

The Compleat Sculptor presents...

Easy Finishing Options for a Life Cast Torso



Once you have any sculptural or textural elements to the torso cast here two simple finishing options.

Materials Used in this Article:

- Torso Cast (any material)
- Brown & Clear Wax
- Copper & Bronze Metal Coatings
- Dye Oxide Black & Burgundy Patina
- Stir Sticks, Soft Brushes & Cloths

Antique Plaster Colored Wax Patina

For this draped torso, we will achieve an aged plaster look with brown wax. A subtle patina was desired therefore the wax was not heavily applied and much of the wax was wiped away to show the white of the piece.

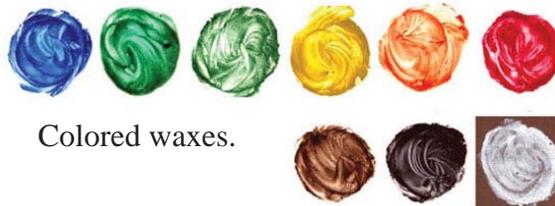
Step 1: Paint the entire surface white and let dry completely.

Step 2: With a stiff brush apply brown wax to the entire surface (Image #1 & #2) – being careful to get wax into all the nooks and crannies.

Step 3: Using a paper towel wipe off the wax on the high points of the drapes leaving the wax in the crevases to give the drapery more depth (Image #3). More wax can be added and removed until the desired look is achieved. Let the wax dry and harden.

Step 4: When the wax is dry, rub the entire surface with a soft, clean cloth to buff the wax and bring up the shine (Image #4). If a matt surface is desired – skip this step and leave the wax un-buffed and matt.

For this patina we used brown wax but you could use any color or a mixture of colors. The wax can be applied thick or thin or it can be rubbed off in certain places before it dries creating interesting effects. Try using many colored waxes on one piece or adding mica powders or opalescence to the wax.



Colored waxes.



Sculpture by H.L. Dadak

This is an example of a different application of wax. This piece started as a plaster torso cast (completely white). Brown wax was applied liberally to the entire surface and none was rubbed off. Once the wax was dry the piece was buffed with a soft cloth.



Image #1



Image #2



Image #3



Image #4



Metal Coating

For this torso we wanted a simple copper finish. The casting material (AquaResin) was tinted with a reddish pigment as a base for the copper coating (Image #5).

Step 1: Stir the metal coating liberal to disperse the metal within the coating for best coverage. Stir occasionally during use.

Step 2: Using a clean, soft brush apply the metal coating to the torso cast (Image #6). Let dry and apply a second coat (Image #7). At this stage you could add a patina to the copper, we chose to leave it just copper.

Step 3: Once the metal coating is dry apply a clear wax to seal the metal coating, let dry, then buff.



Image #5



Image #6



Image #7



Metal Coating & Burgundy Patina

For this torso we coated it with a Bronze metal coating then added black and burgundy patina to add depth to the texture.

Follow Steps 1 & 2 as above.

Step 3: Brush Burgundy Patina over the entire piece, making sure it gets into all the details of the texture. While the patina is still wet use a clean cloth to wipe the patina from the high areas of detail. Apply and wipe until you are happy with the coverage. Let dry.

Step 4: Apply one coat of Dye Oxide Black over the entire surface and let dry. This will make the details of the texture stand out more.

Step 5: Optional – Using a very dry brush – lightly brush over the entire piece with the metal coating to bring up highlights. Add as little or as much as you like. Let dry.

Step 6: Once the entire piece has dried apply a coat of clear wax or Permalac to seal the patina.

Other patina samples:

Rust patina



Antique Bronze patina



Green patina



Artifact patina



For more information on Colored Waxes & Metal Coatings & Patinas – see our website at www.SCULPT.com

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