

Rick Raively says [grr, something is wrong with my chat window - Lost the top of the chat](#) 😞

cjwalas says **Your monsters look great, Y! Nothing like what I expected, but GREAT!**

cjwalas says **Yes, I do, Bob. There are several options, all available at your local Hobby shop...if it's any good...**

Ms. pcentral says **Thanks Chris, I tried to make them more like yours, but they seem to have a mind of their own** 😊

cjwalas says **I've used the British-made Milliput before and it works well. There are several different grades of it.**

cjwalas says **I seem to remember using the "Silver-white" grade, which is one of the finer grades.**

cjwalas says **Then there's Tamiya's Epoxy putty, which is a little more expensive for what you get. It works well also.**

SKMoss says Hi gang!

cjwalas says **Steve! Welcome!**

SKMoss says Chris, did you see my "attempt"

Rick Raively says [Hi Pat](#)

Rick Raively says [Hi Steve](#)

BnEgscap says I have been asking at hobby shops and hardware stores. They all look at me like I have a third head. The only thing I found so far is was in a wood working shop for repairing wood.

cjwalas says **The epoxy putty of choice for me is a material called "Magic-sculpt" I believe. This is NOT to be confused with the Crayola brand air-dry kiddy sculpting material.**

SKMoss says <http://gold.mylargescale.com/skmoss/images/figure1.jpg>

BnEgscap says Are these 2 part epoxy systems or is it really putty?

cjwalas says **Magic Sculpt isn't available everywhere (I'll try to track down a website). It started as a taxidermy material and was then adopted by the art community.**

jlcop says *Steve the only bad first figure is the one that was never attempted* 😊

BnEgscap says Steve, I checked it out just before signing on and the pictures were just fine.

SKMoss says JL, I'm giggling. I had to try. Was a lot easier than I thought. Will pump out a few, get the hang of it.

cjwalas says **These are all two part sculpting putties, Bob. Each has a slightly different quality, but all are water-based, a VERY important consideration IMHO.**

SKMoss says Chris, you say not to use Heavy Duty Foil. Why?

cjwalas says **Steve, not bad at all for your first. Is it your first??**

cjwalas says **Heavy duty foil does not compress as well as the normal or thinner stuff.**

SKMoss says ya, got the premo while in DC, tried it last night for fun

jlcop says *Just don't ever throw him away. Steve, I like to compare my latest to the 1st once in awhile* 😊

cjwalas says Epoxy putty can be speeded up (cure time) by heating AT A RELATIVELY LOW TEMPERATURE. Overheating of epoxy causes SERIOUS bad fumes.

SKMoss says JL, he will be front and center in my layout. I'm giggling a lot, but I'm damn proud of him. 😊

cjwalas says Epoxy putty is very good for bashing Cast urethane figures. It adheres very well to it.

cjwalas says Epoxy is also good on styrene, but NOT so good on flexible PVC.

cjwalas says Rick, my whole family just crowded around for that shot!! 😂😂

Rick Raively says why Chris?

cjwalas says So... when bashing figures, use polyclay for vinyl figures and epoxy for the rest.

cjwalas says They look great, Rick.

Rick Raively says were you laughing at the picture?

cjwalas says I told my family there was a figure of me... my younger daughter thought it was Gomer! 😂

cjwalas says My wife was impressed with the quality of your work, Rick.

Ms. pcentral says hehehhehe that's funny!

cjwalas says Let's talk more about bashing figures.

Rick Raively says Sure Chris SURE she is

Rick Raively says COOL, my hammer is ready

cjwalas says Bashing figures is a pretty decent introduction into doing figures.

cjwalas says Seriously, Rick. She said she couldn't do as well.

cjwalas says Bashing figures Can be easier for some people than sculpting.

cjwalas says Changing something is often simpler than creating something.

Rick Raively says yup, just swing the hammer and BASH

Rick Raively says what every happen to Pat and Steve?

cjwalas says The good part of the experience of bashing figs. is that you learn where the joints are.

cjwalas says The legs and arms are already nice and straight where they need to be, so you don't wind up with as much "macaroni elbows".

Ms. pcentral says Creating something out of this world (and not having to paint it is the BEST) 😊

Rick Raively says what figures would be a good starting point?

cjwalas says It's true, Y. Doing something that has no equivalent means no one can COMPARE it to the real thing. It's a LOT easier! Now you know why I decided on making monsters for a living!

Rick Raively says (as Chris falls off his chair, since Rick asked a serious question)

Ms. pcentral says Can I work with you? 😊

cjwalas says Good question, Rick. If all you want to do is have fitted "real" figures...well, it depends on the scale. I prefer working with styrene figures as they cut and glue so easily.

cjwalas says Tamiya makes 1/24 scale racing figures that are a good start. They used to make some 1:20.3 figures as well and some of these are still floating around here and there.

Rick Raively says [How a normal person can tell the difference between a styrene figure and other types](#)

cjwalas says **Another option is polyester castings like the Dept. 56 Christmas figures. The thing to be aware of with Polyester figures is that they wear out saws very quickly!**

cjwalas says **Excellent question, Rick. Vinyl figures tend to be somewhat flexible. Not many flexible figures are made of any other material.**

Rick Raively says [so a bendable figure is normally a good figure to start with?](#)

cjwalas says **Styrene is what model kits are made of. Styrene figures are usually not painted.**

Ms. pcentral says **What Dept 56 people? I thought they were porcelain?**

cjwalas says **It depends, Rick. IF you feel comfortable with polyclay, then vinyl is what will be most comfortable for you.**

cjwalas says **Some are, Y and that's something you want to avoid! Porcelain is a pain, especially to cut. Polyester is that material that is quite hard, even brittle, and often has a slight translucence to it. It's used in many Knick-knack kinds of applications.**

cjwalas says **I should tell you the difference between real porcelain and "cold cast porcelain".**

cjwalas says **Real porcelain is beautifully fine water-based, kiln-fired clay..**

BnEgyscale says Hi John and welcome.

cjwalas says **Cold cast porcelain is polyester resin mixed with porcelain powder. It looks nice, but it isn't the real thing.**

cjwalas says **So, when bashing figures, you need to be aware of a few different considerations.**

Rick Raively says [hmmm, learn about figures and more](#) 🤔🤔🤔

John Howell says Hi Robert! Feel like I just found a bunch of long lost friends. Been offline for over a year! 😞

cjwalas says **When you change the angle of a joint like an elbow or knee, it's not just one cut. It's two.**

cjwalas says **You need to cut out the area that compresses in a real living person. So you need to cut a wedge out of the joint...**

cjwalas says **Otherwise, you wind up with a really ugly elbow!**

cjwalas says **Most epoxy putties are formulated for a four hour cure or more.**

cjwalas says **Welcome, Mark!**

cjwalas says **That's a long time to wait when you want to get a figure done.**

cjwalas says **So heating the uncured epoxy in the oven will speed up the cure.**

Rick Raively says [not at the speed I work at](#) 😞

patseale says I guess I should say hello to everyone also. Hello!

cjwalas says **BUT.. epoxy doesn't tolerate high temps usually and so you only want to heat it to roughly 120 degrees or so.**

patseale says

cjwalas says **Yes, Pat...or is it Patrick. Introduce yourself!**

Ms. pcentral says **How do you hold everything in place?**

John Howell says I'm sorry to keep interrupting off topic. Are we supposed to sit & listen to the master or can we ask questions?

cjwalas says **Heating the epoxy will accelerate the four hour cure to fifteen minutes or less.**

patseale says

Rick Raively says [last time, I had to climb into the oven Y](#)

cjwalas says **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE ask questions!!!**

cjwalas says **I get really bored droning on like this!** 😊

Rick Raively says [ask away John](#)

jlcop says [Ask anytime John!](#) 😊

cjwalas says **Any word on you coming down to the QM, JL? Huh, maybe..please?**

John Howell says Ok, my clay hasn't even arrived yet, but, I want to make a German Shepard first for my layout. Anything different to consider from what you have been teaching us so far?

jlcop says [Still working on her](#) 😊

cjwalas says **Yes, John, there is. Because the dog has thinner limbs than a person, you need to make the armature out of wire and not foil.**

Rick Raively says [good idea JL](#) 🍷🍷

John Howell says Good thing I asked 😊

cjwalas says **Yes, Bob. Fifteen minutes or less should do it. Be very careful not to overheat.**

patseale says [Chris, when you say wire is that just soft copper wire?](#)

cjwalas says **So John, for a wire armature I usually pick up some 26 gauge solid wire at the hardware store (not copper, too soft) and double wind it.**

John Howell says Chris, ok for the wire armature. How do I texture the fur?

cjwalas says **I take a long length of it, put two ends in a vise, run it out to the middle, place the middle in a drill motor and wind away!**

cjwalas says **For fur texture, there are lots of options. A cheap motel comb will work...**

cjwalas says **Or there's a nice six or seven wire tool for sculpting.**

John Howell says I think I read about your winding the wire method before. Why wind it?

cjwalas says **Or you can make a "hair" texture pad using the techniques in FCC3.**

Rick Raively says [how about the wife's hair comb](#)

cjwalas says **It's wound to add strength and to give some surface "grab" so that the polyclay doesn't pop loose from it while you're working.**

BnEgscake says Chris, on a like note, I have a kit of the Budweiser Clydesdales. I was thinking about doing a push mold so I could use the horses in different poses for my other circus wagons. How big should I make the foil armature. Better yet how thick should I make the clay to cover it?

cjwalas says **You're a brave man, Rick..**

cjwalas says **Or just foolish!**

Rick Raively says [only have to run if she catches me. besides one of the boys did it, NOT ME](#)

Ms. pcentral says **Foolish, foolish**

jlcop says [Just Foolish!](#) 🍷🍷🍷

cjwalas says **Bob, I'm trying to remember that kit. It's 1/15 or something like that?**

BnEgyscale says OK, how do you get the hair texture original from which to make the pad?

patseale says

cjwalas says **You can sculpt a small area of texture with a needle tool then make the pad, similar to what I did for the Creature sculpt.**

BnEgyscale says The kit is 1/24. It is an amt-ERTL kit of polystyrene. I got it at an antique mall for \$11. figured that was a steal.

cjwalas says **At that scale , you will definitely need to make wire armatures, unless you want the horse's legs to be really thick.**

Rick Raively says [so the first pad will be time consuming and most likely for us non-pros a trial and error event](#)

cjwalas says **The consideration with animals is the amount of weight VS the amount of support.**

John Howell says Chris, do you have any photos posted in the forums of these wire armatures for small animals?

cjwalas says **Pads are quick, easy and cheap to do. It's worth making few bad ones to get one good one!**

jlcop says *I don't drink alcohol myself but that could change with hanging around Rick 😊*

Rick Raively says [I did Mark, it will be a nice collection for the trash man](#)

cjwalas says **Not yet, John. I'll be demonstrating wire armatures in the next chapter.**

Rick Raively says [I do what I can JL](#)

John Howell says Just like school, I'm going to be reading a chapter a head before I do the work in the chapter behind. 😊

cjwalas says **Red wine is the drink of artists, JL, and good for the heart!**

BnEgyscale says If I use wire armatures in the legs for strength, should I then wind the body with foil to reduce the weight of polyclay?

cjwalas says **It's worth doing the process, John. I think becoming familiar with the material is easy enough, but learning how to interpret what you see into what your hands are doing takes practice!**

cjwalas says **Absolutely, Bob. And not just to reduce weight.**

jlcop says *Rootbeer is the drink of model railroading according to Fletch and I've never booked anyone for too much rootbeer 😊*

Rick Raively says [I only drink water and ice tea \(sometimes hot tea\) JL](#)

cjwalas says **Polyclay in any real thickness has a tendency to crack if it's not cooled evenly, so keeping it thin is a good idea.**

John Howell says We ordered our clay Friday. Told my son "It will be here next week"

This evening he reminded me it was "next week" now so where is the clay. 😊

Rick Raively says [AH, now I understand my problem - most of the time my fingers does the opposite of what my brain wants](#)

cjwalas says **Be careful when building the foil bulk up. The usual tendency is to go too far, making your sculpture large than desired.**

cjwalas says **He sounds excited to get going, John. PERFECT!**

Ms. pcentral says *Except for the necks of my figures....*

Ms. pcentral says *I can't get them fat enough*

John Howell says Yep Chris, we can't wait. We are going to work with the small scale first & then try the Celuclay later.

cjwalas says **Stop making the heads separately, Y!!!**

jlcop says *That's great John!!* 😊

patseale says *Well, I have the starter kit now just need to get to the shop and get started. Thinking of using a Fine Folks engineer that just arrived as my model.*

Ms. pcentral says **I'm making them on the Armature now!**

patseale says *Was that cheating?*

cjwalas says **Good idea, John. Two very different materials. You might want to do a little "nothing" sculpt with the celluclay before you let him try a dino.**

BnEgscle says I just looked at the Clydesdales kit box again. It says the kit is 1/20. the thin point on the horse leg is about 3/8" and the width of center of the body is 1-3/8".

cjwalas says **Glad to hear it, Y!**

cjwalas says **So definitely wire on the legs, Bob. Polyclay builds up thickness very quickly.**

John Howell says Chris, what do you mean by a nothing sculpt?

Ms. pcentral says **Head, then body, then hair, then arms**

Ms. pcentral says **And paint in between** 😊😊😊

cjwalas says **Sorry, I mean sculpt something that doesn't mean anything to the artist. Materials can be frustrating at first and attempting your most beloved idea before you're comfortable with the material usually ends unhappily.**

John Howell says That makes since. 😊

cjwalas says **Try something small and simple with him first, John, to minimize the frustration on the dinos.**

John Howell says The celluclay looks to make a coarse surface. How do you smooth it?

roland seavey says *will not be taking any modeling over the the PI every thing is packed up since no container is going this year so will see about next*

roland seavey says *going back to reg chat see you all later*

cjwalas says **Celluclay gets smoother as you work it as well as adding water. After you have the form done, let it dry a little , then wet your hands and use the water to smooth it.**

John Howell says Ok Chris, we'll try that, probably on a ball first. I'll let you guys go back to talking about the polyclay. I'm interested in Bob's horses.

cjwalas says **My wife has just let me know that class was over a while ago....**

Ms. pcentral says **Night Chris! Thanks**

Rick Raively says **Night Chris, Gill and Kids**

cjwalas says **Celluclay is a pre-powdered paper-mache' that John's going to use with his son to make dinosaurs.**

John Howell says Thanks Chris 😊 I'll try & show up sooner next week. 😊

cjwalas says **Gill says "nite-nite Rick. Thank you." You smooth talking devil.** 😊

jlcop just entered Figure Class

cjwalas says **See you next time guys and gal! Keep sculpting!!!!**

Rick Raively says **hahahaha**

jlcop says **Good night then and thanks** 😊

John Howell says Thanks Yolanda, I'll take photos. Goodnight all.

Rick Raively says **yeah my fingers are smoother then my voice**

Ms. pcentral says **Good to see you here John**