Valentine's Day Resin Coasters with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Resin Coasters
(bright upbeat music) - Hey everyone, it's Twinkie Chan and thank you so much for joining us for Creative Bug Live. We are doing a super fun Valentine's Day project, which I'm excited about because it's pretty much maybe my second favorite holiday, next to Christmas. But what I like about Valentine's Day stuff is the aesthetic, the hearts and the pink and the red. It's just joyful and I think it's a pattern that you can wear all year round, not just for Valentine's Day. And our project is going to be casting resin coasters with Valentine's Day sprinkles. I think you'll see that oftentimes people think that resin can be intimidating, but with the right circumstances, it's actually pretty easy. And I can't wait to show you. Just a reminder, we are live, so if you have questions along the way or something was confusing, you can always leave us a comment or a question and I can answer them for you. But we're gonna be using, today is called EasyCast. I just picked this up at JOANN. There are all kinds of resin for all different kinds of things and EasyCast I think is a good place to start. It's a 16 ounce package, which is pretty small and it's a good for a beginner. Sometimes you can buy them in gigantic jugs and like I wasn't ready to commit to that and I'm not gonna try to make you get ready to commit to that. So you can start small and simple. The other thing to keep in mind is that some resin is simply for pouring on top of a surface, like for a painting, and that's called a doming resin. And what you want is a casting resin and that's for making like chunkier items like jewelry or art coasters today. Once you get really invested into your resin casting adventure, there are some pretty inexpensive kits you can buy on Amazon that'll include measuring cups, stir sticks, gloves, little pipettes for really exact measurements. I didn't go that far, I'm using kind of disposable items today, but if you're really conscious about the earth, there are some options for you. Resin does not stick to silicone. So the molds I'm using today are silicone molds and this one in particular, is for coasters, but you can also use like a round candy mold or like a round little tart mold and we'll be using those as well. And these are all silicone so they will pop right out when they're ready and cured. So let's talk about the items that we're casting today a little bit. I'm gonna do candy and sprinkles and one of the things you wanna keep in mind is like this Valentine's Day, like these conversation hearts are kind of porous and one of the big scary no-nos in resin casting is sometimes your resin will have bubbles in it. And one of the things you can do to prevent bubbling is to coat the item that you're covering in resin. I'm not doing that today because I kinda wanna show you what happens when you don't. But I think a good practice is to use this resin spray just to spray on resin, get them good and glossy, let it dry and then your item will be protected. And also, when it's going in the resin, it won't release bubbles into your resin. So that's a good step one to take. As far as the sprinkles, they're so tiny, I just kind of put them in there without coating them and it turned out fine to me. So I think if you can go a little bit rogue with that, you can experiment and a lot of things that don't actually need to be coated. The first thing you wanna do with your resin is to warm it up. A big to do with resin is what temperature you're working with it at and it's ideal temperature or the atmosphere that you're working in should be maybe 70 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit, which is fairly warm. So it's winter now, I'm warming these up in a bowl of warm water and it doesn't have to be super hot because if it's really hot it can speed up your work time. So they should just be warm to the touch. And I've had these in a bowl for maybe like five, 10 minutes. It doesn't take that long. So you wanna be sure to get all the water off of this. Any moisture or water that goes into your

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

resin can affect the casting and make it like cloudy or bubbly. So you just wanna be sure there is no water or dust in and around your mold. So going to dry this off really carefully. And most resins that you'll be casting at home require a one-to-one ratio. So it's 50% resin and then 50% hardener. Don't go crazy and think that the more hardener you put in, the more likely your mold is gonna turn out better, but if that's not the case, you have to stick with the 50/50 and that's a chemical reaction. So what I'm gonna do is be really scientific about this. What you can do to figure out how much resin you need to cast is you can pour water into your mold and then measure that water. Since I'm casting a bunch of different things for you right now, I'm just gonna kind of throw a bunch together and see what happens. But you want to maintain that 50/50 ratio. So what I'm gonna do is make like my own measuring cup. These are just plastic cups. If you're going the disposable route, stick with plastic. You don't want that wax covered paper cup because the wax can release into the resin and make it cloudy and you'll see little waxy bits. So you want to avoid that. So what I'm gonna do is just use a really fancy Sharpie and make a line here. That's cool, my Sharpie's not really working. Okay, here we go. And I'm gonna say I want maybe about this much resin and hardener. So like the bottom of this line. I'm gonna start with my resin. I see a little bit of water running down here. Oh, really important, I almost forgot. Put on some gloves, don't fly too close to the sun and think you can do this without gloves because I tried that too and I got resin everywhere and you just get it all over your pants and yeah, so put on your gloves. It's not gonna like burn your skin or like kill you if you get it on you, but I think repeated contact with these chemicals can make you start being allergic to them. So protecting yourself is important. Oh, also I think people are afraid of with resin as the odor and there are various resin brands that claim to be no odor, but I also read, they cause a lot of bubbling. So I think it's sort of you need to pick your battles and this one is low odor, so please use it in a ventilated area if you can. So it's sort of like a weird balance of a ventilated area and a warm area if possible. I'm gonna open up the resin and very scientifically, pour to my measure line. I don't know if you'll be able to see that but, and you wanna pour slowly to try to avoid any bubbling and I'm going to get bubbles and that's okay. We'll talk about that a little bit later too. So just kind of slow and steady with all your pouring and all your mixing. And you can see there are some air bubbles in there and we'll deal with that in a sec. So try to stay tidy 'cause this will get everywhere. I have it all over my phone, like just sort of a heads up. And then we're gonna go with this hardener. And you can see my bottle's a little bit yellow, like if I had known this beforehand, I might have purchased a different bottle. So this might slightly affect the color of my casting, but for today's purposes I think it'll be okay and it might not look completely clear when you buy it at the store, but I think this level of yellow is a bit too much for my liking. So just kinda keep an eye on what color all your materials are to begin with. So I'm gonna pour this into a separate mixing cup first. And again, try to stay slow. You can see those bubbles, that's okay, don't worry about that. And we always stress the 50/50 ratio, but I feel like even if there's some residue left in your cup, like that's not gonna be a huge big deal. Your resin will still harden and some people are real purists about the measuring and we'll use pipettes. My coasters came out fine without being too precise about it. So I think it's okay to just relax about that a little bit. But if you're finding that your resin is not hardening properly or it has sticky spots, it might be because you're not mixing it properly or that your ratio is a little bit off. So I'm gonna pour these two together. You can buy like little spatulas and stuff, I mean, add a silicone to scrape all these out. Not really gonna deal with that today. So I'm just gonna grab like a plastic skew or you can use a popsicle stick. I'm gonna grab my cell phone as a timer because you wanna stir this for two minutes. Remember you wanna go slowly, you wanna get the sides, you wanna get the bottom. So I kind of do like a back and a fourth and a

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

zigzag and kind of almost like a beating your eggs situation so you can get the stuff that's on the bottom and bring it to the top. And all of your resin will probably have slightly different directions. So just follow the directions for your specific resin brand. And EasyCast needs to be mixed twice. So this is our first mixing for two minutes and they can go slow so you're not creating a bunch of bubbles. We can sort of talk about bubbles a little bit now. What you can do is after you pour the mixture into your mold, the bubbles will start rising to the top and you can zap them with heat. And some people recommend a hairdryer or like an embossing heat gun, or like a craft torch. And I think the craft torch works the best. I'm not gonna deal with that for this project just because, and I'm like sort of taking a beginner's approach to this and also because I'm using a lot of sprinkles, they kind of like hide the seams of your bubbles. So we'll skip that part, but I just wanted to let you know just to give you a heads up. Plus I tried a hair dryer and it just blew my resin everywhere so I would maybe not try the hair dryer, but if you have an embossing gun, that could probably be a good place to start. Or if you have like a kitchen torch, like a brulee torch. - [Crew] Ashley's wondering if you're just gonna fill these with candy. - As oppose... Okay, we're being asked if we're just gonna fill these with candy, today, yes, it's sprinkles and candy for Valentine's Day. However, you're gonna start looking at the universe and wanting to put everything in resin. - [Crew] She's also wondering if it lasts all night in resin or does it kind of get funky over time? - That's a good question. Does resin get funky over time? The quick answer is yes, all resins... Sorry, I don't really know how to use my phone. That's two minutes, hold on one second. We need to mix this a second time. So just get a third container and pour this in. Remember to go, I kind of went fast there, but keep it kind of slow so you can see there's some bubbles forming. You could zap those with heat later or sometimes I just pick them out with a stick. You can all develop your own styles for casting as well. Okay, so this needs to be mixed for another minute. I give it another two minutes because why not? So yes, a lot of resin will get affected by UV light and air and that's just unavoidable and different types of resin will yellow at different stages or I guess different spans of time. And some resins like art resin claim that they have a lot of special filters in it to filter out that light. I can't attest to that one way or another, but you can look out for that when you're buying your resin. So sorry, I have like a frog in my throat, (chuckles) so just you can do some research. I think EasyCast is a good way to go, a good way to start. But I wouldn't use it to protect like a really important or expensive painting. I would use it for casting like fun coasters or jewelry or just fun gifts for your friends. - [Crew] Kim's wondering if you could use a photo for this? - So Kim's wondering if you can cast a photo. I guess, it also depends. You wanna be careful about what kind of photo it is. Like if you're printing them out at home, if you're actually getting them processed somewhere, I would first protect it with the resin spray and give that maybe a good two coats of resin spray before you start pouring over something really valuable like a photograph. But it is a fun coating for like artwork and things like that. You just wanna make sure you're using a resin that's made for it. So that's two minutes and you have about half an hour to 45 minutes working time with your resin before it starts getting gooier and more difficult to work with. But you do ideally wanna start pouring it as soon as you're done mixing for 3 to 4 minutes. So I'm gonna start with the legitimate coaster mold and what you wanna do, lemme move this for a second, is start with pouring a very thin layer first that makes sure that anything you're putting in the resin is cast properly. You don't want little sprinkles sticking up on the top of your coaster because the bottom of your mold will be the top of your coaster. I'm just gonna get a little bit in here, make sure it gets in all the little crevices, kind of push it around. I'm finding these skewers really handy, but again you, you can use a popsicle stick, some people like using tweezers and you can just keep those clean by wiping them with a baby wipe. And then I'm gonna go in here

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

with these really cute valentine's sprinkles. Just go on in there, just sprinkle 'em right in, oops. I would go for over covering rather than under covering so you don't have any clear spots unless that's what you wanna do. And we'll talk about leaving some empty space in a second, but I kind of like full coverage with my sprinkle coasters. You kind of wanna push stuff around. It will keep moving. The resin will keep moving as it's filling out the mold. You wanna make sure that all your candy is covered. There's like a little lip for the coaster and I kinda like making sure I'm sticking some sprinkles down in there too. And again, this will keep settling probably for the next half hour or so. So you can come back and check in on your coasters and see if things have moved around and you can poke 'em around with a stick again, I'm finding these sticks super handy. So I'm liking the coverage that I'm getting on the top of my coaster or rather the bottom of my mold. And I'm gonna pour a little bit more resin on top here. You can see this resin is kinda getting all over the place, so remember to protect the surface that you're working on. That's pretty easy. That's pretty much it for this coaster. (chuckles) I try to make sure that objects that have some height are fully submerged and covered like these giant white bally sprinkles. I don't want to overflow my mold, but if you can slightly dome it, then you can definitely make sure that all your items are covered. So I'm just gonna go in here and zap it like a little, like a tiny bit more just so I'm sure. So because I put my sprinkles right into my mold when I flip it over after it's cured, a lot of my items will be at the very top surface of my coaster. And the cool thing about pouring resin is you can do it in layers. So what you could start doing is pour maybe like an eighth of an inch of resin first. Let that like get sticky, that's like the gel stage. It's not quite hard, but it's not quite as liquidy. And at that point, it'll be tacky. You can still stick your stick in it, but the surface will have more tension and then you can go in and add in another layer of candy or we're gonna do some glitter in a second. And so you can do things in stages and take advantage of the fact that resin has depth and it's clear and you can see all the really cool layers. And there's some really cool resin art that people do and make like these 3D objects just with layers of paint in resin. And you can Google that and it's like this whole rabbit hole you can go down, resin art is super cool and this is just a very basic fun place to start. - [Crew] Sarah's wondering if you can add color to the resin? - Sarah is wondering if you can add color to resin? And that's a huge yes, we're not doing that today, but you can add like opaque color with pigments like Mica powder. You can buy special dyes that go into resin for a more translucent like watercolor effect. There are lots of cool tutorials you can find for that too. It's a very, I guess adjustable and lenient medium and you can throw all kinds of stuff in there. So here I have a first layer of candy and resin. I poured this maybe like four hours ago and I'm gonna poke it just so you can see what consistency we're working with. Like it's not fully hard, but it's kinda like jelly and gooey. And let's say you get really busy and you have to leave your mold and you can't come back and do your second layer, and this has a pretty good cure at 24 hours. After 24 hours you can remove it from the mold and it feels hard. A full cure is 72 hours, but you can definitely just, you know, pick up your coaster and use it after 24 hours. But at this point, when it's hard, you shouldn't really pull your second layer on top of it. It doesn't have that stickiness and your layers won't stick together. But what you can do is sand your first layer with like some really like a pretty gritty sandpaper, rough up the surface, wipe it down with some acetone or denatured alcohol to get all the particles off and then you can just pour more resin right on top. So you do have some flexibility even if your resin is dry. So these are a little tacky and they're ready for their second layer. So I'm going to just again, pour a very thin layer of resin in each of these little molds. I'm just giving a little bit more distance between my two layers so they kind of have a really cool, extra three-dimensional effect. This one I don't have a lot of, and I'm just gonna pour extra resin over this guy. His sprinkles

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

give him so much coverage that I'm not gonna do anything with his second layer except fill out the space a little bit more. So we're just gonna let this guy chill but we'll do fun things with these two guys. I think they need a little bit more. Let's go in here. I might not have mixed up enough resin, which I sort of anticipated, but we're live and we're gonna go with the flow. So remember if you have questions, I am here to answer them. So we're gonna put some conversation heart candy in this first one and I'm gonna put them in slightly different positions so you can play with those layers and that three dimensionality. If you are comfortable with using tweezers, you can do that too, but I'm just gonna blop them in with my hand. And remember, if you have anything that has letters or something that needs to be seen from the top, you wanna have that facing downward into your molds. And also while the resin is still in its super liquidy phase, things will shift. So even after you place these with a skewer or a tweezer, you wanna come back and check on it in maybe like 10, 15 minutes in case things have moved around a little bit and you wanna adjust them a little bit more. Just gonna cover that's a little more. When you have two layers of a big candy like the conversation heart, you're probably gonna want to go to the full depth of your mold. So I don't necessarily do that all the time, it just depends on how many layers and what you're casting. Just wanna make sure all the candies are fully covered. And for this guy, we're gonna do glitter because I have other molds happening or other coasters happening the same time, you kind of wanna be careful with the glitter. As you know glitter gets everywhere so I'm gonna pour some out into a dish and I know this is gonna get everywhere, but you kind of have to accept that with glitter and just sprinkle it across the top. And the glitter will fall into the resin, and some of it, see I just flipped them on there. That's fine, don't worry about it. It will fall in so you can add more to fill in the resin. So I kind of give it one go and I kind of stir everything around and then give it another dash of glitter. I use my trusty stick to kind of tap and stir and spread the glitter all around. - [Crew] Betty's wondering where you find the molds? - Betty is asking where you can find the molds. Amazon is always a good place to go. This mold is from Michael's. So any craft store just go into the baking or candy aisle and you should have a wide variety of molds and I'm doing round coasters today, but you're gonna see all these mold shapes. I want to buy all of them like we have some really cute heart-shaped ones downstairs, here at the office. So you have so many options for what molds you can use for resin. Okay, I'm not gonna super bore you with how anal I can get with spreading my glitter. So I don't know if you can see, but there are some gaps like over here in this section, I still see a lot of transparency so that's where I probably go and throw in more glitter just 'cause I want the bottom of my coaster to look super glittery and super covered. But that is also up to your own aesthetic. Okay, so you have a lot of glitter over on my candy hearts as well. Lemme kinda tap some of the glitter off my gloves and use a clean stick and you can just kind of go in and fish stuff out of the resin too. And when I was talking about bubbles earlier, sometimes I just fish bubbles out of the resin so you have some work time to fix any of your boo-boos. But after that kind of 3, 4-hour mark when it hits the gel stage, that's when you kind of can't keep futzing and retrieving little bits of stuff that have fallen into your resin. But yeah, that's pretty much all you need to do to create your super cute Valentine's Day coasters. And what you wanna do to protect these is put some parchment paper 'cause it won't stick to parchment paper or even a box that can fully cover your mold and its contents because like hair and dust and dirt particles and all kinds of stuff is gonna wanna stick right to your coaster. So make sure to cover this and do not touch it for 24 hours. I mean, you can peek in on it, but I wouldn't poke it anymore. Oops, okay, well, okay don't do that. (chuckles) You can just leave your mold where it is. I'm gonna kind of scoot mine over. So I'm gonna show you how easy it is to demold these things. So after 24 hours it'll be hard on top. You'll see that on, I don't know what we

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

call them here, but in Australia, I'm not from there, but I know they call these sprinkles hundreds and thousands. So these tiny little round ones, some have risen to the top, I'm not super concerned about it, but it's really hard. And you can see if you use a silicone mold, it just, it comes out so quickly. If you're not using silicone for your mold, you want to buy something called a mold release spray. And that's kind of like grease in the bacon pan before you put the brownie batter in. So like you can even cast in like a Ziploc, like a Tupperware container, just anything and just you wanna make sure to lubricate the surface first before you cast and that can become your mold and you probably can't save that mold if you're using like a plastic bucket, like you're gonna need to cut your project out of the mold. But there are a lot of various options for molds as well. You don't have to stick to silicone, it's just so easy as you just saw. So that's the coaster mold. And I have some of our layered molds here. These have been sitting for 24 hours so they're also hard and ready to go. This is a 4-inch mold, this is, feels like it's maybe two and a quarter inches in diameter. So this is a bigger guy, this is four. So you can see how cool it is when you're playing with layers. You can see how one's a little askew, it'll happen. You can sort of develop your own techniques and get better at casting and positioning and timing and your mixing. There are a lot of various elements that go into how your casts turn out. I think this is really, the glitter I think is really fun. You can also imagine if instead of using glitter, you used like a pigment powder, you could have like a really dramatic black backing instead or just any manner of color that you're looking for. Here, our Valentine's Day sprinkles. This one's really fun. I like looking at this as an example too because you can sort of see what it would be like if you had cast a clear layer first and then cast a sprinkle layer. They look more like they're embedded and kind of rather than just sitting at the surface. So this is a fun one to look at to. When you take your mold out, you're gonna feel that the edge is a little bit rough and that's because much like a glass of water, there's a meniscus at the top of the mold where the center of the liquid is a little lower than the edge. And what you can do is sand it. You can sand your resin. I would wait for the 72-hour cure to do any sanding. And if you're doing a dry sand, wear a mask 'cause there are a lot of particles you don't want to be inhaling. But you can also use wet/dry sandpaper. So just get wet/dry sandpaper, squirt it with some water, and then sand the bottom in a circular motion. And that should start smoothing out the bottom. Or you can just slap some felt or a cork bottom on it and it'll be ready to go. So that's it, super easy. If you guys end up trying it, I would love to know, you can always join our Facebook group. It's actually me who's mediating it most for the most part. So come say hi, I'm happy to hear from you and thanks so much for joining us. Happy Valentine's Day.

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026