

Repairs to Cold Cast Resin Sculpture.

Here's how to make repairs to bronze resin –

If you have a clean break which fits together without any missing pieces –

First drill lots of holes in the two faces of the break so that each face looks “honey-combed”. Apply Araldite to each face making sure that you force it into the holes you have drilled. Squeeze broken parts together and remove any Araldite which has migrated to the surface with a knife blade. Hold join together with gaffer tape, string, elastic bands or similar. Allow to set overnight. Where any of the drilled holes coincide you will have a little “rod” of Araldite to hold the join together. Very effective this – have not known any repair to come apart again later. If join is visible rub over with any black wax and allow it to harden before wiping over with a rag.

If you have a bad break with missing “chips” –

1. Drill broken faces as above.
2. Mix equal amounts of Araldite (which is a similar composition to the resin) together with a lolly stick or similar.
3. Tip out a small mound of talc or some other inert filler, like flour.
4. Push Araldite into the mound of talc and fold over and over so that the talc is absorbed into it. Continue doing this (and adding more talc as necessary) until you have a ball of “putty” which you can touch without it sticking to your fingers. This will take more talc than you expect!
5. Squeeze putty onto the opposing faces of the break, making sure it gets into the holes you have drilled and squeeze the faces together. Remove surplus with knife or stick as it will be much more difficult to remove when set. Whatever you don't get off will have to be cut away later with a sharp knife. Hold join with tape or similar.
6. The same “putty” is also useful to fill in any little chips you might have to repair.
7. Touch up with a little bronze paint (or you can use black gloss enamel (but you will need to paint this on and then wipe off as much as you need to match the colour of the sculpture).
8. To finish you can use Leberon black or mahogany wax.

TIP: use “**slow**” (**precision**) Araldite rather than “rapid”. This allows you longer working time before going off and makes a stronger join.