WELCOME TO AN ADVENTURE!

Whether you are a seasoned pro, or you are new to concrete, this mix is a great opportunity to explore a great material. Here are some helpful tips and directions for working with your mix.

FIRST THINGS FIRST-

If you mix this concrete mix with water, it is going to get hard and be awesome. All of the directions that follow are intended to make it even more awesome. Many of the objects that you may cast will not need this particular attention to detail, but it is better to be armed with some tools as you approach your project.

THE MIX ...

is going to be strongest if you do not add more than 750 ml (3.3 cups) of water. This works out to 1.65lb of water for the entire 10lb of mix. You can break the mix and the water measurement down by weight proportionately, as you can with any of the additions we discuss here.

This much water will give you a clay like consistency. If you want it to be even more stiff, then add less water.

Can you add more water?

You can, but it will weaken the concrete. If you are making a bulky object, or an object that won't see lots of stress, a little extra water is not going to hurt.

What if you want to make it more fluid without compromising the strength? That is what the pouch of Water Reducer 205 that came with the mix is for.

MIXING-

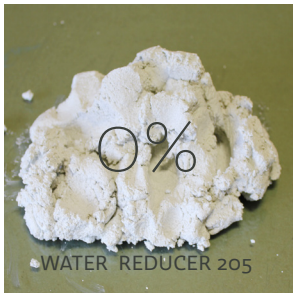
This mix can be mixed with a drill and paddle. It can be mixed by hand (wear gloves). It can be mixed in a Kitchenaid mixer, but you are not allowed to blame us if you ruin a proper kitchen utensil. Add 90% of your water to 80% of the mix you intend to mix. Mix until homogenous. All of your additives, with the exception of the glass fiber, can be added at this stage. Add the remainder of the dry mix and the rest of the water (only if necessary). Mix until homogenous, then make something awesome.

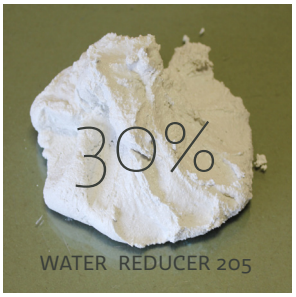
Tip-

Concrete is sensitive to temperature. The colder the mix is, the more fluid it will be. If it is particularly hot when you are mixing, then adding a portion of your water as ice will help cool things down and make your job easier.

WATER REDUCER 205-

It is exactly what it sounds like. You add this to reduce the amount of water you need to make the mix more fluid. You can add the entire package of Water Reducer 205 to the full 10lb of mix, and you will have a nice and fluid mix. You can also add a portion of the Water Reducer 205 to soften the mix a bit, but not have it be fully fluid. Here are some pictures that help illustrate various amounts of Water Reducer 205, and how that changes your mix.





AC50 ACRYLIC FIBER-

This will add some reinforcement into your finished object, and will remain mostly invisible, even if you polish the concrete. You add these fibers at the beginning of the mixing process. You can add the entire package of fibers to the full 10lb of mix, or you can split it up proportionately if you aren't using the entire mix.

AR GLASS FIBER-

This fiber provides the greatest strength, and is great for reinforcing especially thin objects. This fiber is visible if you polish the concrete. You can add a thin layer of mix into your mold that doesn't contain the fiber, then follow that with mix that does have fiber if you want the strength, but are concerned about the fiber being visible. You add the glass fibers at the end of the mixing process so as not to break the fibers. You can add the entire package of fibers to the full 10lb of mix, or you can split it up proportionately if you aren't using the entire mix.

PIGMENT-

Add the pigment to the water proportionately. You can use less than the pigment provided, or you can add up to 2 pigment packs per 10lb of mix. You can also mix and match colors for various shades and tones. If you plan to use the bone paste to slurry with, hold back a bit of your pigment to tint the paste.

MOLDS-

There are lots of details in the realm of molding. Check out blog.buddyrhodes.com for articles on this topic.

CURING-

Concrete doesn't simply "dry out", it needs to cure- just like all of the best things in life. Concrete wants to stay warm and moist for at least the first 24 hours, and another 24 hours wont hurt. The concrete will be hard much sooner than that, but it won't be as awesome as it has the potential to be if you go rushing the process.

Tip-

Make a warm place for the concrete, and cover it up so the moisture isn't lost.

BONE PASTE-

Mix with water to a thick toothpaste consistency. Apply to your finished piece to fill in holes. You can wipe clean, or let dry and polish away. Something to consider- The paste will tint the area where it is applied, even if you wipe it off, something you may not notice until sealing. This can be polished off, your can rub the entire piece with paste and clean it away for even tinting.

POLISHING-

Concrete can polish like stone. You can use abrasives to simply shape the concrete, and you can use abrasives to bring the concrete up to a polish. The diamond hand pads are ideal as they will last a long time, and they are ergonomically friendly.

GLAZE-

This applies like a wood stain. You wipe on thin applications, and let it soak in fully. More is not necessarily better. Less material, allowing time for the glaze to fully dry between applications, is the best method for application.

SEALER-

Dampen a microfiber cloth. Spray a bit of sealer on the damp cloth. Spray sealer onto the concrete, and rub it in. Multiple thin applications will provide better results. Apply coats until the concrete repels water to your own taste.

The Goods.

INCLUDED:

- Artisan Mix
- Water Reducer 205

SOLD SEPARATELY:

- AC50 Acrylic Fiber
- AR Glass Fiber
- Pigment
- Molds
- Bone Paste
- Glaze
- Sealer

www.buddyrhodes.com/artisanmix

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