www.inlacebook.com

InLace Resin Inlay

Read Before Using - Product Usage Notes - Read Before Using

1) InLace resins, Hardener, and Dyes are ideally stored at no more than 72°F. Excessive heat reduces shelf life. It is unsafe to store the Hardener in a high heat environment. To maximize shelf life, be sure the 'lip' of the resin can is wiped clean and that the can is then closed securely. Resin shelf life is one year. Ensure that the work area is well ventilated.

2) Clean resin from work surfaces, equipment, or tools, with acetone. Manufacturer's quote: ".....Do not use acetone on plastics."

3) Cured, sanded, and polished InLace requires no finishing - though all standard wood finishes can be applied on top of InLace without difficulty; polishes, waxes, oils, and sealers.

4) If working with wood, be sure that it is dry (6% - 8% moisture content). If the moisture is excessive, the wood may shrink away from the inlay as it dries.

5) Particularly oily woods, such as Cocobolo, Teak, and Rosewood, should be grain-sealed with a standard wood grain sealer before using InLace or the inlay may not harden correctly. Many 'exotic' woods are especially oily. Manufacturer's quote: ".....The area to be inlaid should be wiped with a solvent like acetone or denatured alcohol to remove the oils just prior to sealing."

6) InLace can be used with wood, stone, gourds, and more. Manufacturer's quote: ".....the hardening process does create heat so I doubt you could inlay something with a low melting point like wax or paraffin or thermo plastics."

7) Route, carve, or grind the area or design to be inlaid. The minimum recommendation for an inlay is a minimum depth and width of 1/8". Where possible, 'undercutting' is a plus. The flow of material into the undercut further promotes a secure inlay by encouraging it to 'lock' into place. Manufacturer's quote: "Undercutting is done using an inverted cone and they come in many sizes."

8) Manufacturer's quote: ".....you only need to put in enough material to make it slightly over flush with the surface, 1/32" is sufficient....."

9) Always mix the resin and Hardener in the provided measuring cups. Do not mix in a plastic container.

10) Mix in any additives (e.g., Nuggets, Granules, or Metallic Dusts) before adding the Hardener. The Hardener is added and mixed immediately prior to making the inlay. Manufacturer's quote: ".....in all of our use it has not made a difference whether we have used a pinch or up to 50% of any material. We add the amount of drops needed for the resin material used. not the final amount after additives are added. The dyes are another concern, they should be added by the drop". ..... "Too much dye will cause the InLace not to harden as the carrier is an unpromoted resin. Unpromoted resin will never harden and adding too much dye will cause the mixture to not harden."

11) InLace Dyes are always used with the Clear Kits, and should be mixed in drop-by-drop until the desired color is achieved. A little goes a long way.

12) Manufacturer's quote: ".....InLace products are compatible with each other and adding anything else is not recommended and that if they wish to add other products they do so at their own risk....."

13) Manufacturer's quote: "Add 25 to 30 drops of hardener to 1 ounce of colored InLace, or 20 to 25 drops of Hardener to 1 ounce of Clear InLace." A few drops less may be fine; however, the use of an excessive amount of Hardener will prevent the inlay from hardening at all! Use approximately half that ratio of Hardener for 1/2 ounce of resin, or double the amount for 2 ounces of resin.
Manufacturer's quotes: ".....simple division is used when using less than an ounce or simple multiplication is used when using more than an ounce. The hardener is not an item that MUST be exact. 3 drops will harden a teaspoon as well as 5 drops." ....." 1 fl oz = 2 tbsp = 6 tsp".
Manufacturer's quotes: "Resins are resins and epoxy is epoxy, they have different chemical classifications." ..... "InLace is an unsaturated polyester resin."

14) Wear eye protection when using the Hardener (MEKP). The Hardener (Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide) is a hazardous and flammable material which should be handled with respect at all times. Do not expose to direct sunlight, excessive heat, sparks, or flames. Do not add to hot material of any type.
Manufacturer's quote: "Never add peroxides directly to promoters or vice-versa, violent decomposition can occur." Spontaneous combustion is possible with this chemical. If eyes are exposed to MEKP, flush with water and contact a doctor. If skin is exposed to MEKP, wash with soap and water. If swallowed, contact a doctor immediately.

15) Once the Hardener is added, InLace must be used immediately. There is a 12 - 15 minute 'window' within which to work with the material, ensure that 'air bubbles' have been removed, and complete the inlay.

16) Manufacturer's quotes: ".....It will be hard enough to work within 12 hours." ..... "Allow at least 12 hours before turning the InLace down." ..... "Room temp. and product temp. can affect how fast the material hardens." ..... "If one waits the 12 hours they will be in the safe zone." It can then be sanded, turned, carved, or otherwise worked.

17) Be sure to make notes of the InLace 'recipes', so that satisfactory final results can be replicated at will.

18) If a situation arises in which not enough InLace was used in the initial inlay, a second inlay can be made over top of the first to fill 'low spots' and correct the problem. Also, if the area to be inlaid is too large to be completed within the working time of the mixture, just handle the project in 'batches' and do one section at a time.

19) If working 'in the round' (as with a bowl) or on a curved surface (as with a gourd), add a bit of Thicken-It to the resin mixture. A little goes a long way, so just add enough to bring the inlay to a consistency which will allow it to be used successfully for the project at hand. Thicken-It is a very good product to have on hand.

20) Use the stirrer to help work the resin mixture into place as well as to 'fill in' and eliminate air bubbles.

21) Manufacturer's quote: If the material seems too thick, add acetone to bring it back to the desired viscosity.

22) Manufacturer's quotes: "Clear InLace will appear to yellow when the hardener is added, but don't worry, it will harden clear. Clear InLace, without any additives, will shrink a bit. The less hardener that is used, the less the shrinkage will be, but the longer it will take to harden." ..... "Adding Thicken-It will make the Clear cloudy and it will not harden clear."

23) Once cured, the InLace inlay should finished by sanding and polishing. Use a respirator or dust mask when sanding InLace. Manufacturer's quote: ".....Personally I think 280 leaves too much scratch and you can't buff them out, they are just too deep. I like to go to 1200 grit then buff and polish....." Note: Proceed slowly with the sanding process. Overly aggressive sanding will cause create excessive heat, which could cause the inlay to 'shrink'. Go slowly and easily with the sanding, and this should not be a problem. For the smoothest, sleekest finish possible, polish the inlay with InLace Buffing Compound and InLace Polishing Compound. These final polishing steps will maximize the professional finish and presentation of the final product. A rotary tool, fitted with a felt polishing wheel, is the easiest way to complete the polishing process.