

Counter Top & Shallow Casting Epoxy Resin Medium Casting Epoxy Resin

1. Overview

Manufacturers Brand Names: Kristal Diamond 6 and Kristal 30.

Clear, UV Stabilised (slow to yellow compared to non-stabilised resins).

FDA approved for food contact up to 50°C. (Test method: FDA 21 CFR 177.2600 report number GZ190826027FR)

Low viscosity (high flow resins) so air entrainment is less of a problem than with higher viscosity systems.

These cured resins are suitable for temperatures up to 80°C.

Cured resins are hard. Counter Top & Shallow Casting Epoxy Resin is ultra-hard and scratch resistant.

Mixing ratio is 100 Resin : 33 Hardener by weight. These resins should not be measured by volume.

2. Safety and Health

- Epoxy Resins are an irritant to skin, eyes and mucous membranes.
- Avoid breathing fumes. As a minimum, use them in a well ventilated work area. The use of an approved respirator is strongly recommended and essential for larger projects and regular users.
- Avoid eye contact. Wear protective eyeglasses.
- Avoid skin contact. Wear rubber gloves and long sleeve shirt. Barrier creams reduce skin contact. Over time, skin contact can cause sensitisation (this means one can become allergic to them).
- Do not clean resin off your skin with solvents. This can accelerate penetration of harmful substances through your skin. Use soap and water to clean skin.
- Do not swallow. Keep out of reach of children.
- The harder (Part B) is corrosive and may cause severe eye damage and skin burns. It is a sensitizer that may cause dermatitis from skin contact and exposure to fumes.
- If sanding or machining cured resin then wear a dust mask to prevent dust inhalation.
- First Aid:
 - In the event of eye contact, wash eyes under running water for 15 minutes and get medical attention.
 - In the event of skin contact, wipe clean with white vinegar then wash with soap and water. Get medical attention if irritation develops.
 - If fumes are inhaled or if breathing becomes difficult, move to fresh air. Get medical attention if symptoms develop or persists.
 - If swallowed do not induce vomiting. Drink 1-2 glasses of water and seek medical attention.

3. Key Parameters

<u>Bastion Paint Name</u>	<u>Brand Name</u>	<u>Casting Thickness and Volume</u>	<u>Pot Life*</u>	<u>Cure Time**</u>
Counter Top & Shallow Casting Epoxy Resin	Kristal Diamond 6	1mm – 5mm	40 minutes (for 80g mix)	24 Hours
Medium Casting Epoxy Resins	Kristal 30	5mm – 20mm (Max 10 litres) Up to 30mm if ambient temp is 18°C or below.	40 minutes (for 400g mix)	24 Hours

*Pot Life

Larger volumes and containers with lower surface area reduce the pot life. The pot life will be reduced in hot weather. You can extend the pot life by pouring the mixed resin into flat trays. If you leave the resin too long it will start to thicken and air entrainment and heat generation will become a problem. Never leave mixed resin unattended as it can start to generate excess heat, give off toxic fumes and even become a fire danger. If this starts to occur then move the resin to a safe place outdoors and don't try to use it. Don't mix more than you can use in a relatively short space of time.

**Cure Time

This is an average time the resin will take to get hard at ambient temperature (23°C).

Thicker layers get hotter and thus cure faster. Thinner layers will take longer to cure.

The hard resin will continue to gain strength for many weeks.

Wait at least a week before subjecting the cured resin to the maximum temperature it can handle which is 80°C.

4. Which resin to use, maximum casting thickness and dangers of heat

The curing chemical reaction between epoxy resin and hardener generates a significant amount of heat (exothermic chemical reaction). When this heat cannot escape it increases the temperature causing the epoxy to cure faster and generate even more heat. The higher temperature increases differential shrinkage in the casting which may lead to induced stress and cracking. A potentially massive build-up of heat can cause the epoxy to crack and discolour.

Uncontrolled exotherm may cause the epoxy to foam, smoke, give off dangerous vapours, crack and generate enough heat to melt its container or cause nearby items to catch fire.

- Never exceed the recommended maximum thickness or volume of a resin system as this may lead to overheating. Use mixed resin before it starts to thicken or increase in temperature.
- The maximum thickness and volume apply to resin used at ambient room temperature of 23°C with relative humidity below 85%. Warmer temperatures will reduce pot life and may also influence the casting thickness. If temperatures are warmer than 25°C, reduce maximum casting thickness by 50% or as appropriately required to avoid excessive exothermic reactions.
- If you pour resin into a closed mould then the heat build-up will be greater than when using a flat open mould with a large surface area for the resin to lose heat. Reduce film thickness when using relatively closed moulds.

The above tells you the dangers of casting too thick or with too high volume. Casting too thin for a specific resin system leads to slow hardening and it could take many days for a resin to harden in cold weather. This gives more time for pigments to settle and for amine blush to develop so it is definitely best to use a resin most suited to the thickness you intend to cast. There is no limit to the number of layers that you can cast on top of each other.

5. Typical Applications

Both these resins have low viscosity (high flow), are clear, UV stabilised, FDA approved for food contact up to 50°C and can tolerate temperatures up to 80°C.

Counter Top & Shallow Casting Epoxy Resin (Kristal Diamond 6)

- Bar Counters and Table Tops. A restriction is that this is a low viscosity (high flow) resin so if your surface does not have sides you will have significant losses off the edges.
- Kitchen Counter Tops. Restrictions are that despite being ultra-hard the resin will be damaged by knife cuts and by hot items over 80°C.
- Thin layer resin art (e.g. art on glass, wood, tiles etc) where a thin (high flow) resin is required.*
- Jewellery, Coasters and other shallow mould castings up to 5mm deep.
- Clear, glossy layer over art where a thin (high flow) resin is required.* Do not use over oil-based paints or art with oily substances.
- Cast as a thin layer over other resins to increase the surface hardness and/or to create a surface suitable for food contact.

* Do not go below 1mm thickness as surface tension issues may be encountered. Surface tension defects can look like small craters or like the resin is 'pulling apart'. This can happen on un-sealed wood even if you start with a resin layer greater than 1mm because resin will be absorbed into the wood resulting in a thinner layer on the surface. As this resin has a high flow it may flow off the edges of a surface before you get to 1mm thickness. Some retaining boarder or technique may be required to get a layer of 1mm.

Medium Casting Epoxy Resin (Kristal 30)

- A high flow resin casting in moulds and river tables in layers between 5mm and 20mm thick.

6. Protecting surfaces

- Large flat surfaces: Apply 3-4 coats of RAMWAX® or equivalent onto surfaces that you don't want the resin to adhere to. Apply the wax as per the instruction we put on the back of the tin.
 - If making a river table then coat the entire melamine box with wax for easy removal.
- Small complex surfaces e.g. silicone moulds: Apply our "Liquid Wax Release Agent" for Moulds as per instructions. Note that new moulds made with high quality silicone do not require the use of a release agent.
- The use of certain tapes has also grown in popularity.

7. Equipment Required

- Two Plastic or metal containers. Containers must have smooth continuous sides for scraping. (Do not use foam or glass containers.)
- Scale (the two components of this resin system must be measured by weight and not volume).
- Stirring sticks with square edge and straight sides that reach to the bottom of all containers.
- Isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) for cleaning up. Remember that this is flammable.
- Ensure that all containers and tools are free from dust, grease and other contaminants.

8. Surface Preparation

- Ensure all surfaces are free of dust, oils and contaminants.
- If the resin is used in thin layers (1-2mm), then don't seal but pop air bubbles with a propane torch.
- Non-porous surfaces such as tiles and glass do not need priming or sealing.
- Porous surfaces (such as wood and cement) must be sealed to prevent air bubbles being released from the surface when resin is applied. This can be done by applying an initial thin layer of Counter Top & Shallow Casting Resin. Mix only enough resin to create this thin film which should be about 1mm thick. Wait 24 to 48 hours for this thin layer to cure and become hard.
- You can also prime to remove air from porous surfaces with a water-based paint. Never use an oil-based paint under resins.
- Apply wax to all surfaces that you require the cured resin to release from.

9. Mixing

Proper mixing is a key requirement for a successful resin project. Poor mixing will lead to defects which may often be cloudy streaks or patches in the cured resin. These defects cannot be removed.

The components of this resin system must be measured by weight only (not by volume).

- Accurately measure out Part A into the mixing container followed by Part B.
- Stir together well for 3-5 minutes using a square edge stir stick. Include scraping of the sides and bottom of the mixing container several times. Do not mix in a manner that introduces air.
- Transfer entire content to a second clean mixing container and mix for another minute again scraping the sides. Failure to scrape the sides sufficiently will lead to streaks.
- Your resin is now ready for pouring and it must be poured before it starts to get thick or hot.

Mixing can be done by hand or with a drill fitted with a mixing unit. Drill mixing can help mix larger quantities but should be set to low speed on a variable speed drill to avoid making a vortex that will pull in air. A drill mixer will not scrape the sides so manual mixing with scraping of side and bottom of the container is still required. If drill mixing introduces air, time will be required to allow the air to rise.

If the mix quantity is large it may start to thicken and/or generate heat prior to pouring. This indicates that curing is underway. The heat generated can reach dangerous levels. You can extend the pot life by pouring the mixed resin it into large flat trays where heat can more readily escape.

10. Adding liquid colourants or powder pigments

Bastion Paint Allure Liquid Colourants, Pearlescent Pigments and Glitter Powders stir in very easily. These can be added at any time. Some other pigment types do not mix in as easily and these should be mixed as follows: Put pigment into mixing container first then add Resin (Part A) to the pigment and mix. After that add Hardener (Part B) and stir. This way, the pot life is not reduced while mixing the pigment. Limit pigment / colourant to 6% of the total resin mass. Only use more if you have tested it.

11. Including rocks, stones and crystals

Wash these and dry them thoroughly. Porous items should be oven dried at 100°C for an hour and cooled before use. For larger items it is a good idea to dip them into mixed liquid resin to pre-coat them prior to pouring the liquid resin over them (this is because poured resin may not get underneath them).

12. Removing air with a propane torch

Torching to remove air shortly after pouring is important if air bubbles are present. Do not hold the torch closer than 8cm from the resin surface as too much torching will burn and discolour the resin. As these resins have a relatively high flow, air is not usually a big problem.

13. Prevent dust contact during curing

Dust and air-borne debris are an enemy of all curing resins. Pour and allow to cure in a clean area. We recommend covering your pour with something like a sheet draped over a suspending frame. Do not cover with something that traps fumes or heat.

14. Adding subsequent layers

There is no limit to the number of layers that can be added. The bond between layers will be permanent and invisible. Allow resin to get hard and return to room temperature before adding a new layer. If a subsequent layer is added too soon it may overheat and crack.

If too much time passes before adding a subsequent layer (more than 72 hours) then the layers may delaminate. If more than 72 hours has passed then wash with soapy water, sand and wash again before applying the next layer.

- If amine blush develops you must wait until the resin is hard and then wash with soap and water, sand and wash again. Then allow for proper drying before applying a subsequent layer. Failure to do this will ruin your project. Amine blush can be identified as the surface being cured (hard and resisting fingernail indentation) but feeling tacky. A milky or "oil on water" appearance also indicate that amine blush is present.

15. Storage

Store in cool area. 23°C is the best storage temperature. Both resin components have a best before date.

16. Pouring into a mould

Pour mixture into a single spot at the lowest point of the mould or enclosure. Let the mixture seek its level. A uniform pouring flow will help minimise entrapped air.

17. Cleaning spills

The best chemical to clean small spills effectively is isopropyl alcohol. Rubbing alcohol and some hand sanitisers are fine. Clean spills as soon as possible before curing. Don't clean resin off your hands with these types of solvents; use soap or hand cleaner and water to clean skin.

18. Making a river table or similar item

Watch the following video: <https://www.smooth-on.com/tutorials/waterfall-table-epoxycast-690/>

Use melamine for the base and sides or box that will hold the resin in place.

Apply 2-3 coats of wax to surfaces that must be released. See section above "Protecting Surfaces".

Mix resin as per mixing instructions.

Pour resin into prepared space. Measure the depth to ensure that no individual layer exceeds the allowed depth. Torch carefully to remove air if required.

Allow 24 hours (resin must cool to room temperature and become hard) before adding the next layer.

Once the final coat is dry, a series of dry and wet sanding steps can be performed followed by polishing.

19. Useful Parameters

	<u>Shore D Hardness</u>	<u>Heat Distortion Temperature</u>	<u>Viscosity of Part A (Resin)</u>	<u>Viscosity of Part B (Hardener)</u>
Counter Top & Shallow Casting Epoxy Resin	90 (Ultra-hard)	80°C	500 - 1000cps	100cps
Medium Casting Epoxy Resins	85 (Very Hard)	80°C	1000 - 2000cps	100cps

20. How to calculate the amount required

You must use a scale and resin mass. You cannot measure this resin by volume.

For a roughly rectangular shape multiply as follows:

Resin required in kg = Surface length in m x Surface width in m x required resin film thickness in mm x 1.1

For a roughly circular shape multiply as follows:

Resin required in kg = 3.14 x Circle radius in m x Circle radius in m x required resin film thickness in mm x 1.1

Example

If your rectangular surface is 1.2m x 60cm and you require a film thickness of 9.5mm

Resin required in kg = 1.2m * 0.60m * 9.5mm * 1.1 = 7.52kg of resin

Now work out how much of Part A and how much of Part B you need to give you the total requirement of 7.52kg

Ratio for this resin is 100A to 33B PBW (PBW = parts by weight).

To get 7.52kg total resin:

kg Part A required = 7.52/133 * 100 = 5.65kg

kg Part B required = 7.52/133 * 33 = 1.87kg