

Hollow Form Casting; Packing Tape

Watch this video of artist Mark Jenkins creating sculptures with students using packing tape and plastic wrap.

[Preview YouTube video Mark Jenkins Yarat MANIMALS 2013](#)

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Hollow Form Casting, Packing Tape and Plastic Wrap

Tape Options

- Packing Tape is ideal for this application. (Clear wide tape for sealing boxes.)
 - The thicker “heavy duty” tapes are good for larger sculptures with less detail. An example being a cast of your arm or leg.
 - The thinner “light duty” packing tape is less sticky and thinner and is good for smaller sculptures with more detail.
- 3-4 layers of tape over the object should be sufficient for both types of tape.

Materials Needed; Packing Tape



Materials needed; Plastic Wrap

Saran wrap/ plastic wrap

This is great material for adding a layer to your object that acts as a mold release. If you start with a layer of plastic wrap around your object first you can then wrap the packing tape sticky side down (onto the object with plastic wrap already applied) and it will not stick to your object. 2-3 layers of tape on top of the plastic wrap layer will be enough to hold its form.



Materials Needed, Something Sharp

In addition to the packing tape and plastic wrap you will also need something sharp to cut through these materials to release them from your object.

- An **exacto blade/ box cutter/ utility knife** will work on a found object, note that it will cut into the object slightly so be cautious in what objects you decide to use.

- A sharp pair of scissors will work great especially if you are making a hollow cast of a body part. This way you can get one end of the scissors in between the tape layer and your skin and cut a parting line that allows you to safely remove the hollow tape casting. A small pair of blunt nose scissors works well and is safer than pointy end scissors.



Step One, There are two methods in which to start making your hollow cast object using packing tape.

1) Wrap your chosen object with plastic wrap thus creating a layer that will not let the tape stick to your object. Then proceed to wrap your object in packing tape sticky side down on top of the plastic wrap layer. If the plastic wrap slides around you can tape it to the object so that you can pull on it and wrap it tightly around your object.

Then proceed to wrap your object in at least 2-4 (depending on the size of your object) layers of tape making sure to adhere the tape to the form. You can use small pieces to capture small details.



Step One

2) You can also go straight to using the packing tape and forego the plastic wrap step. To do this wrap your object using the packing tape sticky side up, so the non-stick side is against your object. If you need to use a small piece of tape to adhere the length of sticky side up tape to your object. This will allow you to pull on the tape without it sliding around.

Then proceed to wrapping your object with the packing tape sticky side down. Create at least 3-4 layers for enough strength that it will hold its form when you remove the object.

In this case I used method 1 and wrapped the object in plastic wrap first. Then went sticky side down with the tape.



Step One



Removing the Object

Step Two

Before you remove your object have a plan as to where you are going to make your cuts in order to free the tape casting from your object. I have made black lines so you can see where I am going to cut.

To remove your object from the layers of tape use either your scissors or an exacto blade/ utility knife/ box cutter depending on the type of object you chose to use.

Depending on the object you might only need one cut up the length of the object to remove it. Example being a banana or your arm. Other more complex objects (a coffee maker, lamp, baseball cap...) might require several cuts into several pieces. In this case it is good to make marks along the cut line so they match up later when you put the tape casting back together. I can work with you to decide on where to make your cuts and how many you may need.



Removing the Object

I ended up not needing to make that many cuts to remove the object due to the flexibility of the tape Which will make it easier to reassemble.

Step Two



Step Three

Reattaching your tape casting.

The next step is to reattach your tape casting into a complete form that matches your original object. To do this you will need to realign the parts and seams and tape them back together. By using the same packing tape as before you will ensure that your seam will disappear and blend perfectly back into the sculpture.

If you feel that the sculpture needs more strength or rigidity, you can wrap a layer or two more around your object.



Step Three Reattaching the parts

I just used thin scotch tape at first to reattach the parts. Once I had the seams lined up and secured I went back with the thicker packing tape to ensure the connections were strong.



Step Three

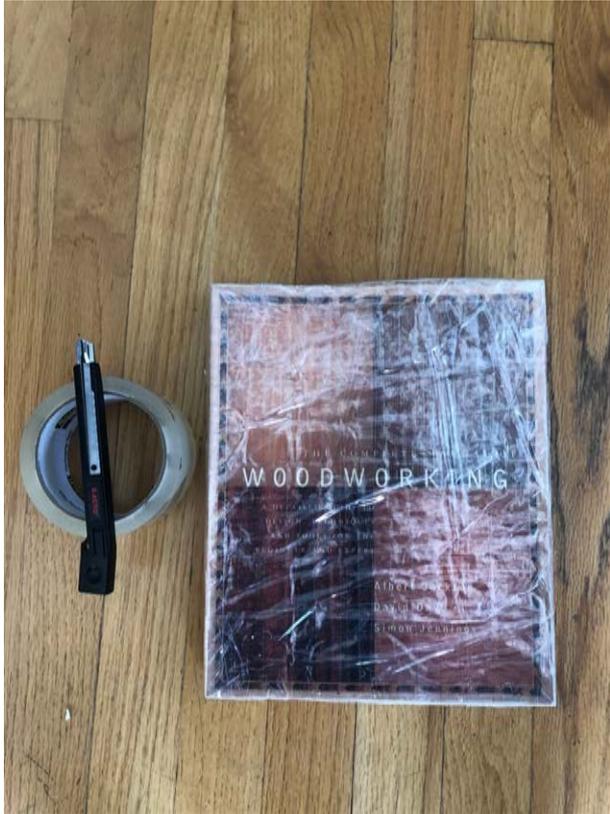
Reattaching the parts

All Done !

Here is an image of the original coffee maker, the tape casting of it and the paper mache casting I did earlier.



Other examples



Other examples



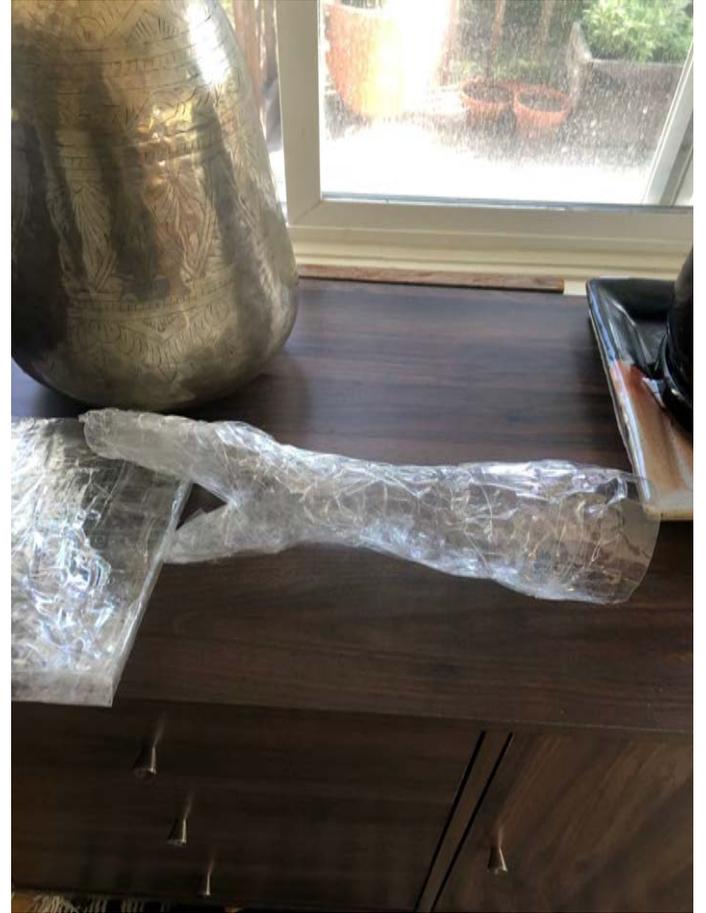
Other examples



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