

## How to make a Solid Base for a Flat-Bottomed Hollow Sculpture

Working on a piece of plastic or plexiglass, place your sculpture on top and note carefully it's stability (see whether it tilts forward or back). If it wobbles, put a wedge (of plaster) under the edge in the appropriate spot to stabilize it.

Using a china marker (grease pencil), draw an outline of the base of the piece directly on the plastic. Make a mark on the piece as well showing the position of the wedge. Scratch the bottom edge of the piece to give it some 'tooth'.

Mix a bowl of hydrocal (if that is what the sculpture is cast in - you can use densite if it will not show, or if your piece is cast in densite). Let the hydrocal firm up so that it is not runny, then glop it on the plexiglass in the centre of the outline. Build it up into a rough dome shape and spread carefully to the edge of your outline - include the plaster wedge. You can cut it out and replaster later.

Place your sculpture on the wet hydrocal, in the correct position on the outline. Using a spatula to patch and spread, blend the base into the piece, matching texture if necessary. Work rapidly, as it sets up fairly quickly.

Trim the edges and do not move the piece for at least a half hour. It will lift easily off of plastic or glass, but will stick to wood.

The piece is now complete.