

LAWN DINOSAURS by Rich & Allison

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MATERIAL & TOOLS

On this page I will provide the materials and tools I use for my Sculptures.

But first a note of warning. Never never use anything that contains acetone or similar chemicals on unprotected foam. It will melt your foam. Also, most spray paints contain some form of acetone and they will also melt your hard work. Please read the label of all materials you use. If in doubt, test it out on a piece of scrap foam.

CARVING FOAMS:

I use easy to get "Blue Insulation Foam" which can be purchased at **Home Depot and Lowes**. It is available in 4' x 8' sheets x 1/2", 1" and 2" thicknesses. All three thicknesses come in handy.

I also have used EPS foam in the 1 lb per cubic ft. size. It can be purchased in large blocks up to 12' x 4' x 1' blocks. Depending where you live this type of foam may be hard to find. Personally I like the Blue Foam best, as it is more dense and sands smoother.

You need to protect your Foam Sculpture with something, I use the following.

PROTECTIVE COVERING MATERIALS:

1) Fiberglass cloth and epoxy/resin: I like to use 6 oz. cloth. It contours very well on sculptures. I also use 4 oz. cloth on sections that are hard to get to, such as in-between the fingers and claws. **I use Epoxy/resin 635 thin 3 to 1 ratio.** (Do not use a polyester resin as it will melt your foam.) I normally use 2-4 layers of fiberglass depending upon the location on the sculpture. Areas that are supporting the sculpture should have the most layers. Reasonably priced Fiberglass cloths and Epoxy can be purchased from www.uscomposites.com. They also have a large selection of handy items, such as Epoxy pumps, mixing containers, fillers, spreaders and rollers etc.

2) Brush-on and / or spray on foam hard coat covering. I recently discovered a 2 part brush-on foam hard coat 1 to 1 ratio covering called **Styrospray 1000**. I used this product on my two 7 ft. Velociraptors. I am extremely pleased with the results. This product is available from Industrial polymers at www.industrialpolymers.com. A little layman's explanation of this product. It is like taking a liquid plastic and covering your sculpture. The strength depends on how many coats you put on. All that is really needed is between 30-35 mils thick in order to have a nice firm covering. I have found that when mixed in 4-6 oz. batches it has about a 20 minute working time before it starts to set up. Please read the product info sheet at the Industrial Polymers site for accurate info. So far I have only used this product as a brush-on application, I may in the future invest in spray equipment as I believe it will vastly decrease the application time factor.

Note: Both covering methods are somewhat time consuming but well worth the extra effort.

Nothing could be worse than to have your foam sculpture ruined by bumping into it or having some foreign substance melt it away before your eyes.

Optional material for simulated skin texturing, bumps and fill-ins:

If you choose to add a skin texturing to your sculpture I use Apoxie Sculpt. This is a two-part 1 to 1 ratio clay-like material that hardens chemically in about 4 hours and has a working time of about one hour. It does not shrink or crack due to weather, it smoothes with water, and after hardening can be sanded very easily. Beside the skin texturing, I use Apoxie Sculpt to make the teeth and claws. I use it to set the Taxidermy eyes, and as a filler on areas like in-between the fingers/claws and anywhere you may need additional material, ex: nose ridges, eyebrows, lining nose holes, arm-pits etc. I purchase the Apoxie Sculpt from (www.vandykestaxidermy.com) along with the eyes that I use on my dinosaurs.

As with all the above mentioned coverings, accurately measured portions and thorough mixing is a must. Always use appropriate protection when using any compounds, such as latex gloves, dust masks and or respirators and eye protection, and wear old or disposable clothing.

THE TOOLS I USE:

Hand saws of various types and sizes.

Small hand rasp. This is the most used and useful tool for shaping your sculpture.

Sandpaper of various grits 60 - 180.

Sanding blocks.

Popsicle sticks with different grits of sandpaper glued on them.

PVC pipe with sandpaper glued on, used for making hollows or indents.

Electric sabre saw.

7" fillet knife and a sharpener.

A Ginzu knife is also very handy.

Dremel tool with grinding tips.

Loctite 5 min. Epoxy for plastic, used for gluing foam together.

Hot wire foam cutter.

Tape measure, ruler, caliper, and a cloth tailor's tape.

Straight edge or yard stick

1/4" all-thread rods, washers and wing nuts..

Broom and dust pan, and shop-vac.

Dust masks, latex gloves, eye protection,

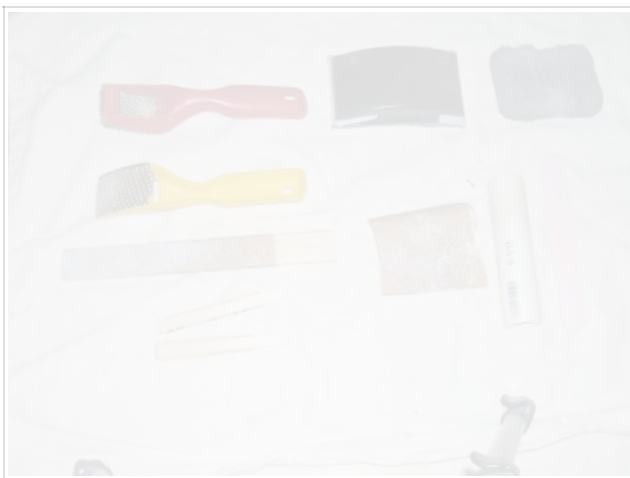
Magic markers, pencils

Large role of wrapping paper to draw out a sketch in actual size of your dinosaur. The bigger the better, otherwise you'll need to tape pieces together.

Throw away paint brushes.

Acetone and Xylene for cleaning brushes. (Keep this stuff away from your unprotected foam.)

And anything thing else that is laying around that will help me shape my sculpture.





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