

# Instructions For Working With *Friendly Plastic*® Modeling Material

Friendly Plastic® is a non-toxic plastic modeling material which softens quickly and can be formed into almost any shape by using your hands. Simply heat Friendly Plastic® and let your imagination run wild! No special tools are required. It cools and becomes very strong in just five minutes, but can be re-softened for design changes.

## Required Materials

Hot Water (heated in skillet or stove top)  
Heat resistant, non-aluminum bowl  
Non-stick work surface (formica or tile countertop, waxed paper or work mat)  
Cold Water  
Cooking Oil  
Craft Stick  
Sharp Scissors

## Optional Materials

Oven  
Aluminum Foil  
Spatula or egg turner  
Paper towels  
Jewelry Accessories  
E-6000® Glue  
Beads, sequins, rhinestones, feathers, paint and brushes  
Any other jewelry accessories

## Instructions



- A. Plan your design. Cut the plastic strips into shapes according to your proposed design before softening. You may wish to have several pieces ready to soften.

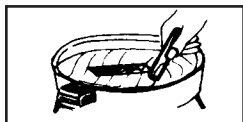
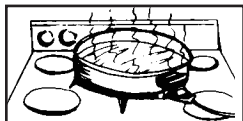
- B. Soften the plastic.

1. Electric skillet. This method enables you to design free-form shapes by crimping, fanning, pleating, rolling or coiling.

- a. Heat water in skillet until temperature reaches 140°F (60°C) to 150°F (66°C). Set control to 150°F (66°C) or less. Most skillets have a low/simmer setting. Test temperature with cooking thermometer. Colors are more brilliant and are easier to work with at these temperatures. Add one or two drops of cooking oil to water to prevent sticking.

- b. Place one plastic stick at a time in hot water (metallic side down if you are using metallic sticks). Let set in hot water for about 30 seconds (150°F, 66°C) to 60 seconds (140°F, 60°C) until shiny (metallic sticks should become almost translucent). **IMPORTANT:** Metallic sticks will lose their metallic appearance if softened too long. Wet hands and remove plastic from hot water using craft stick or metal tool. **TIP:** Softened plastic sticks cannot be separated if they are allowed to touch. Handle softened sticks carefully.

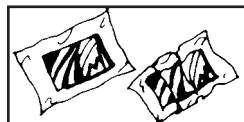
- c. Shape with your hands (plastic will be warm, but should not be too hot to handle). Softened plastic can be molded or textured for further decoration, pressed into AMACO® Jewelry Setting or used to decorate porcelain-like faces. **TIP:** To create new color with non-metallic sticks, soften the plastic and knead them together. The plastic may have to be re-softened and re-kneaded a few times before a color becomes solid. **NOTE:** While plastic is still warm, embed beads, stones, etc. for positioning only. Glue into place later after plastic has completely cooled.



- d. When the desired shape is formed, place in cold water for three to five seconds to set. If piece hardens before desired shape is formed, place back into hot water for a few seconds. Repeat these steps for each piece to be shaped. For solid bonding of two pieces, soften both pieces in hot water until tacky then press firmly together. Place in cold water to reset.

**NOTE:** The above results can also be achieved by heating water on the stove to 140°F (60°C) to 150°F (66°C), pouring it into a heat-resistant, non-aluminum bowl and following the instructions beginning with step "b" above. As water cools, replenish with additional 140°F (60°C) to 150°F (66°C) water.

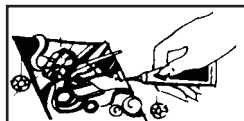
2. Oven. An excellent method for designing two-dimensional or layered designs with Friendly Plastic®.
  - a. Preheat oven to 200°-225°F (93°-107°C).
  - b. Lightly oil a piece of aluminum foil larger than your design. Place on baking sheet oil side up.
  - c. Cut plastic sticks into shapes according to your proposed design before softening.
  - d. Place the plastic sticks on the aluminum foil in the desired pattern. **NOTE:** Intricate designs may require placement and melting of a few pieces at a time.
  - e. Bake your design for one to two minutes. Plastic will melt together. The longer the plastic is left in the oven, the more inlaid and flat the surface will become. Do not leave in oven too long or the plastic will begin to bubble and metallic sticks will lose their metallic appearance.
  - f. Remove from oven (plastic will be warm, but should not be too hot to handle). Softened plastic can be molded or textured for further decoration, pressed into jewelry settings or used to decorate porcelain-like faces. **NOTE:** While plastic is still warm, embed beads, stones, etc. for positioning only, let cool then remove.
  - g. Place your piece in cold water to set for about three to five seconds. Repeat these steps for each piece.



**NOTE:** Two dimensional or layered designs can also be achieved in hot water by placing sticks on a spatula and gently lowering into the water. Do not immerse totally or pieces will float off the spatula. Add sticks as desired to complete your piece.

#### C. Decorate Your Piece.

1. Plastic can be highlighted with acrylic paint, model paint, permanent ink markers or acrylic enamel paint markers.
2. Decorate with beads, sequins, glitter, feathers, etc. or attach to jewelry accessories such as pin backs and earring backs by gluing into place using an adhesive/sealant such as E-6000® Glue. Allow to set at least 24 hours before wearing.



**CAUTION:** Supervise use by small children. Warm Friendly Plastic® will stick to fingernail polish, acrylic fingernails, aluminum, styrofoam, PVC and certain other plastics. Friendly Plastic® will soften or melt at approximately 100°F (38°C). DO NOT expose sticks or finished pieces to direct sunlight or areas of concentrated heat such as in a closed car.

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