

# Making a Latex Rubber Mold

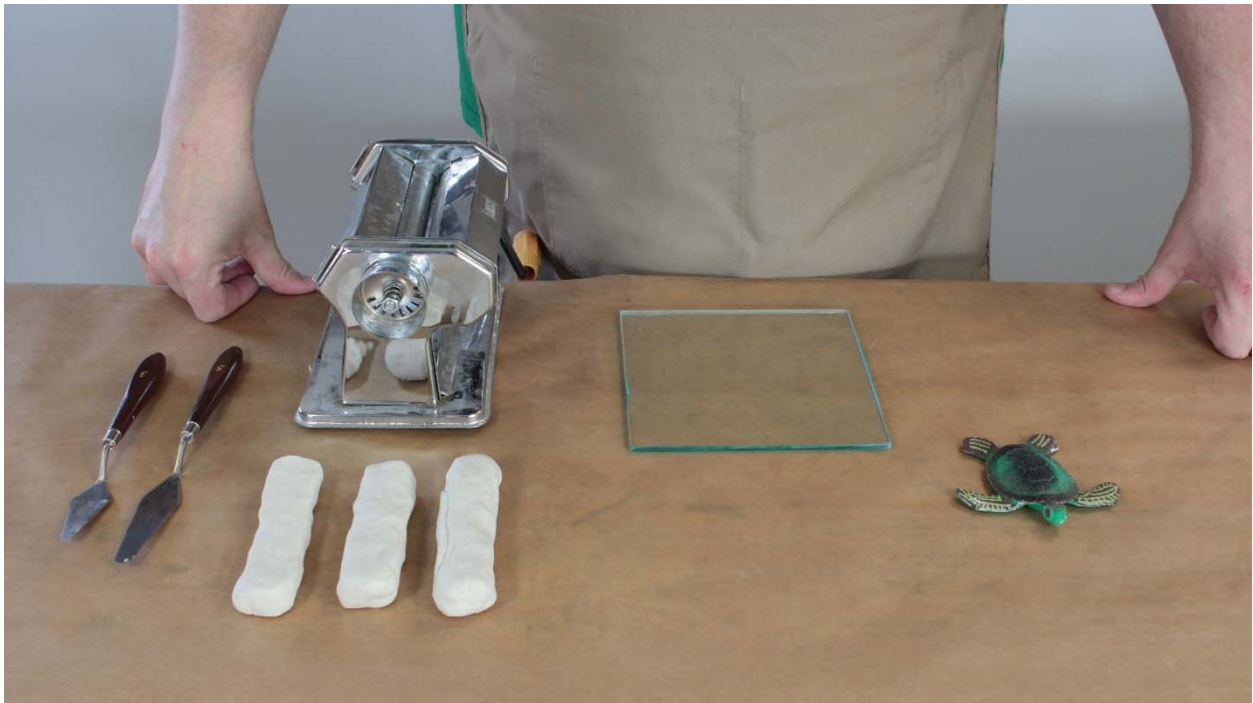
## Materials:

- Plastic sea turtle from dollar store
- 3 oz latex rubber
- 6 in x 6 in (50 cm x 50 cm) 3mm clear glass
- Baseball size lump of modelling clay
- Small brush from dollar store
- 1 square foot of cheese cloth or gauze

Latex is an exceptional material for making a mold from almost any found object. It's cheap, easy to work with and adopts fine detail. Latex molds are great for plaster/silica castings or glass powder castings for freeze & fuse

## 1. Getting started

I've set out the toy turtle with the piece of float glass I'll be using to build the mold on along with the modeling clay, clay spatulas and a pasta roller. The float glass makes an excellent base to build a mold on but you can use anything with a smooth surface. I'm using a pasta roller to roll out the clay but you can also use a pie crust roller or even a wine bottle to roll out slabs of clay.



## 2. Rolling out the clay

I've rolled out a slab of modelling clay and set it in on the glass. The clay has a double purpose. It anchors the toy turtle in place on the glass plus it elevates the turtle to create a deeper mold.

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### 3. Second layer of clay

A second layer of modeling clay is placed on top of the first layer to add extra depth.



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## 4. Third layer of clay

A third layer of clay added for even more depth.



## 5. Placing the turtle

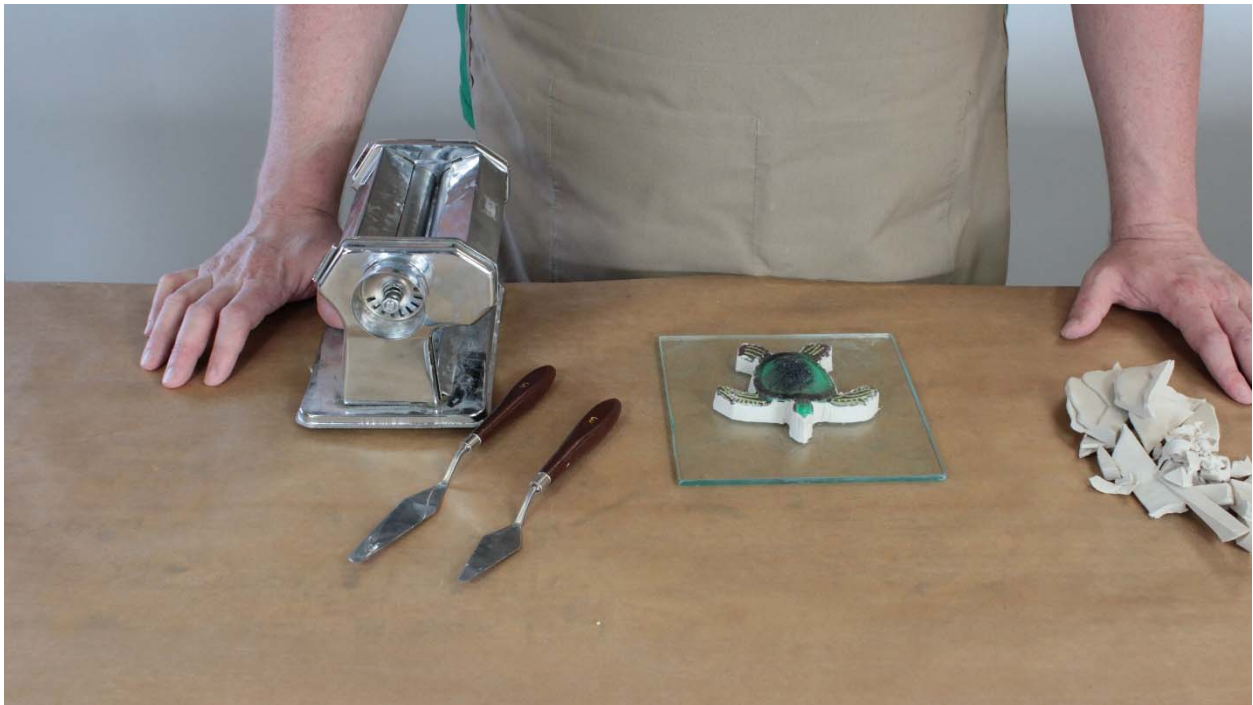
The toy turtle is placed on the clay and pressed firmly down into the clay to be sure it stays in place.

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### 6. Trimming the clay

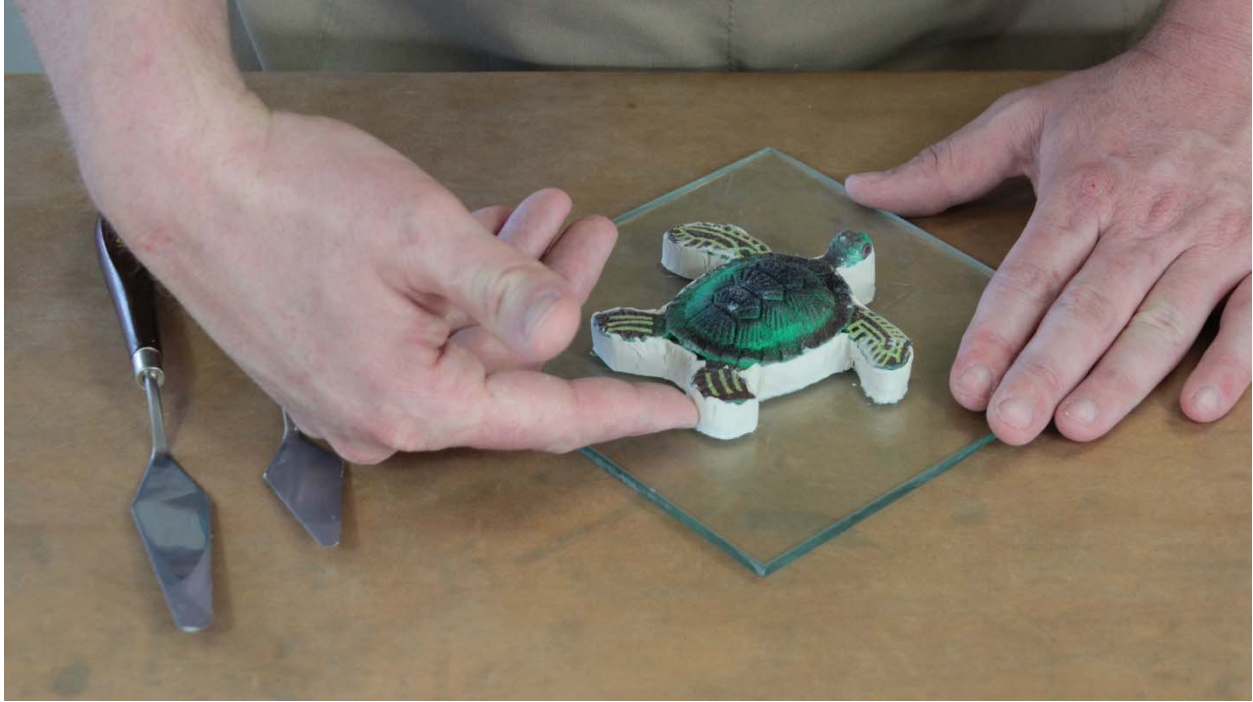
The clay has been trimmed away from everywhere except directly beneath the turtle.



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## 7. Making the undercut

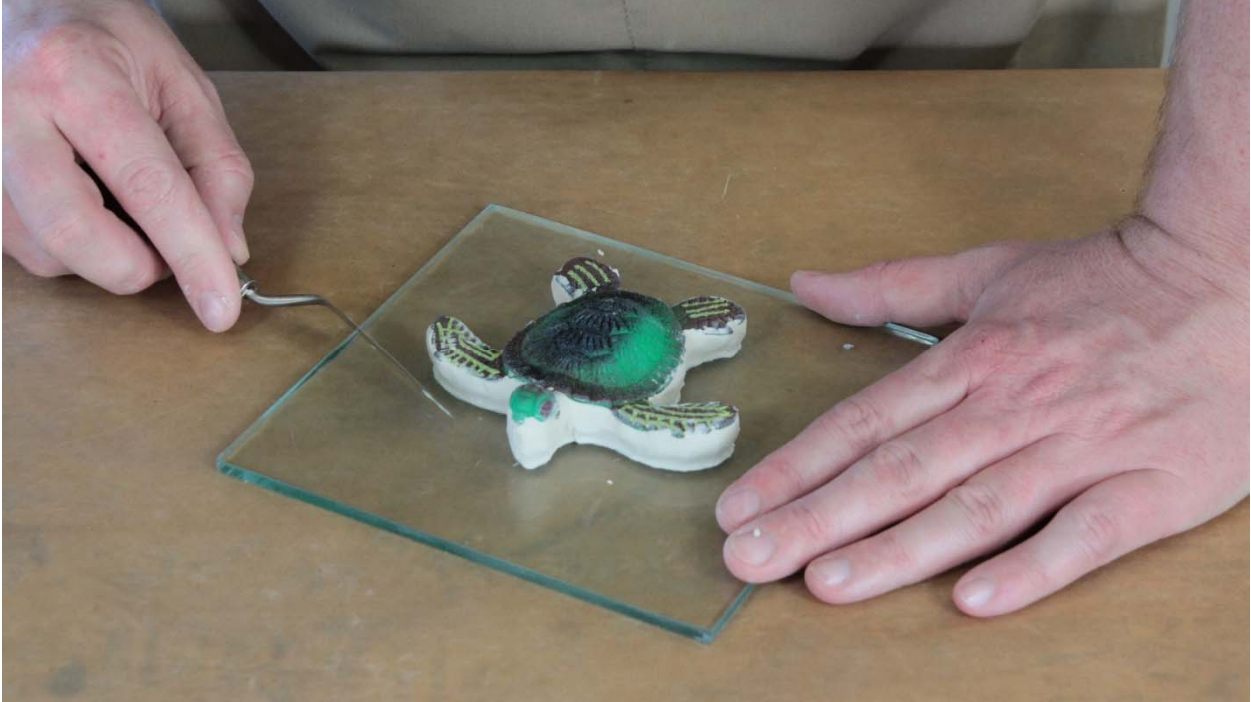
Because I want some undercut in this mold I'm pushing the clay back under the turtle to create a slight curve under.



## 8. Smoothing the clay

Using the modelling spatula to smooth out the edge of the clay under the turtle.

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### 9. Undercut complete

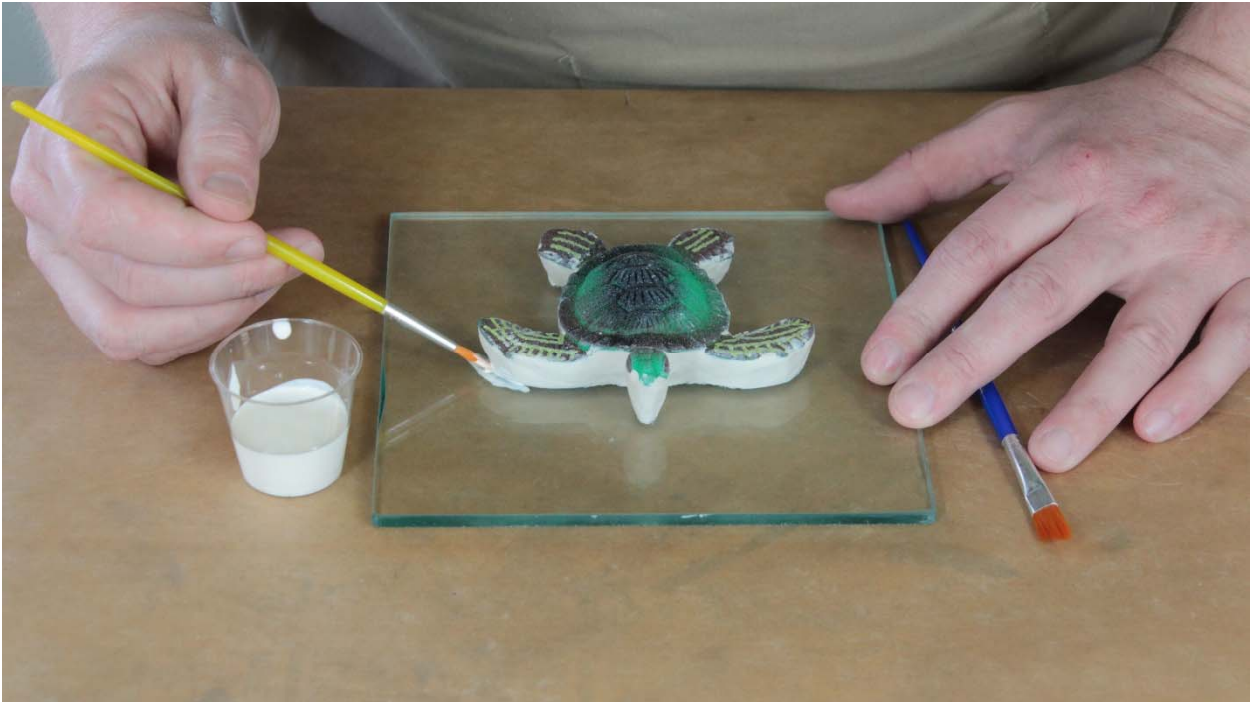
All the clay pushed back to create the undercut.



### 10. First coat latex

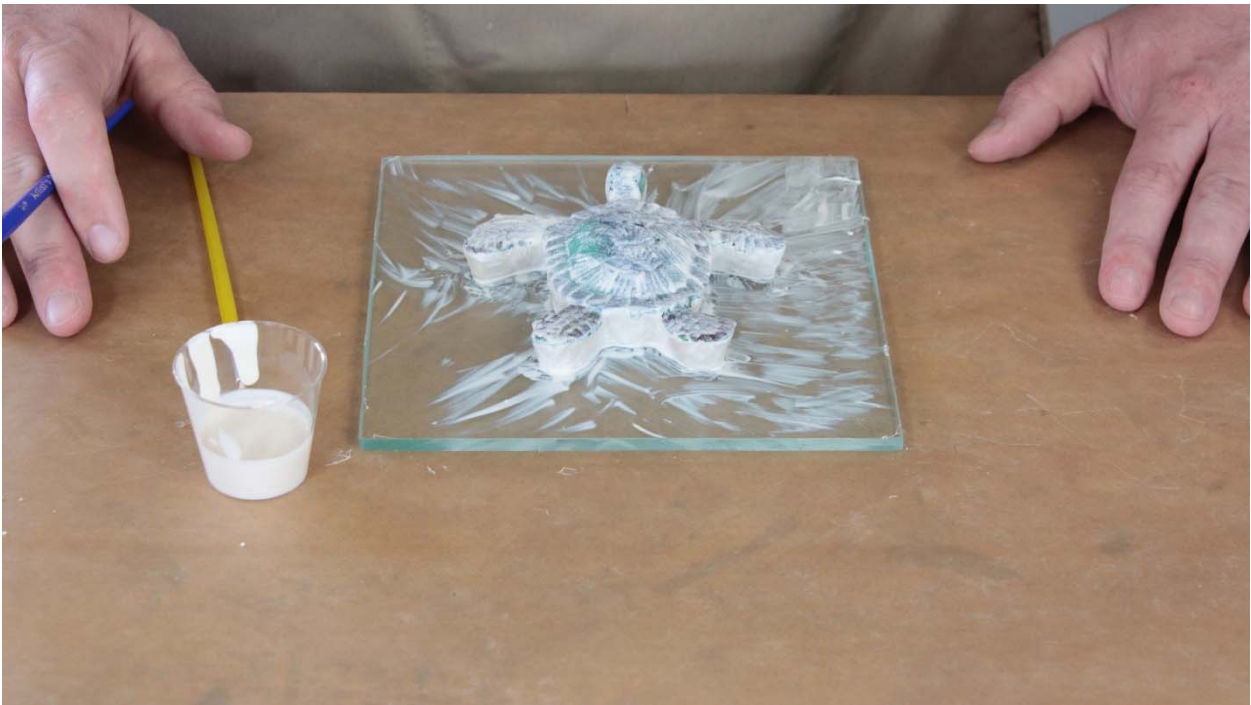
Applying the first coat of latex. It's especially important to get it along the edge of the clay against the glass to be sure the mold has a clean edge.

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### 11. First coat complete

The mold and the turtle fully covered with the first coat of latex.



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## 12. First coat set

The project has been left for the latex to fully set and turn from milky white to transparent amber.



## 13. Second coat of latex applied

A complete second coat of latex applied.

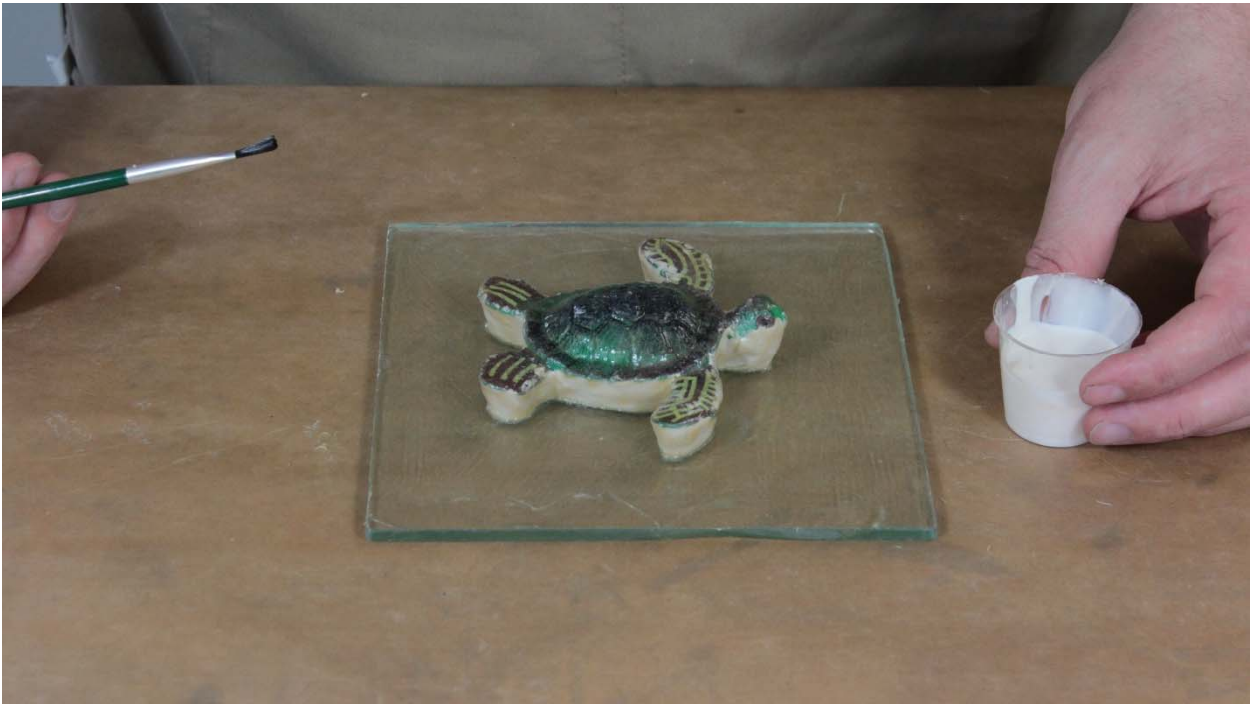


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### 14. Second coat of latex

The second coat of latex fully set ready for the third coat.



### 15. Starting cheese cloth

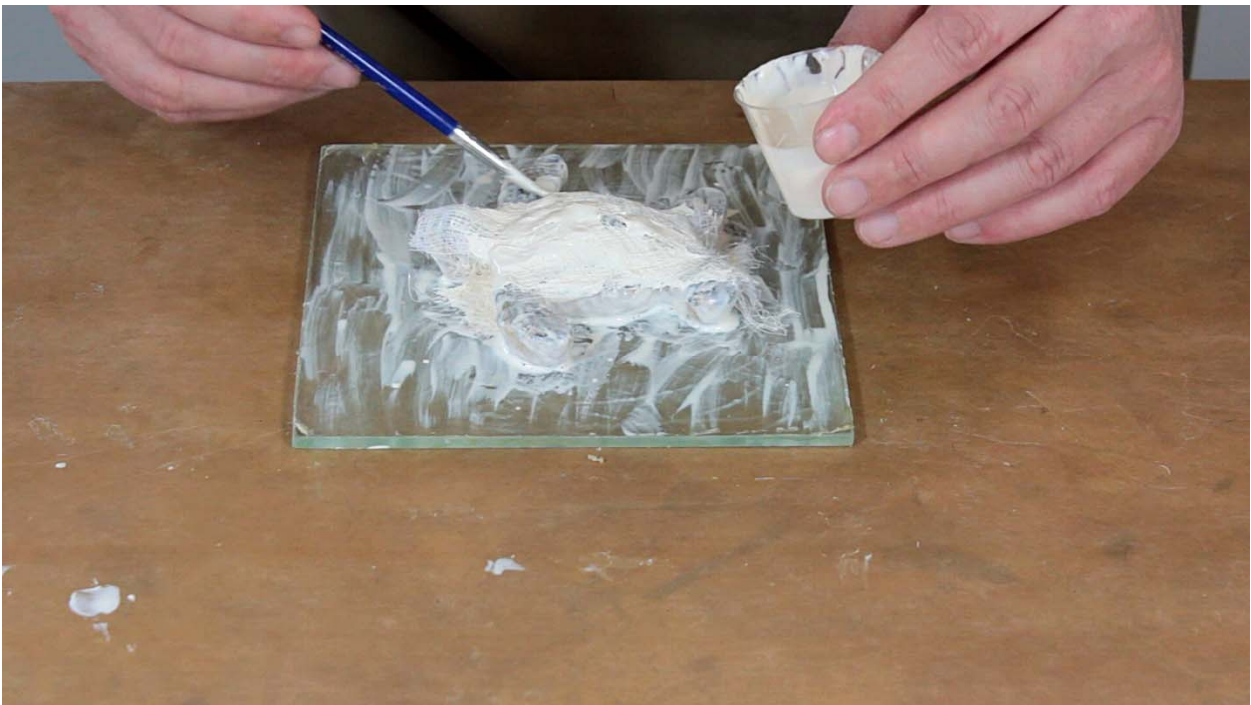
The third coat applied and setting on the first strip of cheese cloth

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### 16. Filling the cheesecloth

Slathering on lots of latex to be sure it soaks completely into the cheesecloth



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## 17. Finishing the cheesecloth

Keep putting on more strips of cheesecloth until the turtle and glass base is fully covered. Apply more latex to be sure everything is well coated and the latex saturated. Leave it set. There's a lot of latex here so it takes more the 24 hours to fully set.



## 18. Finished mold

The latex mold is now fully set ready to be removed.

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### 19. Mold with turtle removed

The mold has been removed from the glass base and the turtle and modelling clay removed from the latex mold. Just clean out any bits of clay left in the mold and it's ready to use.



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20. A freeze and fuse casting made in the latex mold.

