

Last Month's Demonstration: Making Soft Stowage from Two-Part Epoxy Putty

by Ashley Abernathy

Making your own soft stowage enables a perfect fit to any model you are working without having to wait for an aftermarket manufacturer to offer a set. It also means your stowage will be unique and therefore more accurate when compared to others. Here are notes from Ashley's demo.

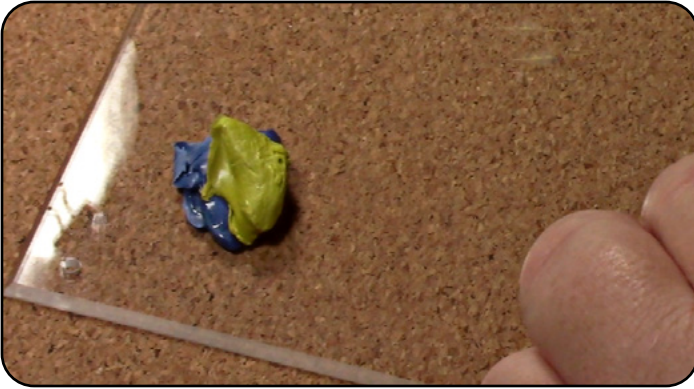
Hardware

- Dental tool assortment: Ashley divides the tools into four rough categories - pointed, curved, chisel and shaping. You will only need 3-4 tools to make the stowage.
- Single-edge razor blade
- Scale ruler: it's important to make your stowage to the scale of your model. Use a scale ruler to save you from doing the math on calculator.
- Acrylic sheet: use it roll out the putty. Acrylic will allow some flex to remove the putty.
- Two-part epoxy putty: [Aves Apoxie Sculpt](#) is good but Ashley prefers [Kneadatite](#) with its yellow and blue components.
- Kneadatite has a working time of 1.5-2 hours and a cure time of 4-5 hours. Apoxie Sculpt has a 1-3 hour working time and cures in 24 hours.
- Both putties have a clay consistency and to use, equal parts are kneaded together for a few minutes until no color streaks remain. A little water helps prevent sticking and leaving fingerprints.



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Cut equal parts of each putty component from the log.



Knead together until no color streaks remain. Blue + Yellow = Green.



Roll the putty on acrylic sheet to get the rough shape and adjust the portion as needed to stay in scale.



Press the putty roll onto the model surface and make sure it sits flat. If you put down plastic wrap underneath, you can lift off the piece after it dries, for painting it separately.



Use a dental tool to make the spiral creases that are on each end of a bedroll.



Continue making end creases and also make the tail end of the bedroll as it flaps over the final layer.

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A better view of the tail end.



Continue making the spiral creases.



The final appearance of the creases



Make an indentation for a strap. Your piece may have several straps that both hold the item together and attach it to the vehicle. Let references be your guide



Using a dental tool, make fabric folds, creases and tension marks.

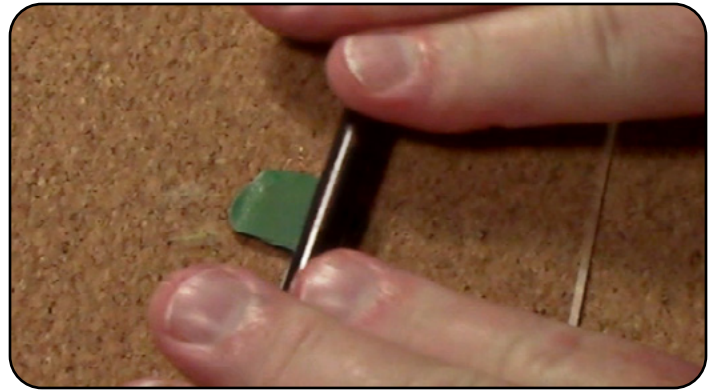


Continue with the folds, creases and tension marks, as much as you wish. Try to consider the real material and how it would behave under tension.

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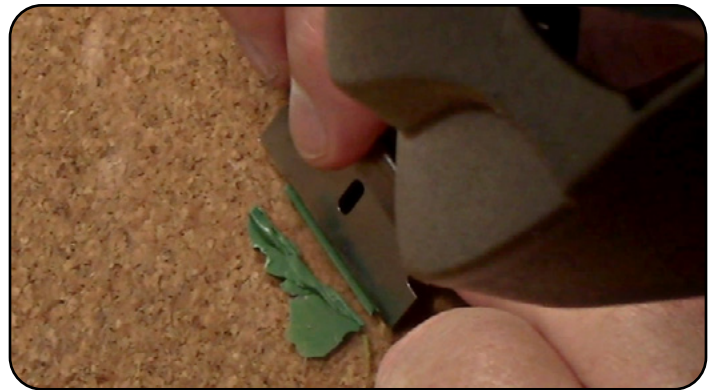
Make a strap using the same putty.



Roll the putty flat with a cylindrical tool handle.



Use a single-edge razor blade to make a first cut so it's perfectly straight.



Make another cut the width of the strap and pop the blade upward.

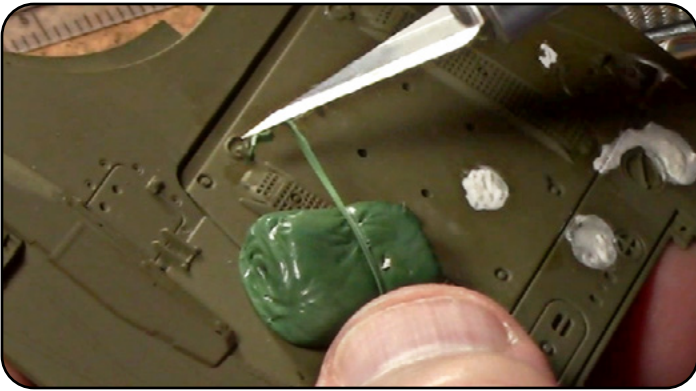


The strap material is on the blade edge.

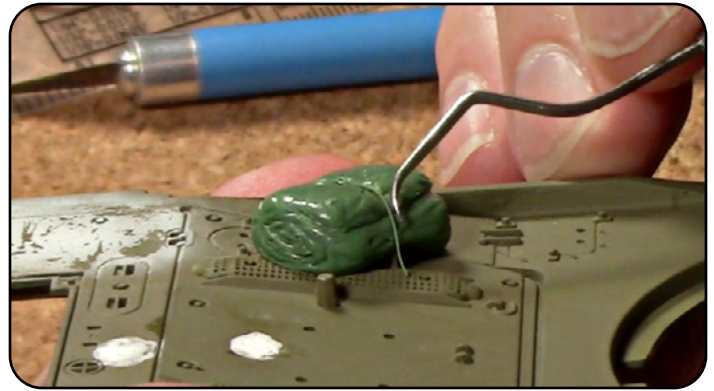


Carefully lift the strap material off the razor blade with a hobby knife blade.

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Transfer the strap to the putty bedroll.



Press the strap in place using a dental tool.



Use stray strap ends if desired, depending on the material. Straps are commonly made of canvas or leather but can be other materials.



Make a strap buckle by first cutting out a square piece of putty.



Put the putty buckle in place on the existing strap.



Shape and define the buckle with a dental tool. Add creases around it if desired and you're done!