



INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR ARTISTS

Your fiberglass lion creation is intended as a permanent outdoor sculpture. It is important that the materials you use to transform your lion be able to withstand the weather conditions of Wisconsin for a period of ten or more years.

SURFACE PREPARATION:

Your lion has arrived pre-primed. The primed layer will need to be lightly sanded with a 400 or finer grade sandpaper. 3M Scotch pads should work for the intricate forms of the lion.

WARNING: DO NOT SAND THROUGH THE PRIMER! Once sanded the surface should be cleaned with a commercial solvent such as acetone or lacquer thinner.

RECOMMENDED PAINTS

OIL-BASED PAINTS (ENAMELS):

You will need to select high quality commercial grade exterior enamel that will not fade over time, such as *1 Shot* sign paint. *1 Shot* is available locally at specialty stores such as (Tower Paint, Sherwin Williams, and Art Haus) in 32 and 8 oz. Sizes. Containers range in price: 32 oz. \$20 + and 8 oz. \$8.49 for Aqua and \$19.00 for gold. The paint has UV protection already in it. *We do not recommend the use of artist oil paints in tubes.* These paints are too slow drying to allow for a final sealant by May.

SEALANT FOR OIL PAINTS:

If enamel paints (such as *1 Shot*) are used to paint the lion it can be clear coated. The clear coat will provide additional UV protection, protects the surface painting and make the surface easier to clean and maintain. *We do not recommend the use of marine sealants as these have a tendency to yellow over time.*

Ken Zeitlow at In-Line Auto Body has offered to answer questions about clear coating your lion.

In-Line Auto Body

Ken Zeitlow

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(corner of Harrison St. and Jefferson St.)

Oshkosh, WI 54901

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ACRYLIC BASED PAINTS:

You will need to select high quality commercial grade exterior latex that will not fade over time, such as *Dupont Imron*. Alternately your lion can be painted with artist grade acrylic paint in tubes that are labeled "lightfast."

SEALANT FOR ACRYLIC PAINTS:

Once dry you will need to seal your acrylic paint with a protective clear finish. We recommend a mineral spirit acrylic varnish with UVLS that will provide UV protection and is rated for exterior use, such as the one made by *Golden*. Locally, *Art Haus* has *Golden* varnish available in sizes up to 32 oz. and is approximately \$35. . *We do not recommend the use of marine sealants as these have a tendency to yellow over time.*

TRANSFORMING THE FIBERGLASS LION:

We request that your lion maintain its structural integrity during transformation. That is that it remain stable, weighted and able to support weights of 150 pounds or more. Fiberglass can be sawn through with a jigsaw fitted with a fine tooth metal cutting blade.

ADDITIVE TECHNIQUES:

Fiberglass can be drilled into with a metal bit and items anchored with a screw or bolt. Make your drill hole slightly smaller than your attaching screw. Any materials that you add to your lion need to be permanent and weatherproof. Dry wall screws can be screwed into the surface halfway, leaving half the screw above the surface. The screw then can be used to secure whatever is being attached. When attaching large and/or heavy items additional supports may be necessary. Any high quality clear silicone caulk (such as *Lifetime* brand) or *Bondo Putty* could be used to seal the surface area between the lion and the object added. It is important to keep in mind however that it is difficult to paint over silicone caulk.

Fiberglass kits such as those made by *Bondo* and *Bondo Putty* can be purchased at auto supply stores and hardware stores. *Bondo Putty* or other similar material will work well for sculpting added elements because it remains somewhat flexible when dry. It will not crack and is very durable. We recommend that the hardener be mixed so it sets in around 20 minutes (salmon color).

Bondo Putty will also make a good bonding agent for attaching small items to the lion. It should be used in place of mortar for mosaic designs. *Bondo Putty* will be lighter than mortar and maintains a slight flexibility that will prevent cracking and deterioration of the surface. *Thin Set* is another option for attaching mosaic. Before attaching elements to the surface of the lion score the area going through the primer just into the resin surface of the fiberglass. This will enhance adhesion to the surface.

Clear pure polyester liquid resin can also be used to add items to the lion surface. For example, fabric can be dipped in the resin and applied directly to the scored surface. The resin can also be painted directly on a fabric or other surface to provide a seal, which will make the surface rigid. The resin surface will need to be primed before painting. Pure polyester resins containing UV protection can be purchased locally at local auto supply or hardware stores.

WARNING: READ ALL WARNINGS ON HARDENERS AND RESINS. EPOXY AND POLYESTER RESINS ARE STRONG SENSITIZERS AND CAN CAUSE SEVERE RESPIRATORY IRRITATION. WE RECOMMEND WEARING AN APPROVED RESPIRATOR WHEN WORKING WITH THESE ITEMS.

Also: Whenever using any fiberglass or resin products AVOID ANY CONTACT WITH WATER (including wet brushes) and follow all safety guidelines. Polyester resins will not cure properly if there is any contact with water. When purchasing fiberglass or resins be aware that they do have a shelf life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

T.C. Farley has offered to answer questions you may have about working with the fiberglass or *Bondo* type products and adding other objects to the lion.

He can be reached at:

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