

## **How To Make A Torso Casting**

While a torso is quite a bit bigger than a casting such as a hand or a face, creating a torso cast is actually a lot simpler than it initially seems. Due to the torso’s broader surfaces and fewer undercuts it is a straightforward project. Even a beginner can create a model of a torso without too much difficulty. The challenge lies in achieving the perfect pose.

Usually, mold-makers find it simplest to position the model’s torso by securing a board or door on a diagonal so that the model can comfortably lean on it, and all of the parts of the torso rest as they should naturally, without the unflattering effects of gravity.

One of the best ways to achieve the position and results that you’re looking for is to use a casting kit designed specifically for making molds of a torso such as ArtMold’s Full Torso Casting Kit. Many of these kits allow you the perfect setups for achieving both front and rear torso casts. These two sections can then be fitted together to create a perfect full torso mold. Making an invisible seam between these sections is the only portion that will require some previous skill in mold making.

We suggest that the novice begin with ArtMold’s Front Torso Casting Kit. Since it requires no seaming it is much easier to make and provides experience should you wish to create a full torso with back and front.

The mold is created by applying MoldGel SloSet starting at the neck and working down 1/3 of the thigh. Fiber is embedded into the alginate before it sets so that the application of plaster bandages will hold fast against the alginate layer. About 9-rolls of 6-inch plaster bandages cut into 12-inch strips are required. The plaster bandages are applied in overlapping layers three layers thick. Once the mold has been created with relative ease, it is the actual casting that takes some time and practice.

As soon as the mold is removed from the model, it can be considered ready for casting. To preserve the original detail, you must act quickly to begin casting into your torso mold. Wearing a dust mask, mix some CastRite plaster and scoop some plaster with a chip brush and dab it into the alginate. Be careful not to trap any bubbles in the plaster. Fill in the sides. Repeat this process at least 3 times.

Give it enough time to fully set (about ½ hour from when it cools) and then remove the alginate and plaster bandage mold.

After drying for several days you may wish to finish it with a paint or varnish, to give it that truly professional quality appearance. When that is complete, it is ready for mounting.

To display your torso cast, keep in mind that it is a gorgeous piece as a “stand alone,” and it takes very little to overcrowd it. If you attach a copper or stainless steel tube through between the legs before the final torso is closed, you can secure the tube, letting it protrude from the base by about a foot. You can then drill a hole in your base of choice (remembering that the base must be heavy and strong enough to support the cast) and insert the pipe into the base, securing it with a two-part epoxy. This elegant display is certain to impress.