

cjwalas says **Anyway, I'd rather not go over the homework while everyone is out celebrating (or recovering 😊), so let's have a general question and answer session tonight.**

cjwalas says **I'm proud of you, Logboy. You did your homework.**

Rick Raively says **thanks, writing short stories of characters is easy for me - not sure why**

Rick Raively says **so what is your question?**

cjwalas says **Have any of you read the figure bashing article in GR this month?**

jlcop says *Have not read it yet, just looked briefly through it 😊*

Rick Raively says **sorry I didn't read it yet**

cjwalas says **The real question I have for you tonight is, How comfortable do you feel with polyclay?**

cjwalas says **Y's been doing a bit of figure bashing for Fairplex and she's quite happy with the process.**

Rick Raively says **why? are we changing material?**

cjwalas says **Just asking. There are a number of materials that can be used for figure making and I'm wondering if I should cover them in the next chapter.**

BnEgscaler says I was getting comfortable with it when summer interrupted.

cjwalas says **For cast figures other than vinyl, something other than polyclay must be used.**

jlcop says *I don't know that I would say I am comfortable with polyclay yet but I certainly am more comfortable than I was*

cjwalas says **That darn Summer!** 😊

Rick Raively says **I am with JL, just because I have not done a lot of figures**

cjwalas says **Epoxy is the most popular material for professional figure makers. It does hold finer detail, but has more working considerations.**

jlcop says *Yeah, today I should have had my summer challenge done 😞*

cjwalas says **I find polyclay the easiest and fastest to sculpt with, and certainly the most user friendly, particularly for beginners.**

BnEgscaler says so, are we moving into casting?

cjwalas says **No, Bob. Casting is a whole nuther animal.**

jlcop says *polyclay don't stink either 😊*

BnEgscaler says I got some of the epoxy putty for figure bashing but have not had a chance to work with it yet.

cjwalas says **I want to stick with polyclays as long as possible. I think they really are the best material for GRRs.**

jlcop says *unless you screw up 😞*

Rick Raively says **unless you over cook it JL**

cjwalas says **Epoxy has some serious dangers if overheated. Beware.**

cjwalas says **I've recently been looking at an oven baked ceramic clay that has a lot of promise, but that's for further down the line.**

jlcop says *is there any good tricks to identify different "plastics"?*

Rick Raively says **I would like to see a mold, resin class to make stuff for the figures**



jlcop says *I bought a white colored slick feeling turkey blaster today to possibly bash into a water tank spout*

cjwalas says Resins are NOT created equally. Urethane resins vary greatly.

pimanjc says What about vinyl figures? The Testors seems to just bead up on them.

cjwalas says Solvents work well with resins, for cleaning.

cjwalas says Ah, Testor's! Acrylic and vinyl usually bond very well, but Testor's has a unique formulation that is meant to attack certain surfaces to facilitate adhesion.

cjwalas says Unfortunately, it doesn't work on vinyl. 😞

cjwalas says Lacquer based primers are the best to use on resin castings, as opposed to enamel primers.

cjwalas says But the key is still cleaning the resin surfaces first. The waxier the resin, the more difficult to adhere to.

cjwalas says Resin castings that has a dry feel to the surface will accept paint much better.

pimanjc says After I use the Testors Acrylics, should I top coat them with Krylon clear dull coat>

Rick Raively says polyclay seems to be easier

pimanjc says ...or will they hold up outdoors as is?

cjwalas says Unfortunately, the drier resins also wear the silicone mold surface out more quickly, so many casters use a waxier resin.

cjwalas says Dull coat doesn't hold up outdoors. I suggest Delta Ceramcoat Polyurethane coating for figures, although the acrylic itself should hold up very well.

cjwalas says Honestly, I've tried just about everything out there, and polyclays and acrylics are the easiest, surest, and strongest of the lot.

pimanjc says If the acrylics hold up well enough on their own, then that sounds like the plan for me.

jlcop says I guess the advantage for resins is casting multiple copies

cjwalas says Just be sure to scrub the castings. Use a toothbrush mercilessly! 😊

cjwalas says Exactly, JL. Resins are wonderful for casting, just not as friendly to the finishing work.

pimanjc says I am in the process of painting a figure called "Willy." It is a guy holding a camera. It came in white ? resin?. I am painting it to represent ME.

cjwalas says I've never seen a urethane casting that will keep its paint for more than a few years outdoors.

cjwalas says Was the casting shiny or matte?

pimanjc says He will stand on the platform taking pictures of trains passing by.

pimanjc says Mostly matte. A couple of areas looked a little shiny.

Rick Raively says that is not an easy shot to take Jim

cjwalas says Matte is good. Use a strong solvent to clean it. MEK, Lacquer thinner. Alcohol is not strong enough.

cjwalas says If there are any shiny areas after that, you need to sand them with some fine paper before priming. Believe me, the paint will stay on a lot longer if you do!

pimanjc says What about acetone?

BnEgscale says You mentioned using solvents to clean the castings. What solvents? I thought solvents would attack the resins.

cjwalas says Yes, acetone is good! At least for the figure! 😊

BnEgscale says Well the answer came before the posting of the question.

cjwalas says **Once the resins are activated and cured, solvents shouldn't affect them...unless the mix was uneven.**

BnEgscall says Do you need to rinse the solvent residue off before painting?

cjwalas says **The good thing about resins is that they are relatively low-cost castings and epoxy resin adheres quite well to almost all of them.**

cjwalas says **Probably not, Bob. Most water will leave as much a residue as the solvents.**

cjwalas says **The primer absorbs most of any residue.**

pimanjc says **I used acetone to remove the "ps" to make my "Gram" tank car.**

cjwalas says **Acetone is great for that sort of thing, but it will eat into the styrene.**

pimanjc says **Has anyone used these?**

<http://www.wholesaletrains.com/Detail.asp?ID=200300167> as a base to make period costumes for the layout? I wonder what scale they are?

cjwalas says **So, it looks like we've burned through another hour! Any last questions?**

pimanjc says **That's what I found out on the second side.** 😞

Rick Raively says **homework?**

pimanjc says **Chris, thanks for the info.**

cjwalas says **No Picture. The description sounds like they may be vinyl?**

BnEgscall says If we use Milliput epoxy for bashing we should use a primer before painting the vinyl figures. Any particular primer. Spray or brush type?

Class cjwalas says **Milliput will NOT adhere to vinyl! It WILL ADHERE to resin castings.**

cjwalas says **Spray primers tend to work better for figures because they go on thinner. If you can still get the Floquil figure primers in your area (non-California), they should still be lacquer based.**

cjwalas says **No homework. Big Homework next week!** 😊

BnEgscall says Chris, thanks for the input on this subject. I think I may make myself a spread sheet on what worked with which materials.

cjwalas says **The thing to be wary of Bob, is that some materials appear to work perfectly at first, but lose their strength very shortly afterward.**

BnEgscall says I'll have to rest up for next week.

jlcop says *Thanks again to Chris and Logboy* 😊

cjwalas says **All right, everyone. Enjoy your week of no homework, but do me the favor of letting me know if there's any specific aspect of figure making that you'd like to see illustrated in the next chapter?**

Rick Raively says **yeah, Thanks Chris**

cjwalas says **Nite guys!**