

The Ultimate Plaster Sculpture

Supply List

Canvas (for the base)	4 Screw hooks	Mini scissors
Pre-cut aluminum screen	4 push pins	Paint brush
Plaster cloth rolls	Thumbtacks	Sandpaper
Tub of joint compound	Tub of glue	Apron
Plaster of Paris (powder)	Bowl with lid	Heavy duty gloves

This kit contains VERY SHARP OBJECTS, USE CAUTION!

Have sensitive lungs? Wear a mask around dry plaster.

CLOG POTENTIAL: Clean plaster, glue &/or joint compound AWAY from sink! Otherwise, it will harden and clog!

You will need paper towels or rags and water.

A table covering is recommended. This kit was designed as part of a study in dimension and texture using a metal screen and plaster mix on a canvas base.



Stage 1 – Create the Core

The canvas will be used as the sculpture base and will be covered with the screen and/or plaster mix. The exposed wood section and unfinished canvas will serve as the foundation underneath.

- Put on gloves and CAREFULLY open the aluminum screen. **Edges can be uneven and sharp!** Gently smooth out the fold lines by bending and/or pressing as needed.
- Open the screen and begin attaching it to the sides of the canvas with thumbtacks. It's easier to attach at least one part with a thumbtack on each side to help stabilize the screen. Attach more as desired.



PRO TIP: All edges are not required to be attached to the canvas. For example, you can push a section of the screen inward to create a cavity in your sculpture for added visual interest.



- Once all the sides have been attached, add a push pin to the underside of the canvas base, in each corner. These are used to elevate the sculpture from the work surface and will help with drying.
 - Flip the sculpture upright. It should look kind of weird and wonky. At this stage, our example looks like a floppy baker's hat, so we'll need to change that!
 - Create a visually appealing sculpture shape using the screen as the mold.
 - Gently pull, fold and/or squeeze the screen in an upward motion.
 - Continue to manipulate until you are satisfied with the structure.
- PRO TIPS:** If you plan to attach the loose edges near the bottom, make sure they are close to the canvas. If you want a small cavity, make sure the edges are curved inward for an organic and smooth finish.



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(Continued)

Stage 2 – Wrap it up (really, wrap with cloth!)

- Place a small bowl of water near your work area.
- Using scissors, cut one roll of the plaster cloth into 3-6" strips.
- Hold a strip on both ends and dip the center into the bowl of water. **PRO TIP:** Don't wet the whole strip, it will be impossible to work with.



- Add the strip to the top of your screen. Using the paint brush, apply more water to help it adhere and mold to the form of the screen.
- Continue adding plaster strips, slightly overlapping as you proceed.
- Brush on water, slightly saturating to create a smooth finish.
- Continue until the entire piece is covered with plaster cloth,



including around the bottom edge. It's ok to cover the thumbtacks, but not the push pins (remove and reattach once the plaster has set.)

Stage 3 – Paint it with Plaster!

- Empty the included bowl then add 1.5 cups of water.
- Slowly sprinkle plaster into water, stirring.
- Add all the glue and joint compound, the mix well.
- Add another ½ cup of water, stir well. **PRO TIP:** The glue and joint compound will help slow the plaster from setting up too quickly. If the mixture begins to thicken or harden, stir in 1-2 ounces of water. Repeat as needed.
- Paint one coat of the plaster mixture over the plaster cloth. Allow to dry, **preserving the mixture in air-tight container, secure lid.**
- If mixture thickens add water and stir well.
- Allow sculpture to dry between coats (no dryer or heat gun!)
- To avoid cracking, do not set in sun or use any kind of heat.**
- Repeat with existing mixture until all supplies are used (3-5 coats).
- This will yield a smoother surface.



Stage 4 – Finish it up

Dry completely, then gently sand any brush strokes.

Screw hooks into the bottom 4 corners for an elegant look.

Options

- This sculpture can be left as is, or painted in a variety of ways, however you like. Feel free to experiment!
- If you want to leave this sculpture unpainted, we recommend applying a varnish to protect it. Kamar Varnish (spray) is the best.
- If painting with acrylic paint, varnish is optional.

WARNING – DO NOT RINSE OR CLEAN PLASTER OBJECTS IN YOUR SINK AS DOING SO WILL CLOG YOUR PIPES!