

## PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE MIXING

This information applies to Prosthetic Grade Alginates such as Accu-Cast, Kryolan's Magic Cast, and Prosthetic Grade Cream. Prosthetic alginates, which set in several minutes, are used for casting parts of the face and body. Dental Alginate, which sets in about one minute, is used to make casts of the teeth.

Alginate molding compounds were originally formulated for making dental impressions because they provide extreme accuracy in a flexible, fast-setting medium. Makeup artists quickly recognized the advantages of these molding compounds for casting the face and other parts of the human body.

Alginate is easy to use for casting hands, noses, ears, and the eye areas. This material can't be used to make an impression of the open eye. This effect is achieved later by sculpting over the plaster positive. is excellent for making molds of larger areas of the body but setting time becomes an issue. You can adjust the time set by increasing the amount of water a little, decreasing the temperature of the water, or you can use Kryolan's Retarder (Cat. No. K02702). Retarders do adversely affect the strength of the alginate.

### HELPFUL HINTS

Cold water will retard the setting time and warm water will speed it up. Retarder can also be used to retard the setting time.

Adding more water than is recommended will make the mixture thinner and will slow down the setting time.

A slightly thinner mixture might be advisable for making an impression of the hand on a flat surface, while a thicker mixture would be better for casting a nose or something in a vertical position. Try to cast parts in the position they will be seen, for example cast a live person standing up or a corpse lying down.

Alginate will not stick to itself after gelatin has taken place unless Kryolan's Bonding Agent (Cat No. K02703) is used.

One cup of is sufficient to make a mold of a hand or of a forehead and nose. It requires three cups of to cover a face and neck.

Because alginate molds are flexible, it will probably be necessary to reinforce them with a shell of plaster or plaster bandage. Baby hands can be molded right in a 8 oz mixing cup. The strengthening is necessary to prevent the mold from collapsing and to support the weight of the casting material. If the casting plaster cannot be prepared at once, the mold can be wrapped temporarily in a damp towel. Do not soak the mold in water as the alginate can swell. Shrinkage will occur when the alginate begins to lose moisture.

It is suggested that you do not attempt to cast a full face as a first project. You should first experiment with simpler projects such as casting a nose or a hand. The Special Effect Supply internet Site has the complete instructions for how to cast a face. Many new makeup books also have at least one section devoted to this technique, recommend books are:

Lee Baygan's, Techniques of 3-D Makeup  
Richard Corson's, Stage Makeup  
Vincent Kehoe's, Special Make-Up Effects

All three titles are available from Special Effect Supply Co.

## INSTRUCTIONS

### PREPARATION

Because you will have to work quickly, have everything ready before you start:

- Have all tools and materials assembled, including towels and cleanup water.
- Measure Alginate and water into separate containers.
- Tear or cut plaster bandages into appropriate lengths.
- Have a shallow pan of water for the plaster bandages.

### PROPORTIONS

**Best Method (start with these ratios and adjust to your needs)**

**For PGC or 390:** Use 1 part Alginate by weight to 3 parts Water by weight.

**For 680:** Use 1 part Alginate by weight to 5 parts water by weight.

**For 880:** Use 1 part Alginate by weight to 5.2 parts water by weight.

**Example for PGC:** 100 grams Alginate with 300 grams water equals 400 grams total.

Adjust this ratio as desired.

### **Second Best Method (for PGC)**

1 cup Alginate

1 1/4 cups water, 70 to 76 degrees F

Stir water into Alginate

Add a little more water if needed

Mix with a spatula until creamy (about 1 minute)

Apply alginate mixture with the spatula, working as rapidly as possible.

### SUGGESTIONS for LARGER PROJECTS

Use a hand mixer at high speed for large amounts.

Use warm water with Retarder when casting torso as cold water causes goose flesh and is a shock to the body.

Have two people prepare and apply the alginate and plaster bandages.

NOTE: Alginate doesn't stick to itself after it has gelled, Use Kryolan Bonding Agent for this.

FILE: Alginate Instructions

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Special Effect Supply Corp.

164 East Center ST • North Salt Lake, UT 84054

(801) 936-9762 • FAX: (801) 936-9763

Toll Free: 888-648-8810

[www.fxsupply.com](http://www.fxsupply.com)

[spl\\_efx@xmission.com](mailto:spl_efx@xmission.com)