



## EnCapture Artisan Concrete™

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By Patti Bullard, Ph.D.

Congratulations on your purchase of the EnCapture Artisan Concrete™ Kit. Designed especially for the needs of jewelry makers, EnCapture Concrete is a unique, texture-rich medium that offers a wide range of new possibilities for designers of every skill level. Embed a variety of treasures such as stones, glass, and metal to create visual interest and contrast in your finished pieces.

EnCapture is very versatile. It can be dyed with pigments or painted or stained when dry. Mold it into a shape or put it in a closed or open-backed bezel. Experiment with adding carved or stamped texture. Sure to “capture” the artist’s imagination within you, EnCapture Artisan Concrete will propel your creativity and bring you many satisfying hours of making unique, authentic jewelry.

### Items included in the Kit:

- EnCapture Concrete – Base Material
- EnCapture Activator
- Disposable Mixing Cup
- Palette Knife
- Wooden mixing Stick
- Syringe for measuring activator
- Dust mask
- Disposable gloves
- Brass Brush
- Straight carver
- Double-ended carver
- Powdered pigments
- Small white measuring spoon for pigment

### In addition, you will need:

- Teaspoon for measuring concrete
- Open or closed back bezel, ¼ inch deep
- Safety glasses

### Suggested “embeddables”:

- Wire and/or strips of metal
- Gemstones
- Crystals—beads or flat backs
- Pieces of glass or broken china
- Findings, beads, charms
- Small stones
- Buttons

## GET READY:

Gather all materials, tools, and embeddable objects. Grab your gloves and mask. Get ready for some serious, creative fun!



## GET SET:

For a small casting that is approximately 1 inch in diameter and ¼ inch deep (such as the pendant shown on the previous page), measure 1½ teaspoons of dry EnCapture Artisan Concrete™ Base Material. Pour it into your disposable mixing cup. Double or triple the quantity as needed, depending on the desired size of your finished piece.



*\*For colored projects, add dry pigment to concrete base material. (see “Adding Pigment Color” instructions)*

For each 1½ teaspoons of dry concrete base material, draw up 2ml of the EnCapture Activator into the syringe. Increase proportionately as needed. For example, if you mix 15ml (1 tablespoon) of dry concrete, then draw 4ml of Activator into the syringe.



### **Questions and Helpful Tips:**

1. *What if I don't mix enough concrete? Not to worry—EnCapture Artisan Concrete™ can be layered. The concrete will start to harden relatively quickly, and if it does, go ahead and proceed to smooth it into the form or mold. Mix additional concrete to finish filling the additional vacant space.*
2. *What if I mix too much concrete? You can either preplan and have Project B readily available so that you can quickly use the extra concrete in another project or you can simply dispose of the extra concrete by throwing it out along with the disposable paper cup.*

**Warning:** *Do not dispose of concrete by flushing it down the drain. You might end up paying a hefty fee to your favorite plumber!*

## GO!

To start, add only 1.5ml of the Activator to the dry concrete, and begin to mix completely with the wooden stick. Add additional drops of Activator as needed so that all of the concrete has been dampened. Mix thoroughly making sure that all of the concrete has been dampened. Work quickly because the concrete will start to set up within 5 to 10 minutes.



### **Important to Know:**

*The consistency of EnCapture can range from a mix that resembles fresh, packable brown sugar to a damper mix that is more like a thick frosting. A mix that falls midway between the two is ideal. Avoid adding too much Activator, resulting in a “soupy” mixture. Conversely, if the mix is too dry and crumbly, it might not compact properly. More liquid will produce a smoother finish and less liquid will leave a somewhat grainier appearance to the finished piece.*

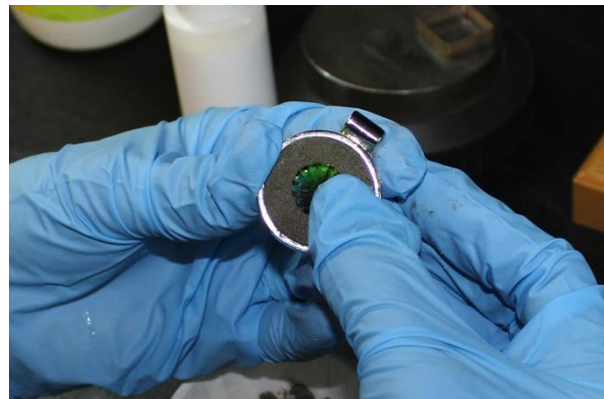
### **PACK IT:**

Using your palette knife, pack the EnCapture firmly into the bezel. Level and smooth the mixture or add the desired surface texture. You can use a dampened lint free cloth or a pre-moistened, disposable hand wipe to remove any unwanted EnCapture from the edge of the bezel.



### **QUICKLY EMBED:**

Before the concrete begins to harden, add your “embeddables.” Depress them into the concrete before it starts to harden, ensuring that the concrete makes good contact with the objects so that they are securely attached. Most objects that are 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch or deeper and are pressed flush into the EnCapture Concrete will be held snugly in place once the concrete has cured.



### **Tips and Tricks:**

*Thin or very shallow embeddable objects can be help more securely in place by allowing the concrete to overlap the edges slightly. Alternatively, shallow objects may be “anchored” into the concrete by adding a small hook to the back of the object made from a wire or headpin. Should an object inadvertently become dislodged after the concrete is cured, you can successfully reattach the piece with an instant adhesive such as Super Glue.*

## LET IT CURE:

You will notice that the EnCapture will begin to set up very quickly. It should be dry enough to handle after resting overnight. You can leave the surface of the EnCapture as is, or for a simple but striking finish, you can use the brass brush to “burnish” the surface. You will notice that the brush will leave behind a nice, subtle sheen of gold sparkle on the surface of the EnCapture. Even though the Concrete has completed its initial hardening, it will continue to cure over the following week.



## ADDING PIGMENT COLOR:

Want to add some glorious, rich color? The dry pigments included in your kit are carefully selected for compatibility with the concrete. Simply stir the pigment into the dry cement before adding the Activator. Start with a very small amount of pigment, such as ½ to 1 level measure using the white spoon included in this kit. After stirring in the dry pigment, add the Activator. If additional color is desired after the initial mix, more can be added, even after stirring in the Activator. Add a maximum of 2 level white spoons of pigment per 1½ teaspoons of concrete.



Intended for adult use only • Always wear safety glasses.  
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