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SCULPTURING BLANK AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

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Fig. 1

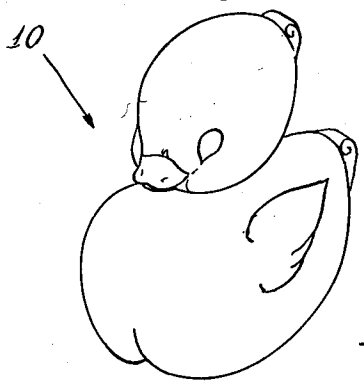


Fig. 3

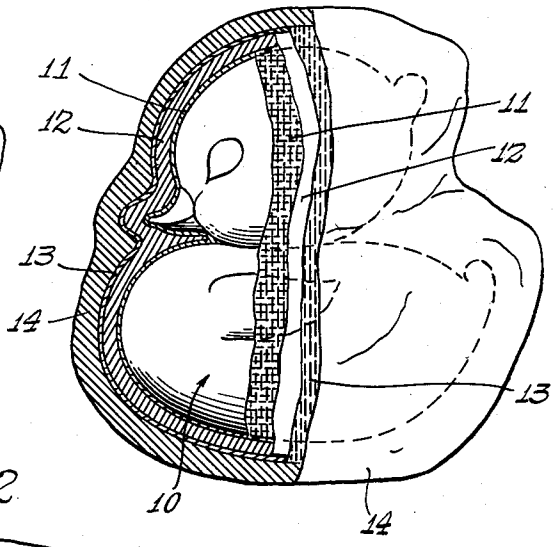
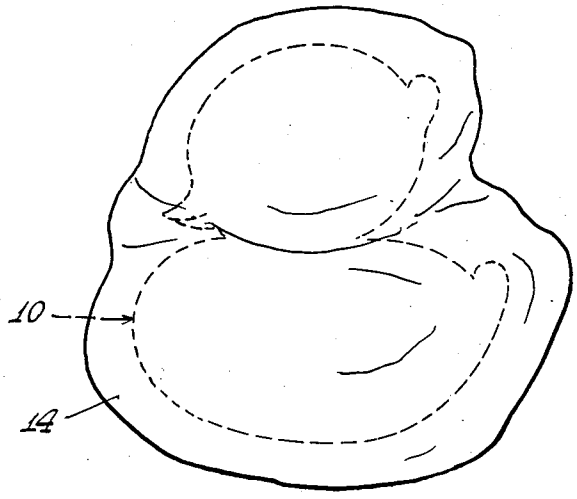


Fig. 2



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SCULPTURING BLANK AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

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This invention relates to the art of sculpturing, and more particularly to sculpturing blanks, such as may be supplied in kits or the like, and methods of making such blanks.

Heretofore, sculpturing kits have been provided, supplied with simple tools and with blanks whereby the would-be sculptor has in one package all of the items necessary to learn and carry out sculpturing. Such kits have always had a drawback in that it was difficult to forsee the amount of success or failure which the would-be sculptor ultimately ended up with. This is in part due to the many elements and skills which are difficult for a novice to master before he may arrive at a single, successful piece of sculpture. There exist the problems of forming and supporting the armature, the problems of rough blocking, shaping and the like which, when encountered for the very first time are difficult to learn.

Each phase of sculpturing is of sufficient importance in effecting the ultimate piece as to warrant practice until it is mastered, and accordingly a well-sculptured piece represents a series of successive steps each of which must be skillfully performed. For the novice this often results in discouragement and failure. The above drawbacks and disadvantages attendant prior sculpturing kits are obviated by the present invention, and one object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved sculpturing blank, which may be constituted as part of a kit, and which requires but a minimum of skills in order to end up with a finished and attractive sculptured item.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved sculpturing blank as above set forth, which will offer a desirable reward and goal to the lambent sculptor while at the same time teaching some of the more important aspects and phases of sculpturing.

A feature of the invention resides in the provision of a novel sculpturing blank of the above type which lends itself readily to the use of various tools, in accordance with the order of the stages of sculpturing.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide an improved sculpturing blank having as its ultimate objective a finished figure of premolded form, correct in its various proportions and representative of at least a fair amount of sculpturing skill.

Another feature of the invention resides in the provision of a novel sculpturing blank having a premolded ultimate figure, wherein the sculptor may readily add or modify such ultimate figure, to incorporate his own finishing touches.

Still another feature of the invention resides in the provision of a novel sculpturing blank as above set forth, which may be adapted for working by very young children as well as relatively unskilled adults.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved sculpturing blank enabling the would-be sculptor to very easily, successfully work the same while simultaneously teaching such elements as "balance," "proportion," "expression" and the like.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a simplified and advantageous method or process for fabricating sculpturing blanks having the above characteristics.

Other features and advantages will hereinafter appear.

In the drawings accompanying this specification, similar

characters of reference indicate corresponding parts wherever possible in the several views, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a premolded figure constituting the initial stage of construction of the sculpturing blank.

FIG. 2 is a side elevational view of the improved sculpturing blank of the invention.

FIG. 3 is a view partly in side elevation and partly in vertical section, of the sculpturing blank of FIG. 2, portions being broken away to reveal the interior construction.

The novel sculpturing blank of the present invention embraces essentially a premolded figure constituting a nucleus or inner portion of a rough composite molding blank. Such nucleus may have various shapes and forms. Also, it may be of simple configuration, or may have varying degrees of detail and complexity.

In FIGS. 1–3 the inner portion or nucleus of the sculpturing blank is constituted as a molded figure 10 of a small duck, somewhat fanciful. The molded figure 10 may be of any suitable sculpturing clay which is somewhat hard but still susceptible of being readily worked or, it may be a hardened piece, susceptible of etching or scratching.

By the present invention, the figure 10 is coated with a thin overall coating 11, which may be of a relatively soft substance which can be easily cut. I have found that a suitable substance for the coating 11 is ordinary candle wax. However, other wax-like substances, synthetic substances and the like may be used in place of the candle wax. The coating 11 is seen to be relatively thin and to conform closely to the configuration of the molded figure 10.

Surrounding the coating 11, in accordance with the invention, I provide a second coating 12 which is preferably relatively thick and non-uniform as regards its thickness. The coating 12 is preferably constituted of a sculpturing material, such as sculpturing clay.

In furtherance of the invention I now provide a third coating 13, encompassing the thick and non-uniform coating 12. The coating 13 is seen to be relatively thin and uniform, and may be also constituted of candle wax or other suitable soft and easily cut substance. I thereafter provide a further relatively thick and non-uniform coating 14, which is again of sculpturing material such as sculpturing clay. The coating 14 has an outside shape very unlike the shape of the initial molded figure 10, as will be readily seen, and this is due to the thickness and non-uniformity of the coatings 12 and 14 of sculpturing material.

If desired, further thin, wax-like coatings and thick coatings of sculpturing material may be added, over the coating 14 shown in the figures.

Further, in accordance with the invention, the coatings 11 and 13 are constituted to have different colorings, or the coatings 12 and 14 may be constituted to have different colorings, or both sets of coatings may be colored differently.

In accordance with the method of the invention, the molded figure 10 may be dipped in molten wax or sprayed with molten wax of relatively low temperature, whereby the wax coating will quickly thicken and set. This coated object may then be dipped in a thick mud-like bath of modeling clay and thereafter lifted from the bath and subjected to hot air so as to quickly harden the clay coating 12 formed thereby.

Thereafter a second immersion in a wax bath or wax spraying is effected, to form the coating 13, whereupon a second immersion in the bath of molding clay is done to produce the outermost coating 14.

I have found that when using candle wax, a tempera-

ture of 130 degrees is desirable so that the wax quickly sets, with a thickness of approximately 1/16 of an inch, requiring but a single dipping. Different temperatures may be employed, with different wax or wax-like formulations, as will be understood. With large pieces, coatings thicker than 1/16" are desirable, using a lower temperature, as for example 120°.

It will be understood that, after dipping in or spraying with hot wax, the figure may be subjected to a cooling blast of air, if this should be found desirable. The warm air blast employed with the clay coatings tends to quickly remove the moisture therefrom and hasten the setting operation.

With a sculpturing blank as above set forth even a novice or very young person may produce a presentable finished figure utilizing the various required sculpturing tools to work on the rough blank and remove therefrom the now undesired layers or coatings. In the clay and/or wax coatings are given different colors, the sculptor first removes the outer coating 14 of one color, revealing the wax coating 13 of another color, and then takes off the wax coating 13 to reveal the inner clay coating 12 of a different color. The sculptor then carefully removes the clay coating 12, revealing the innermost wax coating 11, and upon careful removal of the latter the finished figure 10 will be fully exposed, properly proportioned and constituting a finished article.

During the process of removing the various coatings, the sculptor develops skills in handling the various tools. Even though it is the first time that he does sculpturing, there is a good chance of ending up with a fairly presentable ultimate object, and he may even carefully sculpture and work the ultimate object, to provide his own finishing touches.

It will be understood that the clay layers and clay figure 10 may all be of the same color, and that the wax coatings 11 and 13 may be of different colors to constitute a positive and easy-to-follow guide in removing the layers and revealing the final finished form.

While, as disclosed in the drawings, I provide an initial molded figure having four coatings, either more or fewer coatings may be employed, and various color combinations may be utilized within the spirit of the invention.

With a sculpturing blank as above constituted, sculpturing skills may be readily developed in an interesting manner, with the reward of presentable, final figures. The sculpturing process with its attendant reward becomes a satisfying one, and I have found that my present improved sculpturing blank has many advantages over sculpturing kits not provided with such blanks.

It will be understood that final composite sculptures may be made, using individual pieces formed as above and thereafter assembled. Wings of a cupid, for example, could be initially separate from the body.

Variations and modifications may be made within the scope of the claims, and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

I claim:

1. A sculpturing blank comprising a molded figure constituted of a sculpturing material; a thin and substantially uniform coating surrounding said figure, constituted of a relatively soft, easily cut substance; a relatively thick and non-uniform coating of sculpturing material, surrounding said first-mentioned coating; another thin and substantially uniform coating surrounding said last-mentioned coating and constituted of a relatively soft, easily cut substance; and a further relatively thick and non-uniform coating of sculpturing material, surrounding the said last-mentioned coating of easily cut substance, said further coating having an indefinite shape appreciably different from the shape of said molded figure.

2. The invention as defined in claim 1 in which the coatings of sculpturing material are of different colors.

3. The invention as defined in claim 1 in which the coatings of easily cut substance are of different colors.

4. The invention as defined in claim 1 in which the coatings of sculpturing material are of colors different from the coatings of easily cut substance.

5. The invention as defined in claim 1 in which the easily cut substance comprises wax.

6. The method of making a sculpturing blank, which includes the steps of molding a figure from sculpturing material, evenly, thinly coating said figure with a soft and easily cut substance, applying a relatively thick and non-uniform coating of sculpturing material over said soft coating, applying another even and thin, soft and easily cut coating over the last-mentioned coating, and applying a relatively thick and non-uniform coating of sculpturing material over said last-mentioned easily cut coating.

7. The invention as defined in claim 6 in which the coatings are applied by immersing the figure in the substance with which it is to be coated.

8. The invention as defined in claim 7 in which the easily cut coatings are applied as molten material of relatively low temperatures at which the substance of such coatings remains thick.

9. The invention as defined in claim 7 in which the coatings of sculpturing material are subjected to a stream of warm air to cause them to set quickly.

10. A sculpturing blank comprising a molded figure constituted of sculpturing material; a thin coating of substantially uniform thickness surrounding said figure, constituted of relatively soft easily cut substance; and a relatively thick and non-uniform coating of sculpturing material surrounding said first-mentioned coating of easily cut substance, said last-mentioned coating having an indefinite shape appreciably different from the shape of said molded figure.

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