

Cactus Juice Stabilized Burlap Blanks

Contributed by: Bob Markenson

A.K.A "Bob in SF"



www.penturners.org

This tutorial was downloaded from

<http://www.penturners.org>

The International Association of Penturners - 2016

Cactus Juice Stabilized Burlap Blanks

by: Dr. Bob Markison

Wistfully recalling the iconic photo of Marilyn Monroe (then Norma Jean Baker) in a burlap Idaho potato sack, thought I'd stabilize some burlap in Cactus Juice, add color, etc.

1. Cut strips of burlap.
2. Place strips in plastic cup, and cover with Cactus Juice.



3. Vacuum at -29"Hg until bubbling stops - about 5 min. for me.



4. Drain, recycling CJ to its container.

5. Sprinkle and rub pigment, including mica, onto/into burlap.



6. Preheat toaster oven to 190-200 degrees (and I put ceramic 6" tiles on the floor of mine for even heat distribution).



7. Wrap the stabilized/colored strips in parchment paper - I use Kirkland brand.
[Amazon.com: Kirkland Signature Non Stick Parchment Paper, 205 sq. ft.: Kitchen & Dining](https://www.amazon.com/Kirkland-Signature-Non-Stick-Parchment-Paper-205-sq-ft-Kitchen-Dining/dp/B000060000)
8. Place on tiled shelf of the toaster oven, cover parchment packet with a "dome" of aluminum foil to further diffuse the heat.
9. Cure in the toaster oven for 45 min. Burlap is stiff after 45 min. cure time but would likely be more flexible with a shorter cure time.

10. Cut into smaller strips and fill your PVC pipes - I use clear 3/4" PVC (so I can see what I'm doing), with rubber stoppers - got clear PVC here:

[FORMUFIT P034FGP-UV-5 Schedule 40 PVC Pipe, Furniture Grade, 5', 3/4" Size, Clear: Amazon.com: Industrial & Scientific](#)

11. Dropping stabilized burlap strip into clear PVC pipe mold:



12. Burlap-stuffed pipe molds ready for resin pouring followed by pressure casting.

13. Pour in your resin - I used Douglas and Sturgess Clear Polyester Casting Resin - here:

[Douglas and Sturgess: Clear Casting Resin, 1 Gallon](#)

14. Pressure cast at 50 psi (I leave mine in overnight)



Hope this helps. Warm regards - Bob