B Cool2Cast

Tips, Techniques and Ideas for Jewelry, Home Decor and Embellishments





Cool2Cast

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Tiffany Windsor

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Contributor Photography: Contributors

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About the Author



Born into an artistic, entrepreneurial family, it is no surprise that Tiffany has found success expressing her talents in many different arenas. As the daughter of Aleene Jackson, America's beloved "Mother of Crafting" and inventor of Aleene's Tacky Glue, Tiffany's first love is expressing herself creatively.

Tiffany is best known in the creative community as the founder of the Cool2Craft community featuring the popular on-line Cool2Craft YouTube video channel. She developed a love for inspiring the creative community when she was the producer/host of Aleene's Creative Living Television show and editor of Aleene's Creative Living Magazine. Tiffany has made regular appearances on QVC and HSN and has

authored over 20 hard-cover and soft-cover books. Her extensive consulting experience covers all facets of the craft industry including design, product development, video production, manufacturing, retail, publishing, packaging, consumer education and more.

In 2014, Tiffany opened a small retail gift shop, <u>SoulCreative</u>, in historic downtown Piru, California. The shop features handmade gifts, wellness, bath and body and crystals and has a special section for children's art school classes which are held monthly.

Tiffany is an active member of the Craft and Hobby Association design community and co-leads the CHA SoCal Chapter. She hosts videos on the Cool2Craft YouTube channel which has over 50,000 subscribers and 7.3+ million views.

Acknowledgments

My heartfelt thanks to my sister Heidi who continues to dream up the coolest techniques for Cool2Cast. To Ann Butler, Lisa Rojas and Theresa Cifali, the Bella Crafts Publishing team, for urging me to create this ebook. To my creative sisterhood who keep me centered, grounded and inspired! And, last but not least, to my Momma Aleene who provided the creative space for my imagination to blossom.

Warning...crafting with Cool2Cast is addictive!



Little did we know when we first started playing with Cool2Cast that it would become so addictive. One creative idea led to another and we're still dreaming up new techniques! As crafters, we are always seeking new surfaces to craft on and craft with and what we love about Cool2Cast is that you can use so many supplies, like molds, texture plates and clear stamps to create intriguing designs. Another thing we love about this product is that it has a high success rate. Sometimes, as designers, we have to spend hours and hours trying to determine the best way to use a product. With Cool2Cast, it was success at first try every time. Even our "mistakes" became beautiful jewelry. So, we invite you to jump in, mix it up, get creative, get inspired and have fun!

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Flowers and Leaves Vase 86



Mixing Cool2Cast



The easiest method to mix Cool2Cast is in a zip top bag. You will also need water and a small measuring cup.



Measure Cool2Cast into a zip bag and add water according to package directions. The more you work with Cool2Cast, you will find your perfect "recipe" for just the right consistency. We prefer the mixture to be on the thinner side, so sometimes we add a few more tablespoons of water.



Seal bag, carefully checking to be sure it is tightly sealed. Keep a tight grip on the zipped edge of bag and cup bag with other hand. Shake vigorously for 1 – 2 minutes. Mixture should have the consistency of pancake batter.

Pouring Cool2Cast

Snip a small bottom corner of your zip bag to use as a pour spout. Start with just a small snip and then you can enlarge if you need to.



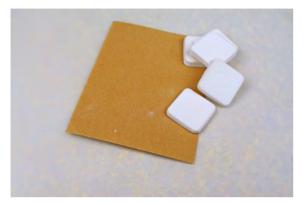
You can regulate the flow of Cool2Cast by squeezing the corner with your fingers when you want the flow to stop.



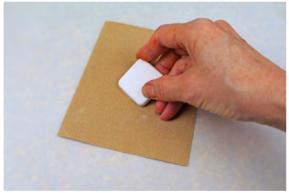
When pouring into any mold, keep in mind that you can vary the thickness of your Cool2Cast pieces. Cool2Cast has the look and feel of porcelain, so keep in mind that you do need to have at least ¼" thickness for best strength. There are techniques and molds that do not allow for pouring ¼" deep, so you will need to keep this in mind when designing and pouring your projects.



Sanding Cool2Cast



When you unmold your Cool2Cast pieces, you will usually find a rough edge along the back edge (this would have been the top edge in the mold) that will need to be sanded slightly.

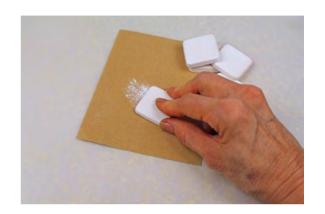


This is best done immediately after you unmold your pieces while they are slightly damp. You will need to handle your pieces carefully as they are broken more easily when still moist. Place fine sandpaper face up on flat work surface.



Place Cool2Cast piece on sandpaper at an approximate 40 degree angle. Pull the piece to lightly sand the edge.

Repeat on all back edges. The last step is to place the piece face up on the sandpaper and gently rub back and forth to flatten any ridges on the back. Use a wet wipe or paper towel to remove the dust.



How much Cool2Cast should I mix at one time?

You can mix small batches of Cool2Cast easily but a one cup measurement is a great batch to mix if you are making several coasters or a trivet or making a whole batch of mini-tiles.

Always keep some favorite small molds close-by like the Tribal Faces molds or mini silicone molds so that when you have just a small amount of Cool2Cast left over, you can pour the extra into these tiny molds. Even a few drops goes a long way!

Remember that you cannot save or store your leftover mixed Cool2Cast, so you should go ahead and use every last drop.

Traditional Molds



You can use a variety of small and large molds when creating with Cool2Cast including candy, resin, silicone and clay. The mold must be flexible so that the cast pieces can be easily removed. When using Cool2Cast in these types of molds, you should not have to use any release medium in your molds.

Unusual Molds



You can also use recycle packaging for Cool2Cast molds. The type of packaging that works best is blister packaging. You will recognize this packaging from craft supplies and makeup. You can also use rigid plastic clamshell packaging and the bottom section of water bottles.

Another unusual source for molds is to look at household items. This is a lid from a plastic water pitcher that creates a perfect wreath shape. Be sure to embed a hanger into the back when pouring this if you want to hang your wreath.



Preparing your Work Surface

Remember to always prepare your work surface before you start to pour your Cool2Cast projects. You need a level surface where your pieces can sit undisturbed until they are ready to be removed from the mold. If you have a mold that is not sitting level, just prop up a corner with craft sticks.

Cool Effects...

This is where Cool2Cast really gets fun!

Craft Foam Embossed Flowers

Craft foam shapes can be found in the children's department at your local craft store. They have adhesive backing and they are available in a variety of shapes and sizes.



Flower shapes provide pretty detail for this technique. Remove the center hole from the design.



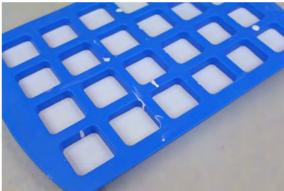
Remove paper backing and press one flower into the bottom of each mold.

Pour Cool2Cast into each mold. You will easily get the feel for pouring close to the same depth in each mold.

Fill all the molds with Cool2Cast keeping in mind that for best results, the thickness should be at least ¼". Let filled molds sit undisturbed for at least 1 hour or until Cool2Cast is cool and firm to the touch.

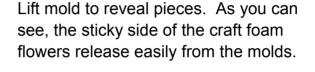
To release Cool2Cast shapes, turn mold over face down on work surface and press each mold cavity.













Remember that you can mix and match the pieces when you are pouring your mold. Some pieces are plain and some have the craft foam flowers.



While the pieces are still moist to the touch, use craft knife to gently lift one petal of the craft foam flower.

Gently pull out entire flower.

If flowers release cleanly, set them aside on waxed paper as you can reuse them several times

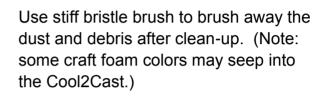
Use blunted tip of wooden skewer to clean up the edges of the flower design.













On the left is the Cool2Cast piece before cleaning up with wooden skewer. On the right is the piece with the edges cleaned up.



Let pieces dry completely before applying color.

Plain Embossing in Tile Mold

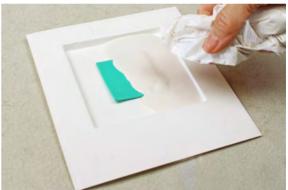
Craft foam can also be used to create geometric shapes in tile molds to create custom mini frames.

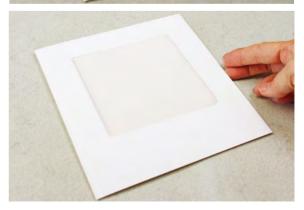
Determine desired shape and size of indentation. Craft foam is easy to cut with scissors. Use glue dots to stick craft foam into mold. This will keep it from shifting when you pour the Cool2Cast.

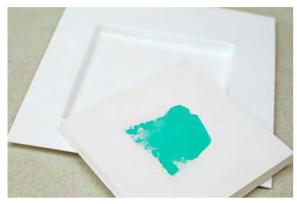
Pour Cool2Cast into mold, covering craft foam and filling to top of mold. Be careful not to overfill the mold. It is always best to keep fill to just below the top edge.

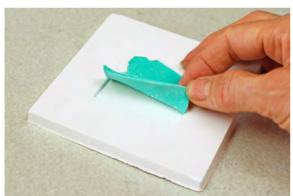
Lightly tap edges of mold to release bubbles. If desired, insert hanger into mold after Cool2Cast has cured in mold for approximately 10 minutes or when it supports the weight of the hanger without sinking. Let set in mold until Cool2Cast feels solid and cool to the touch (approximately 1 hour).











Gently remove Cool2Cast shape from mold. In this example, you can see that the Cool2Cast has seeped under the foam but that is not a problem.

Lift foam to reveal indentation in Cool2Cast. Use craft knife or wooden skewer to clean any rough edges of indentation.

Detail Embossing with Texture Treads in Mini Square Mold

Texture treads, clear stamps, texture plates, unmounted rubber stamps and textured craft foam can all be used to create interesting detail embossing in Cool2Cast. If you want a specific shape to your detail embossing pieces, you may need to cut them to size to fit into the bottom of the mold.

Measure the mold size and cut texture pieces(s) to desired size. On many molds, you will need to slightly round the corners in order for the texture piece to fit flat into the mold.

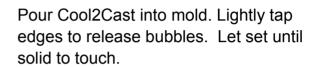
Place face up in mold. (If desired, use glue dot to hold in place in bottom of mold.)













Gently remove Cool2Cast shape from mold. You will notice that the Cool2Cast may be covering a portion of the texture piece but these will easily release in the next step.



Lift to remove texture plate from Cool2Cast. Use craft knife or sandpaper to smooth any edges. Let pieces dry completely before applying color.

When coloring the textured pieces, you can achieve interesting effects with alcohol ink and using Alcohol Blending Solution to lighten the indentations. Some alcohol inks change color when used in this technique.

Dark blue alcohol ink changes to beautiful hues of lavender and aqua when applying the Alcohol Blending Solution, revealing the very detailed textured design.

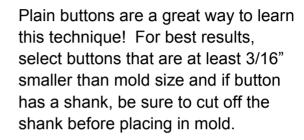




Embedding in Mold

Many trinkets and treasures can be embedded into Cool2Cast shapes. Some shapes work better than others so you will need to experiment to see what works best for you!







Some detailed buttons can also work for this technique, but you will need to cover the button face with blue masking tape first!



Place item into mold face down.
(This example shows all buttons.)
Be sure to protect face of fancy
buttons with blue tape before placing
into mold. If desired, use glue dot to
hold button in place in mold.

Pour Cool2Cast into mold. Lightly tap edges of mold to release bubbles. Let set until cool and solid to the touch.

Gently remove Cool2Cast shapes from molds.

If blue tape was applied, use craft knife to gently lift the corner. Remove tape to reveal embedded button. Additional clean up may be needed using craft knife, toothpick or skewer.













You will notice that Cool2Cast will seep under some buttons, so immediate clean up is suggested. It is much easier to clean up this technique when the Cool2Cast is still slightly moist.

Clean edges with blunt wooden skewer. Let pieces dry completely before applying color.

Buttons add a pretty pop of color and interesting design to these inked Cool2Cast pieces that can be used for jewelry, embellishments, magnets and more!

Direct Pour on Texture Plate

With this direct pour method, you can create textured pieces in your own shapes and patterns. When using a texture piece other than a large texture plate, just be sure to place your texture piece on a non-stick surface so that the Cool2Cast will release easily when dry. Also, be sure to work on a smooth, level work surface. When working with this technique, it is best to let your Cool2Cast thicken slightly before pouring so after you have mixed the batch, let it set for about 10 minutes before pouring. You will also want to sand the edges of these pieces when they are completely dry.

Rigid texture plates work well for this technique but you can also pour over clear stamps and texture treads.

Pour thickened Cool2Cast onto texture plate(s) in random patterns. Lightly tap side of plates to release bubbles and to help product settle, if needed. Let set until cool and solid to the touch.



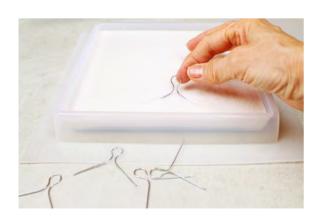




Turn plate over and pieces will fall away from the plate. If any stick, gently twist plate to pop pieces off. Let pieces dry completely before applying color.

After the Cool2Cast is dry, you can use fine grit sandpaper, emery board or bead reamer to smooth any rough edges on your pieces or to smooth and flatten the backs of any pieces, if needed.

Embedding Hangers



To embed your hanger, wait about 10 minutes until Cool2Cast starts to solidify and then press in your hanger. If the hanger starts to sink too much, pull it back out, wait a few more minutes and try again. When the consistency is right, your loop will easily stand up in the Cool2Cast and remain in place until set.

Color & Finish

Have fun and experiment with your own coloring techniques on Cool2Cast. Here's what I have played with.

Techniques for Coloring

Alcohol Ink

Alcohol inks work beautifully on the porous yet smooth surface of Cool2Cast. You can brush full strength alcohol ink directly on Cool2Cast surface or apply directly from the bottle.

For bright, rich, deep colors directly from the bottle use Jacquard Pinata Alcohol Inks. For slightly muted colors and a larger color selection, use Ranger Adirondack Alcohol Inks.

Save your imperfect Cool2Cast pieces to use for color samples. Apply the color directly from the bottle, let dry and then write the color names with a fine tip permanent marker. This is very useful when you are looking for that perfect color!







Simple line drawings can be created by pressing the tip of the alcohol ink bottle directly to the surface of the Cool2Cast piece.



Fill in full areas in the same manner by pressing the tip to the surface. You can also lift the bottle above the surface and add color by the drop.



These floral embossed pieces have been colored with full strength alcohol inks. Note that some of the Cool2Cast surfaces will resist the full strength colors. This happens most when using silicone molds.

Brush on Alcohol Ink

Alcohol ink can also be brushed on full strength or dilute ink with alcohol for soft washes of color. There is no need to wash your brushes between uses, just use one brush for each color. There is also no need to invest in expensive brushes.

Our favorite brushes are watercolor brushes because they hold a lot of color, but you can also use kids crafting brushes for applying the alcohol ink.



Pour on Alcohol Ink

Mix alcohol ink with alcohol in plastic cups and carefully pour onto Cool2Cast pieces.

Because of Cool2Craft's porous surface, ink can be poured on for an interesting coloring technique.





Try not to over pour when you are using this technique. The Cool2Cast is very absorbent and you will just waste the extra ink.



Layer your poured colors for an interesting water color effect. Many times, the new layer of color will pull up the layer below and you get the effect of more depth.



Have fun layering and pouring alcohol inks to create unique one-of-a-kind jewelry, home decor and accessories.

Dip into Alcohol Ink

For the dipping technique, mix alcohol ink with alcohol. You can vary the color depending on the ratios.

Reminiscent of Easter egg dyeing, Cool2Cast works great with the dipping technique. Just dip into cup and quickly pull out.

Repeat dipping with multiple colors and let the ink dry completely before stamping or glazing.

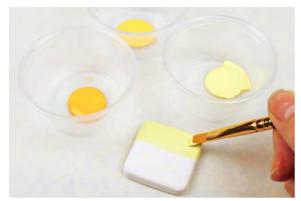




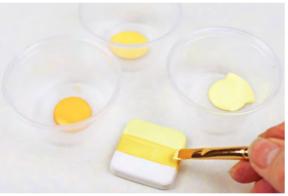


Acrylic Paint

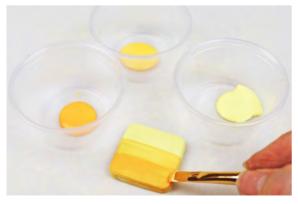
Acrylic and specialty paints can be easily brushed onto Cool2Cast pieces.



Pour small amounts of paint into cups and brush onto the surface of the Cool2Cast piece.



The smooth surface of Cool2Cast accepts paints very well. It's easy to create straight brush strokes or blend colors with different strokes.



Apply full strength acrylic paint for bright color applications or dilute with water for a watercolor effect.

Stamp Pad Ink

Stamp pad inks work well to create a base color on Cool2Cast. Flat and textured pieces can be pressed directly onto the stamp pad.

Remember that many specialty inks must be heat set. Place Cool2Cast piece on a heat resistant surface and set with heat gun.

Iridescent Paint & Mica Powders

Shimmers create a beautiful effect on the Cool2Cast surface. You can brush full strength or thin with water to paint onto the surface. In this example, the mica powder has been mixed with 3D glaze for a thicker application (on the left) and thinned with water for a lighter application (on the right).







How to Stamp on Cool2Cast

Cool2Cast provides a great surface for stamping. We have stamped with Tsukineko Brilliance, StazOn, and Ancient Page Inks.



A variety of stamps can be used including wood mounted, clear stamps and foam stamps.



When applying ink to your stamp, first place the stamp face up on a flat work surface. Apply the ink to the stamp in a tapping motion.



Leaving the stamp flat on the work surface, press your Cool2Cast piece onto the stamp. Be careful not to press too hard on thinner pieces of Cool2Cast or they can break from the pressure.

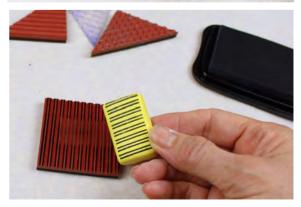
Carefully lift the Cool2Cast piece to reveal your stamped design.

Large wood stamps also work beautifully on Cool2Cast. Apply ink in the same tapping motion and leaving the stamp on the work surface, press your Cool2Cast piece into the stamp. Lift to reveal design.

Because of their pliability, foam stamps are great for stamping onto Cool2Cast. Apply ink and stamp using the same technique.









Clear stamps can also be stamped onto Cool2Cast in the more traditional stamping technique of pressing the stamp onto the surface of the Cool2Cast piece.



This is particularly useful when trying to achieve exact placement.

Hint...if your design does not stamp cleanly, you can re-ink, re-align and re-stamp the clear stamp.

Stamped Samples...on the next five pages...











Sealers & Finishes If you have a favorite glossy or matte finish, be sure to test it on a sample piece of Cool2Cast to determine compatibility with the inks & colorants. Our favorite glossy finish is Sakura 3D Crystal Lacquer (clear and color), followed by Glossy Accents by Ranger, DecoArt TripleThick Glaze & Aleene's Spray Acrylic Sealer – Glossy.

A thick coat of 3D Crystal Lacquer is best applied directly from the bottle. Draw a line around the outside of your piece and then fill in with a thick layer of Lacquer. Be sure to work in good lighting and check to be sure that you have filled in the entire area. If a thinner coat is preferred, you can apply with your fingertip or a brush. Let dry undisturbed overnight.

As an alternate to thick lacquer, gloss or matte spray sealer can be applied over inked and painted Cool2Cast pieces. Always test first to see that sealer is compatible with your ink and paint. Follow label directions and lightly spray surface. Let dry completely.

Glue on Findings

When your Cool2Cast jewelry shape is inked or painted and completely dry, you can glue on ring findings and jewelry bails with e6000 glue. Apply a small dab to the face of the finding and glue in place on the back of the piece. Let glue dry completely and then apply a coat of 3D lacquer around the findings. This coating of lacquer will help to secure them in place.







Photo Callery

Mini Frames	49	Spirit Balls	55
Blister plastic packaging comes in all shapes and sizes! With the embedding technique, a piece of craft foam creates the indentation for the photo in this mini frame. Acrylic paints wo beautifully on Cool2Cast and you can add painted shapes to personalize the frames.		Use polymer clay face molds to create gree themed art balls. Wrap a grapevine ball wi eyelash yarn. Add short lengths of fluffy yan a circle pattern. Glue Cool2Cast face and leaves in place.	th arn
		6 Flower Squares	56
Rings & Things	52	4 Flowers	57
Here's a fun use for those pull tabs that you find on many bottles these days. Pour Cool2Cast into your favorite jewelry mold, wait about 10 minutes and insert the tab ends into the Cool2Cast and leave undisturbed until set.		Butterflies	58
		6 Jewel Tones	59
		Decoupage	60
Girls Will Be Girls Purse		With hand-painted tissues, custom papers, napkins and stamped tissue	
Plastic blister packaging comes to life on thi girlie themed purse. You'll look at makeup packaging much differently now that you know that you can use the plastic packaging to recreate your favorite makeup		Stickers	61
	now	Crayons	62
	54	Embedded Glitter	65
Mod Frame		Embedded Glass Donut	66
Layer texture plate pieces to create a contemporary mosaic frame. Just run a black ink pad over the raised surfaces to highlight the texture.		Stamped Fish Pendant	67
		Charmed Pendant	68
		Embedded Mosaic Tile Pendant	69

Photo Callery

Embossed Leaf Pendant	70	Coral Roses and Leaves Wreath	82
Stamped Rings	71	Using the Cool2Cast wreath shape for the base, add flowers and leaves to create unique wreaths. Don't forget to embed a hanger into the wreath shape when you are pouring so that you will be able to hang this sweet floral wreath on the wall.	
Embossed Flowers	72		
Embedded Crystals	73		
Embedded Charms	74		
Burned Glue Rings	77	Lavender & Blue Flower Wreath Always keep small molds on your pouring	83
Rhinestone Pendant	78	worktable so that whenever you have a few drops of Cool2Cast left over after a large pour you can use the excess to create shapes like	
White Ink Rings	79		
Bezel Rings	80	these tiny flowers.	
Imagine Vase	80	3 Tin Cans with Frames	84
Cool2Cast square tiles can be featured on		Mosaic Brick	85
home décor items around your house. This tile was colored with the direct from bottle alcohol ink technique and stamped in black with a word stamp. Add a pretty ribbon and	ζ.	Flowers and Leaves Vase	86

plant to create a pretty and uplifting gift.



















































































To determine the number of pieces that you will need to circle the vase, measure and cut a piece of ribbon, yarn or paper.

t a piece of ribbon,

Place the ribbon on your work surface and lay out your pieces.



This collection of flowers were dip dyed with Butterscotch and Peach Bellini alcohol inks and the leaves were dipped in Lettuce and Willow. All of the inks have been diluted with rubbing alcohol which give them the beautiful soft pastel effect.



Contributor Photo Callery

Get complete step by step instructions to the contributors projects...

Simply click on the project photo and you will be taken to the blog post that contains the instructions.

Dipped Silk Flower Tea Candles		Dream Canvas	
by Ann Butler	89	by Steph Ackerman	96
Leaf Bracelet		A Little Bit of Sunshine	
by Kristi Parker	90	by Lisa Rojas	97
Sea Shell Candles		Wall Deco	
by Beth Watson	91	by Irit Shalom	98
Embellished Canvas Book		Canvas ART	
by Roberta Birnbaum	92	by Vishu Reberholt	99
Embellished Monogramed Letters		Floral Scrapbook Canvas	
by Kristi Parker	93	by Connie Hall	100
Quilt Tiles		Distress Clock	
by Ann Butler	94	by Larissa Pittman	101
Geometric Diamonds			
by Carmen Flores-Tanis	95		

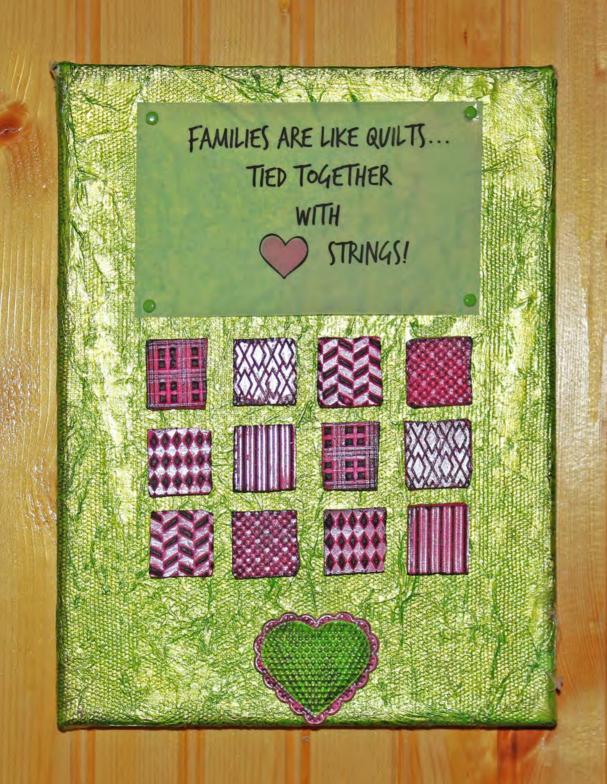


























Cool2Cast on YouTube

Would you like to see how to use Cool2Cast hands-on?

Check out these cool how-to video tutorials on the basics for working with Cool2Cast.

Visit our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/cool2craft where you will find a separate playlist for Cool2Cast feature videos along with over 1,000 DIY craft tutorials.















Product List

Cool2Cast www.Cool2Cast.com

Cool2Cast www.ShopCool2Craft.com

Pre-poured Cool2Cast pieces

Craft-foam flower stickers

Mod Podge Mold - Flowers

Westcott

Sakura 3D

Jacquard Pinata Alcohol Ink

Ranger Inks Tim Holtz Adirondack Ink

Wilton Brownie Bites Mold

Ann Butler Crafter's Ink

Aleene's Spray Acrylic Sealer

Cool2Cast is also available at Michael's in the polymer clay section



tiffany windsor COOCAST



