

Contact Us

Here's some contact info in case you ever need to reach us.

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Hardware-free Casting Mold



SHED LIFE, LLC

Owner's Manual



Shed life, LLC
Huntersville, NC
980-224-4665

Limited Lifetime Warranty

We take great pride in the molds we make and we want you to be happy with them too. We offer a satisfaction guarantee and lifetime warranty on your molds. Your molds will no doubt take a lot of use and abuse while you're making project after project and becoming a famous maker. As a maker, you rely on your tools and we want you to rely on us as well. If you have any problems with your mold, if it for some reason does not stand up to the years of use and abuse you put it through... let us know and we'll replace it free of charge. Hassle free and simple as that. We take pride in quality and stand behind the best molds available. Forever.

Why does it say limited?

Well, as long as you don't intentionally destroy the mold... like cutting it apart on the saw. I'm standing behind my product and not deliberate abuse. Although it's never happened, if this is an unavoidable event to get a blank out, please contact me first. I'll work with you and we'll get you set up with a new mold. I can't possibly think of everything and don't want to hire a lawyer for a disclaimer, so let's keep it simple. Don't abuse this and I will do whatever I can to keep you casting happily in the best molds.

Thank you!

When I started Shed Life several years ago, I never dreamed it would become the success it is today. All of that is due to you and folks like you. The woodworking, turning and maker communities are amazing. There's a commonality among the people who enjoy these things. You have included us in your community and we appreciate it. Through your support, we invite you into our family. We couldn't do it without you!

~Ken Bandoly

"This is the best mold I've ever used, but I'd like it in a size you don't offer..."

Customize in Almost No Time

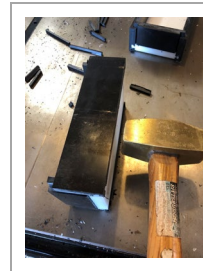
Get in touch. It usually doesn't take me more than a day or two to cut and assemble any custom size needs. There's no crazy cut fees or custom prices. The price will likely be similar to the nearest match in the molds I offer on my website.

Making It Perfect

I'm not perfect and so neither will every mold be. All of our molds are handmade. I don't use a CNC for these. This allows me to adjust wherever I need to for a more perfect fit. I make many cuts to form your molds and a firm fit that will hold up over time and not leak like a sieve requires an accuracy of 0.002" at least. I will be focused on the fit most, so the exact inner dimensions might not be as caliper perfect as a result. I will make every effort to have it as perfect as possible.

Demolding

Demolding...



To remove your new amazing blank from the mold, I find it best to give each side a good smack with a rubber mallet. This breaks the surface tension and allows the blank to come out easier. Sometimes it can be smacked just right and pop out without much trouble.

Remove the gates...



When the blank doesn't just pop right out, you'll want to remove one or both gates. To do this, invert the mold on the bench with one gate hanging over the edge. We have tried to provide a small piece of HDPE scrap to us, but a small block of wood works as well. Find the lip of the gate with the block and gently tap it out.

Assembly

When replacing the end gates in your mold, it may be necessary to tap them into place with a hammer or mallet. Make sure to tap them in straight and not at an angle. Inserting at an angle will create a large amount of stress on the connection between walls and base of the mold.

Use and operation

Assembly

When replacing the end gates in your mold, it may be necessary to tap them into place with a hammer or mallet. Make sure to tap them in straight and not at an angle. Inserting at an angle will create a large amount of stress on the connection between walls and base of the mold.

Do I need to use mold release?



The smooth wall virgin HDPE we source, requires no mold release to use. Nothing will permanently bond with HDPE. However, if you prefer to use mold release, there's no reason you can't.

Demolding...

To remove your new amazing blank from the mold, I find it best to give each side a good smack with a rubber mallet. This breaks the surface tension and allows the blank to come out easier. Sometimes it can be smacked just right and pop out without much trouble. When you need to remove the end gates to

What can I cast in HDPE Molds?



Just about anything that does not require or heat to over 350 degrees F.

HDPE will melt at about 350F, so it can not be used for metals and molten glass.

It can be used for urethanes, epoxies, rubbers, foams, soaps, waxes, and more.

How can I secure pieces I want to cast?

I like to use a small bit of hot glue or a small piece of double-sided tape. Really, there isn't too much you can't use to attach pieces inside your mold. Nothing will permanently bond with HDPE, this is why all HDPE molds must be made with a mechanical fit.

There's so much extra depth, why?

Ahh, yes. I hear this one a lot. I personally hate any mold that is a perfect depth for the size blank I want to make. I always spill it when moving the mold to the pot, get rounded corners and have no room to trim. If my pot or the shelf in it isn't perfectly level, one side of my blank is too thin. I absolutely hate the perfect depth molds, so I won't make them. If this works for you, then you're probably much better at casting than I am. You can always trim the height carefully by laying it on its side and trimming with a table or bandsaw. The HDPE cuts easily. Just be sure to measure from the inside and not the outside, or you'll cut it short.

You can also just use a small piece of masking tape to mark the inside depth you want to pour to, and then have a spill free and happy move into the pressure pot.