

# Cabachon Casting Project



Have you ever searched for an eye catching cabochon as a centrepiece for a beading project?

Now you can make your own in the colours that you want, to match beads or an outfit.

By Clare John

## TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- ✓ Silicone Cabochon Mould
- ✓ Acrylic Block
- ✓ Newspaper
- ✓ Barrier Cream
- ✓ Kitchen Roll
- ✓ Plastic Cups
- ✓ Digital Scales
- ✓ 15g bottle Clear Base Resin
- ✓ 15g bottle Hardener with pipette
- ✓ Mixing Sticks
- ✓ 15g bottle Blue Transparent Resin
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Skeleton Leaf
- ✓ Tweezers
- ✓ Assorted Beads
- ✓ Cocktail Sticks
- ✓ Tube Glitter
- ✓ Parchment Paper 10cm square
- ✓ 30g jar Regalia Blue Paste
- ✓ Wet & Dry abrasive paper 180 or 240 grade

## STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

### STEP 1



Make sure the mould is dust free and then put it on the acrylic block. This will make the mould stable so it can be moved about without spilling the resin. Cover your work area with newspaper to protect it.

## STEP 2



Rub a pea sized amount of barrier cream into your hands. Do not eat or drink while you are using the resin, this ensures nothing goes in your mouth that should not. If you get anything on your hands wipe it off with kitchen roll. Wash your hands when you have finished and apply more cream when you start work again.

## STEP 3



Put a plastic cup on the digital scales and turn them on. Measure 3g of clear base resin into the cup and then add 1.5g of hardener using the pipette. The resin mix formula is 2 parts resin to 1 part hardener by weight. Use a mixing stick to stir the mixture thoroughly. Pour the resin mix into the silicone mould so that it is about halfway up the mould. Leave in a warm dust-free place to set overnight.

## STEP 4



Test the resin to make sure it is not liquid. Make another resin mix by putting 2 drops of blue transparent resin into a cup and add clear resin to it so the total weight is 1g. Add 0.5g hardener. Mix and pour a thin layer of pale blue resin into the mould then add your decoration; I have cut up a skeleton leaf and put that in with some beads.

## STEP 5



Make sure the leaf and beads are where you want them to be, move them around with a cocktail stick if necessary. Sprinkle a tiny amount of glitter in now and leave the piece to set in a warm place again.

## STEP 6



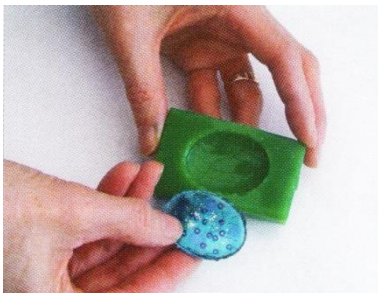
Make a resin mix of 1g base resin and 0.5g hardener and mix thoroughly. Put a blob of resin onto the parchment paper and add a speck of regalia blue paste. Mix completely with a mixing stick so that there are no streaks. Now add drops of the blue resin to the piece but do not cover the back completely. Leave to set.

## STEP 7



Make a clear resin mix of 2g resin to 1g hardener and pour this into the mould so that it reaches the top. Leave to set.

## STEP 8



Now is the moment of truth! When you are certain that the resin is hard you can take it out of the mould. You will have a lovely shiny cabochon showing the leaf, beads and glitter. If the back is not flat put the wet and dry paper in the sink and wet it, then rub the cabochon down making sure that you keep it wet to contain the dust.

### DESIGNER TIPS

- ★ Resin is an amazingly versatile material and you do not need expensive equipment. The process is simple, mix two liquids together, measured by weight, and a chemical reaction will occur. The resin will set hard and shiny overnight. You can add colours, beads, threads, sequins, skeleton leaves and much, much more; even better each piece will be unique.
- ★ Use very transparent resin colours as opaque resin does not give depth to the cabochon and you can make the final layer a different colour to add interest.