

Resin Charcuterie Board Workshop Plan (1-Hour Format)

Welcome & Introductions (5 minutes)

Welcome participants, share a bit about yourself and your work with resin.

Have each participant briefly introduce themselves and what brought them here. Ask about any introductions to resin/inks or mica powders.

Mention today's goal: "We're going to create a custom resin charcuterie board you can take home and show off!"

"Before we dive in, let's get familiar with what's on the table. These tools will be our best friends for the next hour."

Materials Overview (5 minutes)

What you'll find at your workstation:

- ☐ Epoxy resin & hardener.
- ☐ Mica powders
- ☐ Wooden charcuterie board
- ☐ Gloves & masks
- ☐ Tissues, paper towels, wipes
- ☐ Mixing cups & wooden sticks
- ☐ Small pouring cups
- ☐ Painter's tape
- ☐ Scissors or craft knife
- ☐ Heat guns & blowtorch.
- ☐ Trash bags

Understanding Resin (10 minutes)

What is Resin?

It is a viscous liquid that hardens into a transparent or opaque solid, depending on the type of resin used. Resin is a versatile material that can be molded, shaped, and colored to produce a variety of objects with different properties.

When the resin is mixed with a hardener, a chemical reaction occurs that causes the monomers to link together and form a solid. The hardener acts as a catalyst, speeding up the chemical reaction and ensuring that the resin cures properly. The exact curing time and temperature depend on the type of resin and hardener used but is typically within 24 to 72 hours. Once cured, resin is rock hard, glossy, durable, and resistant to chemicals and water.

Today we are working with food safe epoxy Brand name (resin + hardener) that cures into a glossy, durable finish. This is Ideal for functional art like trays, charcuterie boards, coasters.

Mixing Ratio

- ❑ The Usual mixing ratio will be 1:1 by volume but always check your brand's instructions. Read all the directions to use before working with resin.
- ❑ Mix slowly for 3-5 minutes, scrape sides and bottom. Keep it aside for 1 min and then mix again with the mica powder.
- ❑ Mixing too fast creates bubbles, and incorrect ratios can leave your piece sticky or rubbery. If the measurements are incorrect the piece might not even harden

Working time

- ❑ After mixing, you have 10 - 15 minutes to work before it starts getting thick. Once it's mixed, the clock starts ticking! So, plan your design before you mix.
- ❑ Divide the mixed resin into separate containers and add colorants like mica powder or pigments to achieve desired hues.
- ❑ Today we are creating a seascape charcuterie board. So, the colors we will be using are blues, teals and white.

Color Magic: Mica Powders & Additive

- ❑ Mica Powders - Adds shimmer and opacity. You can use different colors to layer and create depth.
- ❑ Alcohol inks - Adds dimension and depth.
- ❑ You can also add gold flakes, dried flowers, glitter or metallic dust. Please be mindful that they must be completely dry.

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Step-by-Step Demonstration:

- ☐ Pre-design your board. Decide where you want the resin - edges, center, top third?
- ☐ Tape the back of your board with painter's tape - "This keeps the back clean from drips. We will peel it off after curing."
- ☐ Mix resin and hardener. - Let sit 2-3 minutes to allow bubbles to rise.
- ☐ Add mica to separate cups, mix each color.
- ☐ Begin pouring:
 - ☐ Start with clear resin to design your outer element.
 - ☐ Add your darkest color.
 - ☐ Layer in lighter tones or complementary shades.
 - ☐ Add a white resin line with white mica for ocean effects.
 - ☐ Spread gently with gloved hands.
 - ☐ Use heat gun for wave effect. Push the white lines outward to create "foamy" waves. You can also use a blowtorch to pop the remaining bubbles.

Hands-On Time! (15 minutes)

- ☐ Let participants create their own designs.
- ☐ Walk around to assist and guide.

While It Cures: Discussion & Q&A (5 minutes)

- ☐ Pour and Cure the Resin:
 - ☐ Carefully pour the colored resin into the mold, ensuring it covers the desired area.
 - ☐ Once poured, your board should be left untouched in a dust-free area. Even a fingerprint can ruin the finish.
 - ☐ Let the resin cure completely according to the manufacturer's instructions, which typically takes 24 - 72 hours.
 - ☐ Once cured, carefully remove the drips and tape from the charcuterie board to clean the resin drips.

Finish the Board:

- ☐ Use a scraper, sandpaper or knife to remove any excess resin from the edges.

- ☐ Sand the surface smoothly and apply food-safe wax or oil to protect the wood and enhance its appearance. Do not allow the oil to touch the resin portion of the board or else the resin might discolor or there might be a film on the design.
- ☐ Enjoy your resin charcuterie board:
- ☐ Be sure to clean it carefully after each use and avoid using it for cutting with sharp knives.
- ☐ Do not use a dishwasher to clean the boards.

Other uses of Resin

- ☐ Coasters
- ☐ Trays
- ☐ Bookmarks
- ☐ Jewelry
- ☐ Tumblers
- ☐ Wall art.

