

Tips & Tricks using Part 15

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Please note that all of the molds shown here (#41, 42, 43 and 44) are **meant to be used with mold #45** (the gothic dungeon builder mold). If you do not have mold #45, then you **will not be able to build the items shown here**.

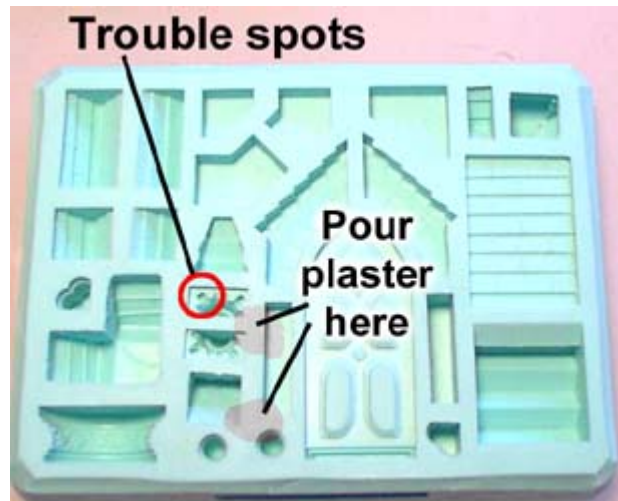
How to Use Mold #41

There are a few pieces on **mold #41** that can be difficult to cast. These **difficult parts are circled in red**.

Be sure you use the **wet water method** found on the Advanced Casting Instructions page. Make sure the "wet water" gets down into the small round knobs on the corners of this piece. Many times a small water bubble will form over this part.

1.

When you pour in the plaster, **pour it onto the ridges between the blocks** and not directly into the block cavity. This gives time for the plaster to **flow down the sides** of each cavity and into the details.



2.

Pouring in this manner gives time for the plaster to **creep into the detail** and flow into the small pockets.



Here are what the blocks from the mold look like.



3.

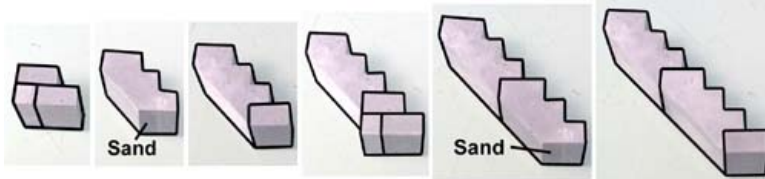
The large corner arch is made in 2 pieces that go together as shown.

The door has no handle, so when you glue them front-to-back, you don't have to worry about the hinges and door handles.



4.

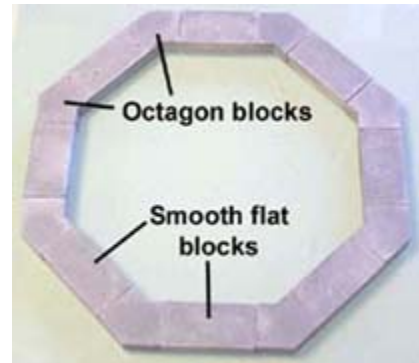
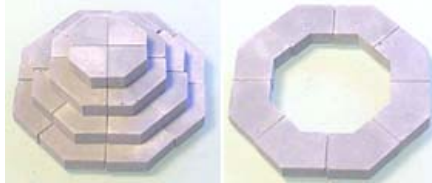
Any length of steps can be made from the smooth blocks and step blocks on this mold.



The **octagon blocks** can be used for a number of things.

These photos show how they could be stacked up to make a statue stand, or used to make **outer rings of pools** and fountains.

5.



You can use these to **finish off the ends of stairs** leading up to a doorway or platform.

6.

When using these for an outer ring of a fountain, there are an endless number of shapes you can make when you combine these with the smooth flat tiles.

For an example of a fountain, check out the Advanced Gothic Dungeon section.



The decorative piece shown here can either be glued flat onto a wall, or be placed back-to-back with another to form a decorative top cap.

7.

If glued to a wall, it can be used as a **statue base** for very small statues (10mm figures) or wall sconces.

The **round decorative base** can also be glued flat onto a wall (for a statue stand), or glue 2 of them together for a round base.



The **roofed arches** (also shown in step 6 above), fit the door on the mold perfectly.

8.

These can be put flat against a wall to make an alcove decoration for a statue, or be glued back-to-back to make a self standing arch.

If you **sand the ends off**, you can place the arches side by side for a continuous arch row.



9. The **roof caps** are used to dress up flat wall tops. You mainly see these on garden walls or self standing walls with no roofs.

The **post caps** help finish off the corners of these types of walls.



10. The roof caps can also be used in combination with the roofed arches (as in the first photo).

The roofed arches can also be **used as buttresses** when placed against a wall. Notice the decorative piece on the front of each buttress is from this mold also.

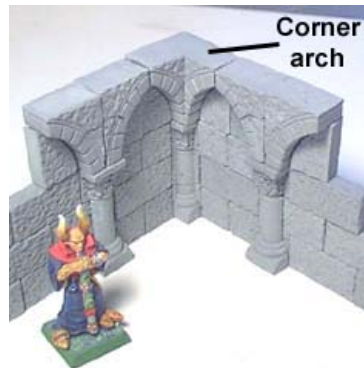
A different combination of the roof caps can give you **different designs along a wall top**.



11. The corner arches allow you to **run the arches all the way into the corner** on either the inside or outside of a building.

The roof pieces can be used in combination with the angle blocks, to add small roof sections to your monuments.

For more examples of how this mold can be used, check out the Advanced Gothic Dungeons page.



Corner arch



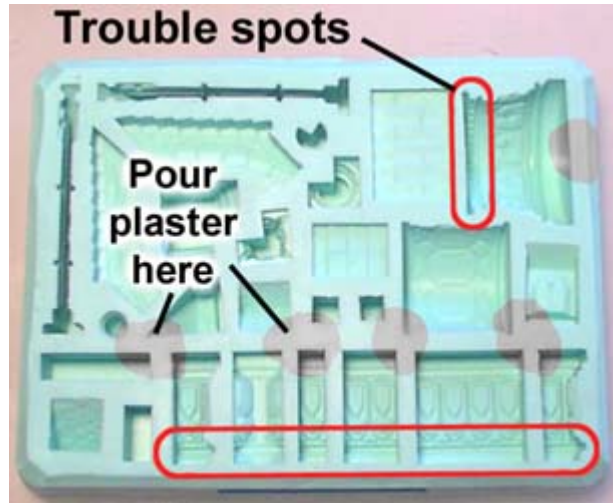
How to Use Mold #42

There are a few pieces on **mold #42** that can be difficult to cast. These **difficult parts are circled in red**.

Be sure you use the **wet water method** found on the Advanced Casting Instructions page. Make sure the "wet water" gets down into the small details and into the doors on this mold.

- 1.

When you pour in the plaster, **pour it onto the ridges between the blocks** and not directly into the block cavity. This gives time for the plaster to **flow down the sides** of each cavity and into the details.

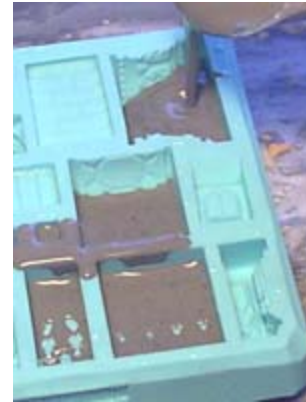


Pouring in this manner gives time for the plaster to **creep into the detail** and flow into the small pockets.

These photos illustrate how the "wet water" method allows the plaster to flow. You can see the plaster working its way into the cracks of the design.

- 2.

It's very important that you **pour slowly** and **on the ridges between blocks**, especially if you want to get the small rivet designs along the tops of the decorative blocks.



Here are the blocks that **mold #42** will make.

- 3.
- The door** is in 2 halves. One half has the hinges, and the other half has the lock.



The door is made to fit under the large roofed arch pieces.



The **decorative base pieces** can be used to finish the bottom of walls and buttresses.



4. One of these pieces (shown in the far left photo) is used to **fill the inside corner** where two bases meet. This piece can also be used on it's own as a short post, or to add decoration to a wall.



The **small corner arch** allows you to continue wall arches into the corners of walls.



5. When you combine this with the **3/4 pillar pieces**, you can make outside corner arches as well.

The 3/4 pillar blocks allow you to put pillars onto the outside corners of wall or monuments.



The **roof shingle pieces** (shown above), are used with the **angle blocks** to make small roof sections over monuments or statue stands

The **large column blocks** can be glued back to back for complete columns. These can also be used to raise dungeon sections up to the next level in height.

6. **For more examples of how this mold can be used**, check out the Advanced Gothic Dungeons page.

To see how this mold is used to make the Gothic Arena, check out the Gothic Arena building instructions.



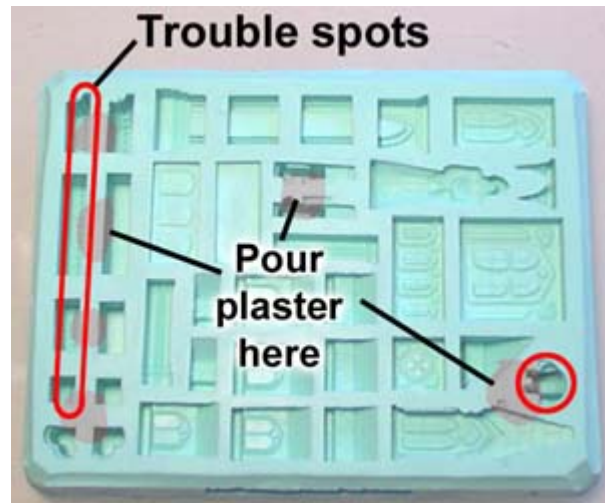
How to Use Mold #43

There are a few pieces on **mold #43** that can be difficult to cast. These **difficult parts are circled in red**.

Be sure you use the **wet water method** found on the Advanced Casting Instructions page. Make sure the "wet water" gets down into the small details and into the doors on this mold.

- 1.

When you pour in the plaster, **pour it onto the ridges between the blocks** and not directly into the block cavity. This gives time for the plaster to **flow down the sides** of each cavity and into the details.



One of the hardest pieces to get right is the **gargoyle wing tips**. The best method is to **put a drop of plaster**

- 2.

where shown, then **spread the mold open** while tapping the mold against the table.

For the rest of the mold, **pour slowly and on the ridges between blocks**, especially if you want to get the small rivet designs along the edges of the decorative blocks.



- 3.

The pieces from this mold are **mostly decorative** in nature. In other words, there are a **lot of small pieces** and it takes a **longer time to build with them**.

However, you can **really dress up** simple things like doorways, arches and monuments with these pieces.



One of the most unique pieces is **the bench**. Be sure you use **very little glue** when putting the pieces together because they fit tightly and glue will squeeze out and become noticeable.

4. The decorative piece goes on the back and the smooth slab is for the seat.

I've also made this seat so that you can **use wooden craft sticks** (or sticks from an ice cream bar) to make long pews for a church or cathedral. Be sure you **cut the pieces the exact same length** for the seat and the back.



You'll notice a number of **decorative slabs** on this mold. They come in different sizes, but they're **all 1/4" thick and have smooth flat sides**.

5. These slabs are meant to be for the outside of tombs, monuments, fountains, or any other type of furnishings you would find in a cathedral.

These slabs are **joined on the corners** using the fluted pieces. These come in 1/4" and 1/2" tall. The **sepulcher** shown here uses this principle. For complete building instructions on this, go to the Advanced Gothic Dungeons page.



The **decorative flat tiles** are used to make the flat **top and bottom** of the tombs or monuments.

6. These have either a **square corner** or an **octagon corner**. By adding some of the other decorative blocks on top you can make these items.



7. The **robed figures** can be used as wall decorations, but if you **add the top caps** onto them, they can become **pillars to support an arch**.

For more examples of how this mold can be used, check out the Advanced Gothic Dungeons page.



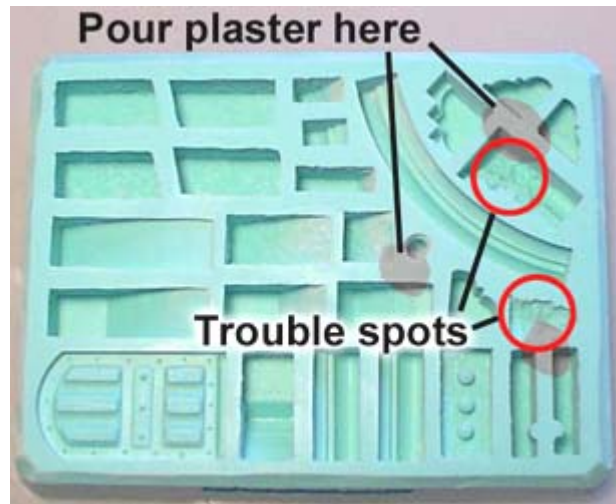
How to Use Mold #44

There are a few pieces on **mold #44** that can be difficult to cast. These **difficult parts are circled in red**.

Be sure you use the **wet water method** found on the Advanced Casting Instructions page. Make sure the "wet water" gets down into the small details and into the doors on this mold.

1. When you pour in the plaster, **pour it onto the ridges between the blocks** and not directly into the block cavity. This gives time for the plaster to **flow down the sides** of each cavity and into the details.

When you pour in the plaster, **pour it onto the ridges between the blocks** and not directly into the block cavity. This gives time for the plaster to **flow down the sides** of each cavity and into the details.

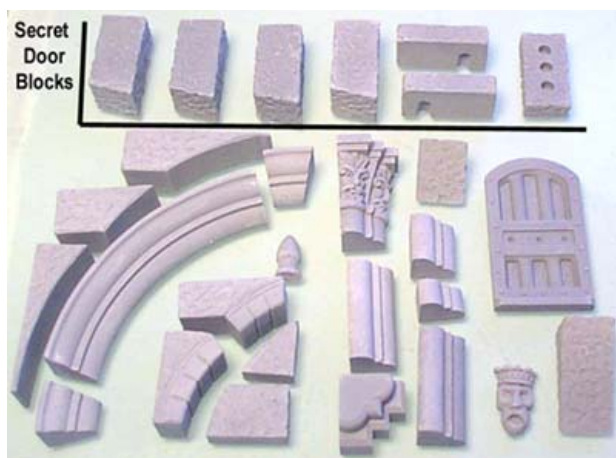


This mold has very few pieces that would give you trouble.



2. You may only have difficulty with the **column faces** and the **decorative face** on this mold.

The pieces at the top are used to make **secret passages** where the wall will swing open, but when it's closed you won't see any trace of it.

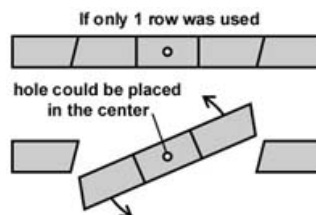
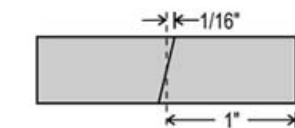


The **secret door blocks are angled**. if you placed 2 blocks end-to-end, you would have a perfect 2" long block.

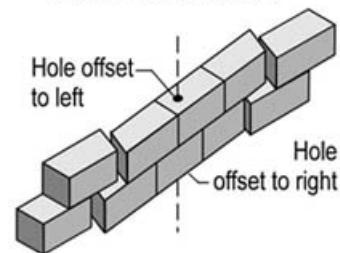
This angle allows the **door to open without binding**. If I only needed to **rotate one row** of blocks, I could have put the rotation point in the center.

- 3.

Since walls are made from **rows of staggered blocks**, I had to **offset the hole to one side**.



Since rows are staggered, holes must be offset

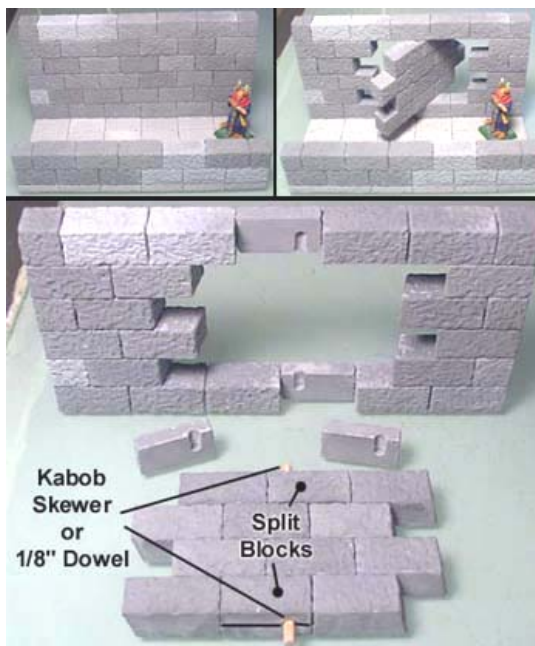


The **top photos** show how the secret door looks when closed, and then again when opened. The angle of the blocks is not enough to notice on a wall, but just enough to allow the door to open without binding on the ends.

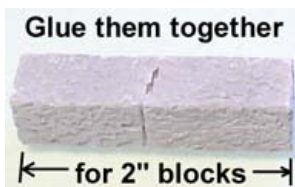
The **hinge pins** are made of **kabob skewers** or **1/8" diameter dowel rods**. The **hinge socket** is made from two flat blocks sandwiched together. This allows you to **insert the door** and hinge pins later on.

4. The flat block with holes allows the secret door to be **set directly onto the floor**. This flat block is also used to **make prison bars and gates** with.

The **split blocks** that make the hinge socket, can also be used for other things. You can take the left overs and lay them down flat for **floor tiles**, or glue them together and use them for **wall blocks**.



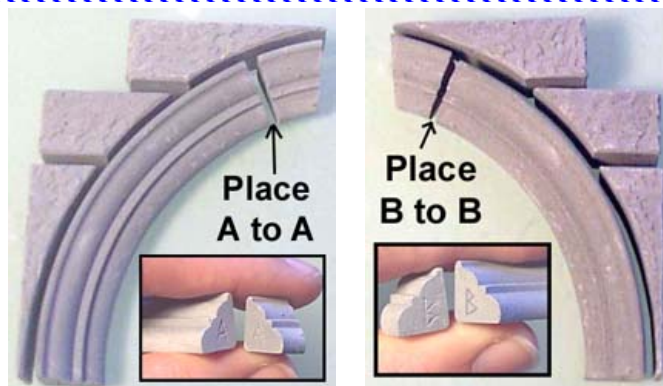
5. There are only so many secret doors that you can make. After that you'll have a **bunch of angle blocks left over**.



These can still be very useful. **Glue together** the blocks in **sets of 2** (angles facing each other). These can then be **used as perfect 2" long blocks**.



6. The **great arches** are made by putting the blocks together as shown.
- To assemble the smooth trim piece, you need to **look at the letters on the ends** of the piece.
- For the **left arch**, you will need to match up the **letter A's**, and for the **right arch** you need to match up the **letter B's**.



The **great arches** can be placed as a **4" wide opening round topped arch**, or turned the other way as a **3" wide opening pointed arch**. Here is a close-up of the face columns as well.

7.



The **large arch** on this mold is made up of 2 pieces. The **arch fillers** are made up of 2 pieces as well.

8. This arch can make a **2" wide opening round topped arch**, or you can turn them the other way to make a **1.5" wide opening pointed arch**.

The arch fillers are used to fill in the back, so you can have recessed arches (just like on the Gothic Dungeon Builder mold #45).



The **prison door** fits under the small arches on mold #45 (gothic dungeon builder). It will also fit under the small arches on mold #70 (fieldstone wall mold).

9. There is wood recessed panneling on the door, but it is very thin. If you **sand the back** of the door, you can remove this and have a door where you can see through the bars.



10.

This door I've painted in 3 steps. The first step is to paint the wood panels brown.

The second step is to paint the iron and frame solid black. The last step is to dry brush silver over the black.

For more examples of how this mold can be used, check out the Advanced Gothic Dungeons page.



Making Water for Fountains and Pools

Here I will show how to add murky water to the Low Arch Chamber.

1. I've taken the head off of a MakeKnight monster to be put into the water. I've **dry brushed** a little bright green on him so he would show up a little better.

Start by painting the bottom of the pool a dark gray, the same dark gray you used for your first coat of paint on the model.



For the water, I'm using a product called **EnviroTex Lite**. It's a 2-part resin that hardens clear and smooth after 24 hours. It's **very easy to use** and has **no odor** that I can tell.

2. Pour equal parts of **A** and **B** into a cup. I'm mixing up about **1 ounce** of resin. **Stir slowly** and try not to introduce air into the mixture.

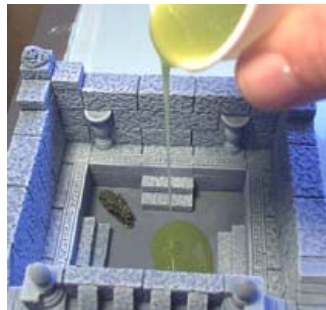


To add color, I'm adding **one small drop of green paint** and an even smaller bit of blue to the resin. You need **very little paint** to murk up the water!



Pour the resin into the pool. **Make sure the pool is sealed well**, which it should be if you glued the cereal box onto the bottom of the foam.

3. The resin is the consistency of honey. Pour it slowly and you won't get as many air bubbles trapped around items in the pool.



After **24 hours** it will harden completely and look great!

Next I'm going to add water to the **Specter Fountain**.

4. First, you will have to seal the fountain base. If you don't, the resin will leak under the stones and end up all over your model.

I'm using 5 minute epoxy to seal it. Using a wooden craft stick, mix up a blob about the size of a quarter on a piece of thick paper.



Epoxy mixes quickly and is fairly thick. It will flow just enough to plug up any holes, but not flow too far through them.

5. Scoop up a little epoxy on the stick and **drizzle a small amount into the cracks** around the base of the fountain.

You will have to **work quickly**, because the epoxy will start to **set up in about 2 minutes**.



Once again I will use **EnviroTex Lite** for the water. This time I'm adding **blue and green ink wash** to the mixture. This will tint the resin but **not make it murky**.

6. I dipped a paintbrush handle into the ink and then into the resin. You want **less than a drop** of each; otherwise the color will be too vibrant and strong.

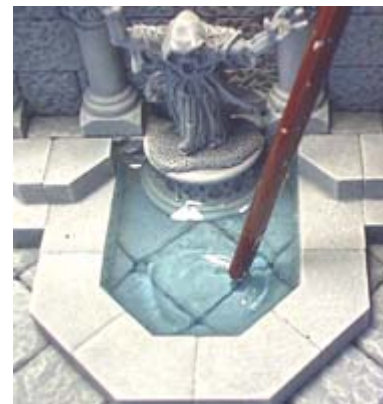


I tried **adding ripples to the water** with a paint brush handle but **it didn't work**!

This EnviroTex Lite resin is strange stuff. It **hardens very slowly**, which ensured that the coating will be flat and smooth. If the **resin is soft enough** to move and cause ripples, then the ripples flow back down until the surface is smooth again.

- 7.

When the resin **finally hardens enough** to keep it's shape, it's like a gelatin material and wants to tear when pushed (which doesn't make good ripples). I decided to **add the ripples after** putting in the water spout.



The **water spout** is made from **fishing line**. Cut **5 strands** about 3" long and **super glue** them into the mouth of the statue.

8. Carefully **trim the fishing line** so it makes a gentle arc down and touches the water. I found that it looks better if you have to pull the fishing line down slightly to glue it to the water. **Trim small amounts off at a time**. If you cut the lines too short, you'll have to replace them with new pieces.

Use a **drop of super glue** to attach the lines to the center of the water.



As the final touch, mix up some **5 minute epoxy**. Spread it **over the fishing line** and it will look more like water pouring from the mouth.

9. Also, **add a few drops of epoxy** where the water splashes down into the pool. Since the epoxy will set up after a couple of minutes, **use a paint brush handle** to add ripples in the water where the spout splashes down, just as the epoxy is starting to harden.

To see the completed fountain, visit the [Advanced Gothic Dungeon](#) page.

