

Hobble Creek Craftsman Silicone Tube-In Molds

(Epoxy and Urethane compatible)

Thanks for your purchase of a Hobble Creek Craftsman "Tube-in" silicone pen mold. Great care was taken to create a high quality master mold and that translates into a high quality mold that will produce crystal clear Tube-in pen blanks.

As with all silicone products, they will harden and breakdown over time, but with proper care, the molds will produce many, many blanks. For the best results please take note of the following:

- To insert the small metal eyehooks into the silicone plugs (**for Sierra and Jr. Gent molds only**), do the following: Using a drill and a 1/16" drill bit, create a pilot hole in the center of each silicone plug (the fat end). Hand tighten the eye screws into place. ***Do not use a larger drill bit!***
- Epoxy friendly and great to use with Urethane based resins, such as Alumilite. By making sure you clean your molds and the silicone plugs after each use, you can ensure a longer life of both.
- ***It is imperative to use a release agent such as Alumilite's UMR, Stoner or Reynolds Ease-release 200,*** to ensure a clean release of your blanks! Here are the links:

Craft Supplies USA <https://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/p/16/6933/Stoner-Urethane-Mold-Release-12-oz.?term=stoner&term=stoner>

- Make sure the silicone plugs are set firmly in the ends of the tubes to ensure no resin can get inside of your blanks. You can do this by taking both hands and using your thumbs and fingers to apply pressure to both ends of the tubes, pushing against the plugs, effectively sealing them tight inside the brass tubes. Do this for each blank you're pouring.
- Use warm water and a mild dish soap to clean your molds after each use. If you have an air compressor, you can use high pressure to blow out the hard resin residue that can build up in the plugholes. Cleaning your molds after each use will extend the life of them considerably!
- To extend the life of the silicone plugs, simply use the eyehooks (Eyehooks in Sierra and Jr. Gent molds only) as leverage, moving the plugs from side to side until you can grasp the actual plug and pull it out. Soak the plugs in denatured alcohol, rinse them off and place in a warm oven at 170° for 20 to 30 minutes. ***DO NOT STORE THE PLUGS IN THE HOLES OF THE MOLDS! Over time, it will stretch out the holes, rendering the mold(s) useless!***
- *****Remember; when casting Tube-In blanks in a pressure pot, 25-30 PSI is more than enough pressure to produce crystal clear, bubble free blanks and will avert any mold "creep" over the ends of the tubes. There is no need to apply higher pressure!*****
- Just a word of caution; with use and over time, silicone molds will naturally degrade and harden and become less pliable and will need replacing. This is normal wear and tear and does not fall under the warranty.

Most of all have fun with your new molds. The possibilities are only limited by your imagination! Experiment with different mediums and see what you can create!

****The Hobble Creek Craftsman Team****