



<http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Lot/9373/SCREAM/hands.html>

## Casting Hands

By Ginger Basham

### Materials:

Rubber matting 24 by 6 inches

Clay

Alginate

Vaseline

Bowls

Spatula

Pitcher of water

Scissors

Surgical knife

Plaster

Apply Vaseline to any hair on the subjects hand. Place hand on a board or piece of plexi glass near edge of the table. If you are wanting to cast part of the wrist with the hand you will need to fill the gap under the subjects wrist with clay. Be sure to smooth the edges.

Encircle the hand with the rubber matting it should be around 1 1/2 inch away from the finger tips. Use clay to reinforce the rubber wall. Now you will need to add clay on the top and sides of the wrist to enclose the rubber wall. Mix alginate and pour over hand carefully. If alginate is thick enough plaster bandage will not be necessary. After alginate has set remove the rubber wall.

Now have your subject turn his hand over with the alginate still in place. Use scissors to cut away any excess alginate that has seeped under the fingers or palm. Carefully remove the subjects hand. Place the alginate on the board and put the clay wall around it again.

Place wet paper towels in the alginate negative to prevent shrinking. Mix plaster to a smooth consistency that will be east to pour. Be sure to firmly tap the container your plaster is in before pouring it into the negative.

This will help get rid of air bubbles. Remove the wet paper towels and soak up any water left behind. Carefully fill the negative with plaster starting at the wrist. Fill with plaster to at least 1 inch above surface of alginate.

Gently move the board side to side to release air bubbles. When the plaster has cooled remove the wall and alginate. Now carve 4 keys into your positive. You can use a Dremel or a surgical knife to do so. Repeat process for other hand. Now you have positives of your subjects hands you can use it to sculpt wrinkles or anything else you may need for your project.

Note: Often when hand appliances are made for the stage the latex or foam latex appliance will be glued to latex gloves such as the ones used in hospitals. This will help save time and it allows repeat uses of the piece more easily.

Obtained from  
Omarshauntedtrail.com