking. If it is not stirring easily, heat a little longer. If you see vapor coming off the plastic, it needs to cool for a bit or the lure will have air bubbles.

Don't sress, you can always melt the mold back down and try again with only your precious time being wasted.

Time to get crafty! Dust off your art school beret, and begin selecting the materials you'll need to express the depths of your soul. If your soul is rather simple, that's fine too.

If you're using glitter or scent, mix these ingredients first. We recommend about one teaspoon of glitter and a half teaspoon of scent per half cup of plastic, but don't let us put a damper on your ~~artsy-fartsiness~~ creative genius.

When mixing colors, start with around five drops then add as necessary to reach your desired hue. Mix thoroughly for a fully homogenous blend of color, or get fancy and leave partially mixed swirls.

A good rule of thumb is to ask yourself, "If I were a fish, would I risk potentially life-threatening consequences to swallow this?"

PRO-TIP: Save your scraps. Even hardened plastisol can be reheated over and over. A few minutes in the microwave can breathe new life into old leftovers, just like your mama's casserole.

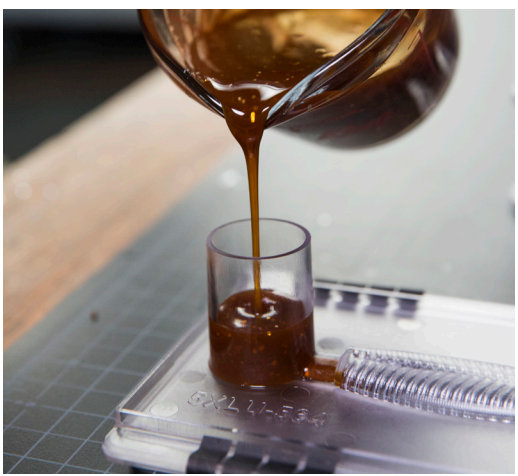
MOLDING

Time to get a hold of those molds.

To prep the mold, remove the clips and separate the halves.

Coat the inside of each mold with cooking spray, or use a brush and cooking oil. This will make the finished product easier to remove. If there's any plastic stuck on the molds from previous use, clean them thoroughly and re-grease.

Close the molds, and snap the clips back into place.

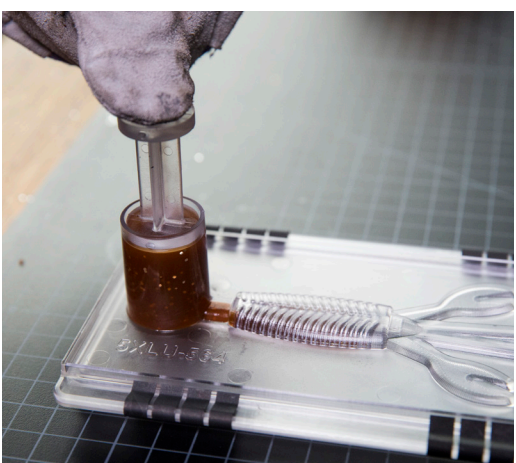


Lay the mold flat, and carefully pour your plastisol into the the hopper until it's about ¾ full.

Next, place the plunger into the hopper and inject plastic until the mold is about ½ full.

Finally, rotate the mold until it's vertical with the hopper at the bottom and the overflow on top, so the air bubbles can escape out the top like the cowards they are. Then, press the plunger to force the plastisol into the mold until it's completely filled.

Maintain a small amount of pressure on the plunger for about a minute.



Let the plastic cool for another minute until it's reached a temperature that is safe to touch. Then, remove the clips, open the mold, and extract your new favorite lure. Pull or cut off the bits at the ends, and save the scraps for future lures.

You can also pull off any extra plastic from the seam of where the two halves of the mold met. This is called "flashing," and it's caused when the mold is filled too quickly or forcefully. Whip that tidbit out at your next Amateur Lure Making Conference, and reel in the reverence.

TROUBLESHOOTING

I'm getting bubbles and cavities in my lure as the mold cools!

Don't worry, we had that problem our first time too. As the plastisol cools, it actually contracts and shrinks. As it contracts, it pulls in air to fill the gaps. Solve this issue by not heating the plastisol as hot before molding.

The plastisol is kind of sandy.

This is another case of heating the plastisol too hot, but in this instance, it's actually been burned beyond plastisol recognition. Unfortunately, this can't be fixed by reheating, and you'll need to throw it out.

Sometimes the arms of the lures don't fill up.

Remember what we said about mixing thoroughly. Something is clogging the mold. It could be a load of glitter or just a glob of unheated plastisol. Some microwaves don't do a good job of heating evenly, often resulting in areas that are overheated or still cool. Stirring at several intervals during heating should resolve this issue.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