

How to Create your own Epoxy Resin Stickers

By Myléne Hillam

This is a great way to make your own epoxy resin stickers and embellishments.

You'll need the following items:

- Doming resin; I use Easy Cast Resin because it's very clear and readily available
- Some images; I chose Butterfly Garden from Christina Re
- Scissors or a hole punch
- White adhesive such as Mod Podge (optional) and a paintbrush
- Small disposable measuring cups. Make sure they have measurements marked up the side.
- Stir sticks for mixing the resin
- A firm, non stick surface to work on such as a Nordic Ware non stick pan or a Teflon coated craft sheet (an appliqué mat or Tim Holtz craft sheet);
- An applicator for applying the resin such as a wooden stirrer, a toothpick, a dry paintbrush or even a plastic pipette with a fine nozzle. You will throw this item away at the end of your session, so don't use your best paintbrush; and
- Gloves to protect your hands. Always follow the safety recommendations on the packaging just to be safe.



You can punch out your images or, if you're feeling very patient, cut around your images carefully. Cut or punch out several images as you'll want to do this in a large batch.



This next step is optional. Seal each side of the image with Mod Podge, paying particular attention to the cut edges. A thorough, even coat will prevent the resin seeping through and causing what looks like an oily stain on your image. This will also keep your images looking true to colour. Make sure they are completely dry before proceeding. I omitted this step for my butterflies because I wanted to take advantage of that "oily look" which makes the images more translucent. Place the sealed images on the non stick surface.



Next, mix the resin according to the manufacturer's instructions. You will only need to mix a really small amount, about 5 to 10mls in total for a project of this size. Work in a well ventilated room and make sure you follow the instructions on the packaging to the letter. If the manufacturer says measure equal quantities, then make sure you measure and mix *equal* quantities. Don't add extra hardener just to make sure - the resin will cure properly without adding extra. If you are using Easy Cast, you must double mix the resin as per the instructions. This will ensure great results every time.



Now, using your applicator of choice, apply the resin in a thin coat across the surface of your images. Try to keep the resin within the cut edges of the image so that you get the doming effect. You will most likely have some seepage underneath and that's OK. It just means you won't need to coat the second side and because you're working on a non stick surface it will just peel off when it's cured. Apply a second coat once the first one has gelled as you will find the resin will pull away from the edges. This will give you the nice domed shape. Hold the image with a toothpick or other pointed object so it doesn't move around.



Gently blow through a straw to pop any air bubbles which are still in the surface of the resin. Alternatively, you can quickly pass a flame (such as a lighter) over the surface to pop them but take great care that the resin does not catch alight as it is flammable at this point.

Cover your images with a shoebox or similar object to keep the dust off them whilst they cure. Set the tray and lid aside to cure. They'll cure faster in warmer weather than they will in the cold - I usually leave them for between 8 to 12 hours and then coat the back if it didn't get a coating when I coated the front.



Once they're fully cured (approximately 24 hours) lift them off the tray using a toothpick or needle tool to gently lift the edge. Your images are now waterproof and can even be used in jewellery making. Or continue on with the next step to make them into stickers.



Place the cured images into the chute of the Xyron Sticker Maker and pull the tape out the other end.



Burnish the edges of the sticker to make sure no globs of the adhesive are exposed when you remove the top film. Leave them attached to the carriers until you're ready to use them in a project.



I used my butterflies in a mixed media necklace but they would look equally beautiful in a papercraft project.

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