

The Compleat Sculptor presents...

Creating Drapery for a Life Cast Torso

Creating drapery for life casts is simple using Paverpol, a non-toxic textile hardener.



Materials Used in this Article:

- Torso Cast (any material)
- Transparent Paverpol
- A T-shirt
- Cotton Cord
- Large Bucket

Optional Materials:

- will be discussed at the end of the Project Sheet

Preparation of Work Space:

Paverpol is a textile hardener and once dried cannot be removed from fibers such as clothing or rugs. Cover your work surface (and floor) with plastic for easy cleanup. Wear shop clothes or an apron. Paverpol is non-toxic and gloves are not necessary, simply clean up with soap and water.

Preparation of Materials:

Assemble the materials you wish to embellish your cast with (*Image #1*). Make sure the cast is clean and free of dust and debris.

If using a T-shirt - before dipping it in Paverpol:

Cut the seams and cuffs off the shirt and set them aside. Position the piece of fabric on the torso to plan out the look you want, then cut the fabric accordingly.

Coating the Fabric:

Pour some Translucent Paverpol into a bowl with a wide top to catch the drips while coating the fabric.

Dip the fabric into the Paverpol and work it into the entire piece letting the excess drip back into the bowl (*Image #2 & 3*). It is important to ensure that the entire fabric is evenly coated with Paverpol but not dripping wet. Run the fabric through your hands to remove excess.

Draping the Torso:

You may find it easier to work with gravity and hang the torso vertically, as we have done in this Project Sheet. However you can also lay the cast onto your work surface, especially if you are adding many embellishing features.

Lay the fabric onto the torso in the center of where you would like to fabric to be (*Image #4*). Working from the center, manipulate the ends of the fabric outward and into the shape you desire. If Paverpol gets onto the cast - before it dries simply wipe it off with a damp sponge (the Paverpol could create unwanted texture on the cast or cover the skin texture).



Image #1



Image #2



Image #3



Image #4

Once the fabric is in place the next step is to dip and add the embellishments (*Image #5 & 6*). For this project we have added cotton cording. Dip the cord into the Paverpol and run it through your fingers, removing any excess Paverpol. Place the coated cord onto the cast. We have attached the ends of the cords to hold them in place until the Paverpol becomes tacky enough to hold them (*Image #7*). We used a small piece of plastic wrap between the clips and the Paverpol piece so that the clips would not stick (*Image#8*).

The Paverpol will turn clear and stiffen overnight but can take up to two weeks to fully harden and dry depending on temperature and humidity of your work space.

Once the Paverpol has completely dried there are a wide variety of finishes that can be applied. No finishing may be required if the cast was painted before being draped and colored fabric was used. Paverpol can also be painted or metal coated. Paverpol dries with a slight sheen, if a matt finish is desired apply a matt sealer once the piece is completely dry.

Other Materials:

There are many variations on this project; for example the cast could be made of plaster, polyurethane or AquaResin and the fabric could be colored or textured. Materials such as lace or crochet or even actual clothing could be used. Paverpol works best with natural materials but synthetic fabrics can also be used. This Paverpol drapery technique can be used on sculpted figures made of Polymer, epoxy, air-dry or kiln fire clays. Another popular technique involves fleshing out an aluminum armature with tin foil and then draping it with Paverpol coated fabrics and other natural fibers. Paverpol can also be tinted with high quality powdered pigments, even Glo-in-the-Dark powders.

TIPS:

- While coating fabric with Paverpol do not wring the fabric; it causes uneven coating.
- Paverpol can be used with many materials including burlap, felt, fiberglass cloth or paper towels.
- The thicker the fabric - the more Paverpol it will absorb - the stronger it will be when dried.
- Since Transparent Paverpol is clear once dried – colored and patterned materials can be used.
- Paverpol will **darken colors** even when dry! Always dip a test piece to see what the dried color will be.
- Use Paverpol coated fabric to drape any form made from foam to wood!

For more information on Paverpol – see our website at www.SCULPT.com

Next weeks Project Sheet: Creating a Metal Finish on the Draped Torso.



Image #5



Image #6



Image #7



Image #8

Upcoming Project sheets:

Patina Options for Life Casts
Sculpting a Styrofoam Form

Please email us at TCS@SCULPT.com if you have suggestions for Project Sheets you would like to see or questions or comments about our Project Sheets. If you have images of artworks you have created using our Project Sheets that we could post online, please email those as well!



The Compleat Sculptor

90 Vandam Street New York NY 10013

www.SCULPT.com

800-9-SCULPT

“You Supply the Talent...
We'll Supply the Rest!”