

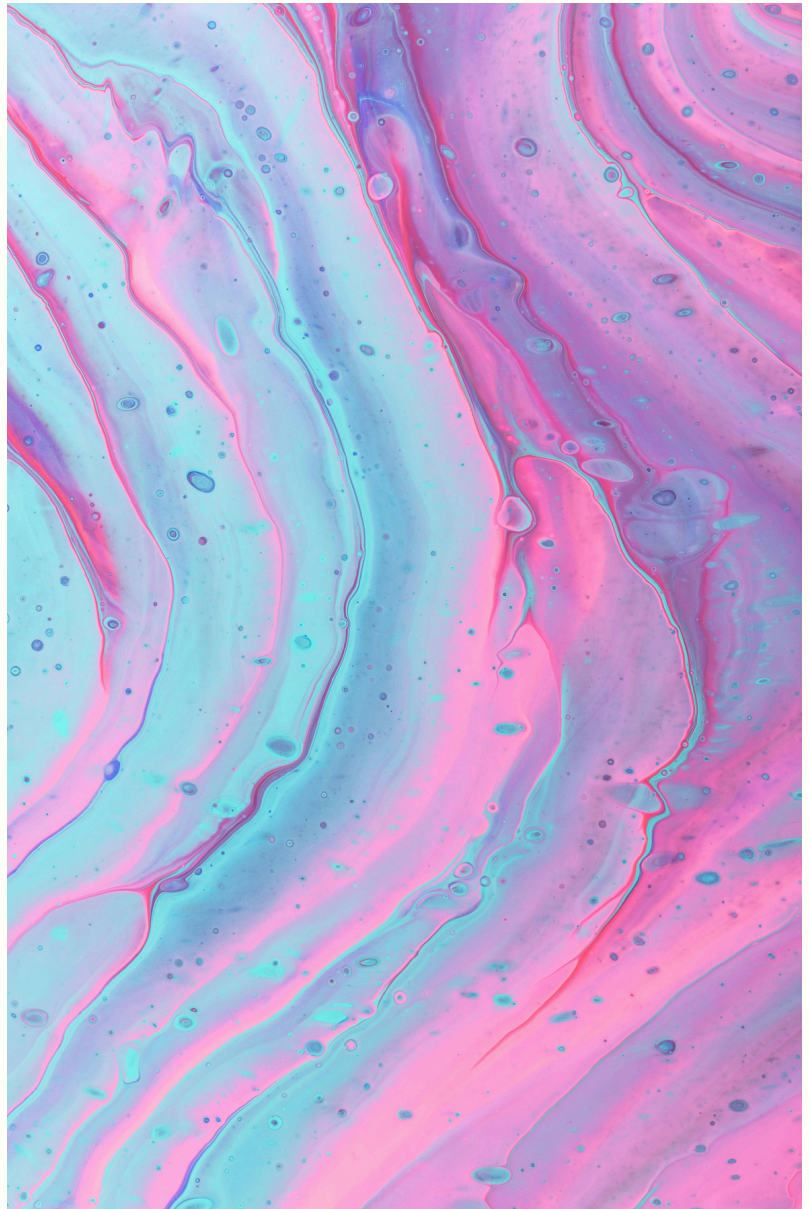
RESIN CRAFTS

MY JOURNEY INTO THE WILD WORLD OF RESIN POURING

Resin pouring is a beautifully versatile art medium. There are endless possibilities of colour combinations, and no two pours will ever look exactly the same – this uniqueness is one of many reasons that I find myself returning to resin time and time again! Your creations will always be fresh, and peeling away the moulds never fails to be a heart-stoppingly exciting event with often breathtaking results.

There is also no shortage of project ideas and inspiration online for epoxy resin crafts. Home décor, jewellery, notebook covers, decorative chopping boards – if you can find a mould, you can make it out of resin! I personally find myself drawn towards large decorations that bring a pop of colour to an otherwise plain wall, earring charms and pendants that are hard-wearing with a delicate look for daily use, and pretty coasters and bookmarks to give to friends as gifts on birthdays, Christmases, even housewarming celebrations!

With resin, preparation is key. To start working with resin, you need basic protective equipment like gloves, a suitable mask for your resin, and a well-ventilated workspace alongside all your supplies. Resin work requires advanced planning before starting a project – it is difficult to improvise with resin, because you need specific dyes, inserts and moulds ready and at hand to use. Another difficulty with resin is that you need to invest in your materials upfront before you can get a feel for the craft; whereas with crochet you can buy one hook and one ball of yarn to test the waters with, for a single resin bookmark you need resin, dye, moulds, additives like glitter or pressed flowers, a mould releaser, UV light source if required, mixing cups and stirrers specifically for resin work, and protective equipment.



I would recommend taking enough time to sketch out your ideas in detail, including materials required, and making notes on the process before starting so you have a solid idea of what you're using, when, and in what ratio. This includes reading the label on your resin – they often require different curing times!



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As with every craft, perfecting your resin-pouring skills takes time and experience. I like to embrace the unique properties of resin as an art material: I approach a project with an idea of the colours I would like to use and their order of application, and then let the resin decide how the colours will lie within the project. This can have unpredictable results and certainly comes with its fair share of failures – I have several would-be-earring charms that I've hidden in a drawer out of shame – but I find that, as I learn more about the medium and how my dyes and additives work together, this produces the most beautiful and exciting results.

Generally speaking, I view myself as something of a perfectionist with my crafts – if a project of mine doesn't go exactly to plan, I can really struggle with it, refusing to allow it into the world via either my store or my blog and repeating projects over and over again without finishing them until they reach my impossibly high standards. Resin encourages me to go with the flow and embrace imperfections, mistakes and flaws as a part of the process; preparation is important, but you can't plan everything. Often, these "flaws" add to the charm and character of the finished objects. As Bob Ross famously said, they're not mistakes but just happy accidents.

