

Welcome to Create-A-Cast™

Utilizing the same processes and materials employed by professional sculptors for hundreds of years, Create-A-Cast™ makes it easy and inexpensive for your personally-created wax sculpture to be transformed into a solid metal piece of art. It will be cast and finished in our foundry that is used by many world famous artists. We hope to help you discover, develop, and release the talent you may have never known you had.



Your kit

Upon receiving your kit, open it and verify that all components are present and the wax pieces are intact. If you have damaged waxes please contact us right away and we will replace them for you.

Basic Kit

- 4 wax templates of your choice
- 2 Sculpting Tools •1 Instruction Pamphlet

Belt Buckle Kit

- 2 oval wax templates •2 rectangle wax templates •2 Sculpting Tools
- 1 Instruction Pamphlet

Sterling Ring Kit*

- 5 sized ring waxes •2 Sculpting Tools •1 Instruction Pamphlet

*This kit is for sterling silver only, bronze will turn your fingers green.

Although the basic kit cost only allows for one of your wax creations to be cast in bronze, you may have any of the other included wax items cast in bronze at a cost of \$25 each. You may not add other wax types or non-wax materials to your work.

If you wish, we can cast your item in solid sterling silver or gold! Simply contact us for information regarding the additional cost.

REMEMBER: Keep your box for returning your wax piece(s) to us for casting.

Your work space

Set up for working on your wax in a nice clean area. If you don't have a work bench or studio table, any table makes an adequate workspace.

Please avoid:• Eating the wax. Working on carpet or any surface from which wax would be difficult to remove. Sculpting directly on your work/table surface. Paper plates and thin cutting boards work great for a work surface.

Sculpting/Carving

Here are some images of works in progress. Notice the idea sketch and how wax is added and removed to achieve depth and shape in the design.

Once work is completed and your creation is exactly the way you want it, make sure you don't have any extra wax shavings or clumps hanging on to the finished piece. Your metal casting will be identical to the wax sculpture you return to us. If you add wax to your piece, you must be sure that there is no air trapped between the layers of wax.

REMEMBER: You can sign the back of your artwork when you're finished.

The Importance of the Sprue

The sprue is the round or flat piece attached to every wax blank in your kit. Though it may seem unsightly to your piece of art, its presence is totally necessary as it creates the tunnel through which the molten metal travels into the mold of your piece. (For more information see the Lost Wax Casting section of this website.) The resulting attached metal will be cut off once the casting is complete. The spot where it was attached will be smoothed out and blended into the surrounding area of your piece.

Our casting machine requires us to limit the size of your work to 3" high/tall, 2.5" wide and 1" thick. If you return a wax piece that exceeds these limitations, we will have to return it to you asking for your modification to bring it within the size specifications.

Finishing up

When you have your sculpted piece exactly the way you want it, carefully package it in the box with the completed Customer Information Form and send it to WH Casting. Pieces cannot be cast without your customer information form. We suggest 1" of padding all the way around your sculpted wax, then place it in a box or container within the shipping box. Make sure it's packed well so there is no room for it to jiggle around.

Casting

Once WH Casting receives the wax version of your creation, we will produce your one-of-a-kind bronze sculpture according to the instructions you include on the returned Customer Information Form and will send it back to you.

Tips & Tricks

HOUSEHOLD HELPERS:

Make sure your wax is not too hard. Warm in your hands, with warm water or a blow dryer. Don't get it too hot, or it'll be too melty to work with.

- #2 pencil top - Press over and over for a scale effect.
- Bottle cap - Roll the edge of it for a wavy pattern, or press it in for a flower shape.
- Toys - Make your own dinosaur tracks fossil, etc.

- Playdoh accessories or rubber stamps
- Cookie Cutters - Create fun shapes. Line your shape up next to the sprue to insure you don't cut it off by mistake. If you do, we will have to put it back on, and it can mess up the way you want your finished piece to look.
- Coloring books or magazines - Place the image over your wax medallion. Then use the pointed end of your tool or a pencil/pen to trace over the black part of the image.
- Rubber Cuticle Pushers - Use to smooth out your wax when you're on the final stages of your creation.

Other good helpers for working with your wax are abrasive pads like Scotch Bright™. After you've etched some lines into your wax, it may not be as smooth as you like. Scotch Bright™ pads are a great tool for smoothing out the wax. Be careful though...if you use them too aggressively, they also make great erasers.

Patterns look great cast in bronze. Try finding things around the house that you can press into your wax to create special effect patterns. Be extremely careful when pressing textures and patterns onto the bracelets. You could accidentally break the wax bracelet.

BE CREATIVE! There are hundreds of other items around the house that can assist you.

PLEASE USE ITEMS ONLY TO CREATE TEXTURES THEN REMOVE THEM FROM YOUR WAX. We can only cast wax. Any returned wax with foreign objects in them will not be cast.

Sculpting/Carving

Here are some clips of folks working on their wax. You can see the idea sketch and how they are taking away and adding wax in each step bringing shape to their design.

Don't forget to sign the back of your artwork when you're finished.

Once you have your design exactly the way you want it, make sure there's no extra wax hanging on it that you don't like or want. Any wax shavings on your returned wax will be cast.

Advanced Tips

For those who feel more confident in their sculpting skills, there are a few more things you can do to really bring your design out.

- Build Up More 3-D Effect. Work discarded wax back into areas where you'd like more depth.
- Cut Out Negative Space. You can warm your wax by hand or warm your tool using a tea light candle and press the flat side of your tool into your wax to remove negative space.
- Use Warm and Cold Water to Manipulate Your Wax. You can also use a small candle to warm your tools or even put your wax in the fridge to speed up the hardening process.
- Create Sockets for Stones/Jewels After Casting. Keep in mind that you can always glue stones and other items into your bronze after it has been cast. Place your object in the wax and work around it. Just make sure to remove it before you send it to WHC for casting.
- Apply an Alternative Patina. We don't do anything but the basic patina that you see in the gallery, but there is a whole world of color out there.

Bronze after care

Due to humidity variations, bronze may tarnish. To restore it to its original high luster, lightly apply metal polish and buff with a soft cloth. You may choose to allow your sculpture to naturally wear to an antique patina. If that is your choice, you will not need to polish it. If you do, we suggest using Brasso or Mothers®. These types of cleaners can be found at any automotive store or hardware store.

If you like the finish as it is, applying a coat of natural shoe polish to your bronze sculpture will create the professional finish used by sculptors, will help preserve the natural look and feel of the bronze, and will help protect against tarnish. Warm the polish and work it onto your bronze.