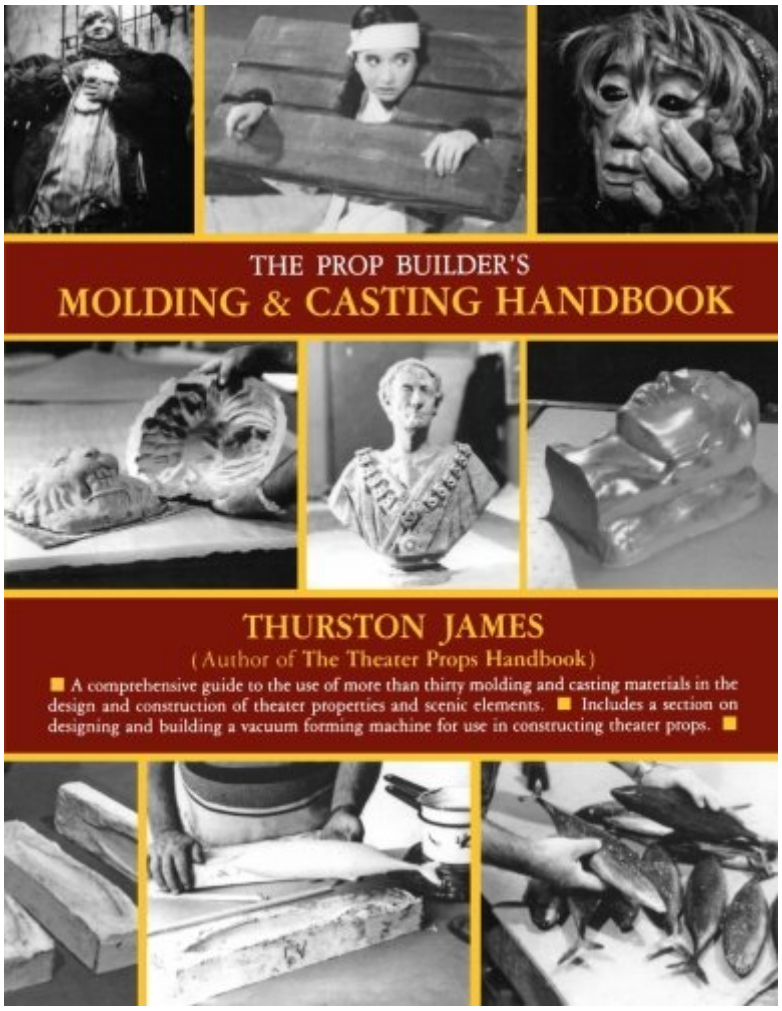
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Prop Bldr'S Molding & Casting



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Customer Reviews

The main reason -- as unfair as it is -- I am not giving five stars is the age of the book. There are so many products being offered to the young artist today, with various inflated and contradictory claims, one wishes there was a book this calm and straightforward that could cut through the marketing gloss and get back to what the basic processes are, what the chemicals do, what will probably work and what to watch out for. This book is solid and good, but the materials it refers to are not so often found in their original form in the shopping mall crafts stores of today.Anyhow. Read this book. Whether you are about to pull a resin cast for the first time, or whether you (like me) got a basic familiarity back in college but have forgotten many of the details, this offers grounding in How Casting Works in a more-or-less step-by-step, from simple to complex, way.Of the many things to salute Thurston James for, is the extremely practical viewpoint. Thurston is THEATER. If you haven't done theater, you may not understand. It is about letting go of "the usual way" and doing what gets it on stage by opening night, under budget, without anyone getting hurt and in a way that will hopefully stay in one piece until the show closes. Some books might artificially limit themselves, saying "here's how to cast in resin, here's resin." Thurston says "Here's resin and how to do it right. And here's some cheaper substitutes if that works better for you." If he was writing today he'd almost certainly say "And you can just skip all these steps and have it 3d printed -- but here's the downside to that, and here's resin for when that just plain works better."Right at the very start, he tells you it will be messy, you are going to be dealing with chemicals that could damage your health, and you WILL fail; sometimes a mold will break or a fresh batch of resin refuse to cure. It happens. You have to be prepared for the mess and for the occasional "learning experience." Which are words which should be at the front of EVERY "how to" book.What this book is not, is a step-by-step hold-you-by-the-hand. It does go into detail, and it does basically follow a complete cycle from original model to duplicate (over and over, with different methods) but it isn't a tutorial in book form.What it is, is nearly encyclopedic. Now, I learned theater crafts at a high school shop that believed in touching on everything. The first show of my first season was wing-and-border and we got to play with cut drops and roll drops. The next was a box set and we built standard and hard-cover TV flats. The next was sculptural and we carved blocks of styrofoam and covered them in glue and cheesecloth. Before we left that school we'd worked with hot melt, celastic, vacuuform products (we didn't have our own machine)... For decades after, I'd be working on a set or prop and I'd say "Hey, there's this material I used once in high school that might work here. Lemme see what I can dig up on it."Well, that is this book. Plaster molds. Dental alginate. Silcone RTV. Latex casting. Slipcasting. Fiberglas, celastic and paper-mache. Paraffin, sugar glass, expanding foam, and

Durham’s Rock Hard. And vacuumforming! If you’ve read through it, then you will be -- despite the age of the book -- prepared to go into your local store and actually make sense of the packaged casting and molding products being offered there. And you will be much better prepared to actually use them.

This is the best guide to casting that I have ever read.Mr. James is a master of producing props for film and theater, and he brings his many years of experience and superb teaching skills to this book.The book covers all the major casting techniques, and all but one of the methods described can be used by amateurs as well as professionals.This book is solid gold for those involved with props whether you are a gamer, a theater person, or a film set maker!I highly recommend this book!

This book is so cool because it shows you how to use materials from the hardware store. The pictures are a little dark but the information is priceless . I’ll bet you take your time and figure out what is in the pictures . I’m very happy I ordered this book . It’s one of my top books in my art studio . I really recommend it if you are trying to reproduce something in a small studio or at home .

I found this book to be very useful. I purchased it for novice prop-making and cosplay use. I’m sure I could have found most of this information online somewhere, however, I am unfamiliar with some of the terms for the techniques and having everything laid out in a collected format was very convenient instead of searching for terms I didn’t know or techniques I didn’t realize existed. I will say, the type setting of this book gives it’s age away. The information is still highly useful even if the typesetting is quaint and the photo look like old xerox copies of copies.

i dont write reviews normally but i wanted to warn everyone about the quality of this book. the pictures/images inside the book black and white. its not a problem if it was a good quality, but not. they are so dark and poor quality. also texts with bold font not friendly. i felt like a somebody send me a low quality of original book. information inside the book maybe good enough but i coudnt continue to read. anyone who want to buy this book good luck. take care your eyes.

The book has great information, but the typesetting is terrible and makes it confusing to read at times cause it doesn’t follow the regular rules. The pictures quality is really low too, so if you are looking for a more visual teaching book I wouldn’t get this one. The writing in the other hand is great and easy to understand, feels like you are actually talking to someone.

I've looked over the descriptions of several mold/mould making/ casting books here at , even have a couple of them. This book is a little light, maybe, on some details (and could use more & better photos) but I think a person can get a lot of good out of it in any molding/ casting project. If you really want to get into the subject I think you should try to get a few more books (which ones depends on what material you want to cast), many of which will point you to in their recommendations as you look at this book. Some of those books are more up to date, this one is pre-internet, and might list current sources for materials (you can also probably get some of the stuff here at) but this one actually lists your local hardware, and maybe grocery, store as a place to look for substitutes. I like that about this one.

This book is not necessarily for beginners but I wouldn't steer them away from it...anyone can learn by trial and error. It is a practical book, a few years on it but still pertinent. Love all the touches on the various techniques- it is not a how to do it all type of book because as with any art it gives you the basics to explore on your own and with your own flourish

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