New Hirst molds with DF Applications

Posted by Yukon Cornelius - 2006/05/05 11:03

Over on the Hirst Arts site, there are 5 new molds that have accessories and floor tiles. Of special interest to Sci-Fi DF fans are:

Cargo Containers
Alternate Doors
Conveyor Belts
Floors with pipes
Floors with gratings
Iris apertures
The makings of turbolifts
Medbay beds

The stuff looks seriously awesome, but with all HA stuff, it's all DIY (unlike our beloved DF Sci-Fi.)

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications

Posted by jkratzer - 2006/05/05 11:29

WOW!!

I gotta go check this out; I have some HA molds I'm supposed to using that I got for my Birthday, and never tried! My excuse was that with only 2 molds, mixing plaster batches gets awfully fast.
Now I may not have any excuse.

Be back later; See Ya!

Jim

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications

Posted by Yukon Cornelius - 2006/05/05 12:03

I picked up some of their fantasy-themed molds at GenCon last year with the idea of making some custom pieces to fit with DF. So far, I've built 2.5 of the projects they have on their website, and realized 2 things:

1) I do not have enough molds
2) I do not have enough time

This is no slam against HA, just an expression of the fact that my gaming wants are too vast for my current lifestyle. The stuff I have built turned out nicely, despite my relative lack of skill. Once I master the stuff I have (and the stuff I'm getting at this year's GenCon), I'll start thinking about Sci-Fi.

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by Ghenghis Ska - 2006/05/05 14:07

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hehehe,
mine come in the mail tommorrow, :)
the only one's i didn't order from the new sets were the ones with the pipes (i want to get them eventually, if i got them now then i go from Ramian to no food ;))... even though i ordered them over two weeks ago (stupid Paypal... it took over two weeks to figure out why the thing didn't go through...) i fianlly had to resubmit the order and they are now on there way.

I was waiting till they came in before i said anything about them.

They look really spiffy. I have used some of the orignal walls and floors and such to make larger/wider corridors some time back, but there were a few things i'm going to do different when i make more with these new pieces and the first sci-fi ones i got.

I have been using some of the HA/Sci-Fi to also make filler pieces to turn space inside the area inclosed by passages into functional rooms and make some extra bits that make a passage just be an open area where you can put a door or an opening.

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by L - 2006/05/05 14:21

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I really dig HA, and I love the sci-fi stuff they've got out, but over time I've come to the following conclusion: it's too fragile.

It took me ages to cast the pieces I needed -- I accepted that.
It was hard to store the stuff I built -- I accepted that.
It cost money to cast and paint, so it was not cheap in the long run -- I was fine.

But the fact is, in the years since I built my projects, about 60% of them have broken. If I pick something up in JUST the wrong way, or I am SLIGHTLY un-gentle... @#$.

And it CAN be glued, and fine, and yeah, but I got sick of it. Too easy to break. If I used more expensive plaster or polystone, it might be different --- but that is even MORE expensive to use, and the cost of plaster for this stuff is really much more than I anticipated. I was going through it $50 at a time.

I saw the new Pirates of the Caribbean playset the other day at Target, a cool ruined mill, and considered picking it up. It's so big, and not that well-detailed, for $30. I thought to myself "I have the molds to make something like that right now, paint it up, without paying $30." I realized two things: 1) It would cost me $30 in plaster. 2) It would break. The plastic mill can be primed and drybrushed into something really great, and I can just toss it in the closet when I'm done and fish it out whenever I want and NOT have to worry about it breaking.

When I eventually settle somewhere more long-term and can keep things out on shelves without having

to move them around a lot, I may re-discover HA. Planning out buildings was a TON of fun, and the final product is REALLY cool looking, and there is a lot of pride in showing off something you designed, built and painted. But it's like once you reach that point, you may as well toss it. Storing is a pain, and it's gonna break eventually.

L

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications

Posted by jkratzer - 2006/05/05 17:58

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Okay, I'm back from HA now. I just have to enter my order for 5 sets and I'm ready to rock.
Man, I don't know which set I'm going to build first. One thing for sure, I'm going to be one busy little bee after GenCon!
And, L; Most HA molds CAN be used with resin (IF you're CAREFUL!). Bruce doesn't recommend it for all the molds, but it can be done, he says. So unless you practice bouncing walls off basement walls, you should be able to cast with resin safely.

Good Luck, and SEE YA!

Jim

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications

Posted by RabidFox* - 2006/05/05 20:33

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Yes, you can use resin instead of plaster, but the molds degrade no matter how careful you are Jim when you use resin.
Hopefully, you will get what you want cast before the fine details degrade too much.

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications

Posted by Tony - 2006/05/05 21:29

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L
Member

Registered: 2004-04-14
L wrote "I really dig HA, and I love the sci-fi stuff they've got out, but over time I've come to the following conclusion: it's too fragile."

Hey L (and all),
I've been considering making some custom resin HA pieces to sell, both from his existing pieces and

some of my own, but not sure if there would be a market. What do you guys think?
Tony

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by jkratzer - 2006/05/06 09:07

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Y'know, crazy as this sounds (And it DOES sound crazy!), I've been toying with the idea of using HA molds to make pieces in plaster to glue up as single-face masters to make METAL molds (using relatively low-temp metals from MM or other source) to make resin INJECTION molds to make multiple resin pieces without destroying HA molds that can be used to make MORE plaster masters.
Phew! That was a helluva long sentence to crank out!
Anyway, does anyone here besides me think I've gone totally 'round the bend, or am I actually on the trail of something? I figure that if I can use metal with a melt temp below 500 degrees, I can use a propane or MAPP gas torch to melt the metal stock and pour it into a plaster mold box with a plaster master. As long as I can make the masters so NO flexing is necessary to remove the mold, then it should also work to not need flex to pull finished injected castings. I know injected castings can be very finely detailed, almost as well as injected styrene, yet without the cost factor of machined stainless steel molds. I also know that making metal molds like that can get bloody expensive, which is why I would only make them for parts that would get a LOT of use in building other models.

It's just an idea, and it may never actually go anywhere, but I just thought I'd get some reactions from the crowd here.

See ya!

Jim

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by RabidFox* - 2006/05/06 22:28

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Since I only have experience with centifical casting like GW and Iron Wind do, I have no useful advice for you Jim on this.
Wishes for the best of luck I do have.
Good luck!

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by L - 2006/05/07 09:09

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Wow, that is REAL dedication! I have no idea how that would work, but then that doesn't surprise me as I have no experience in this area. Still, I can't figure out how to remove pieces from an inflexible mold... Hmm.....

Well, as RF said, good luck!

L

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by jkratzer - 2006/05/07 19:22

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RF*; thanks for the good luck wishes! I still don't know if I'm actually going to do this, but you have encouraged me to try it. That counts.

L; I'm still not sure if it's dedication, or total insanity, but it's still bouncing around the back of my head.

As far as HOW to extract pieces, I think it goes like this:
1.) Make SURE the mold is properly release-coated before injection.
2.) Design the mold with a SOLID tree structure.
3.) MINIMUM UNDERCUTS!!!
4.) Build-in ejector pins in the molds.
5.) Obviously, multiple-part molds; no one-piecers here!

IF I actually do this, I guarantee you, there WILL be postings here! WITH PICS!!

See ya!

Jim

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by dudebird - 2006/05/08 10:34

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it's too fragile.
:lol:
i chipped blair's brand new 6x8 pillared room last night. i am an a-hole.

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by Yukon Cornelius - 2006/05/08 11:42

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it's too fragile.
:lol:
i chipped blair's brand new 6x8 pillared room last night. i am an a-hole.
And you lived to tell the tale?!? :)

What is it made of? Dental Plaster or Plaster of Paris (or something else?)

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by Fu-Man Chu - 2006/05/08 14:07

_____

L

Hey L (and all),
I've been considering making some custom resin HA pieces to sell, both from his existing pieces and some of my own, but not sure if there would be a market. What do you guys think?
Tony
I know I'm always in the market for premade mini stuff - especially if it's already painted...

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by Ghenghis Ska - 2006/05/09 12:01

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I got mine in the mail last night, and spent part of the night pouring some cement, a lot of the pieces i like, they will come in quit handy for some interesting things, but i need to pour a bunch, (the problem with HA) and then see how i want to put them together.

While you can break HA, you can also break DF, i have broken about twice as much HA as DF (although DF goes together better only one of the three pieces that broke can you tell, really small bit poped out when it broke and no one could find it).

When i used plaster of paris i broke a lot, but it was a small tub of it to see what it was like, and in the end i consider those test pieces, then i switched to hydrostone (about $27 for 50lbs) and still have about half of the bag left and have made tons of stuff. I do hate the time it takes and having to paint it, but it does make it so i can make specific stuff that i can't get elsewhere.

So far they are pretty cool, i have plans to make a rasied convery belt and some other spiffy things, just need the bits to do it....

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by jkratzer - 2006/05/10 05:55

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Hey!

My molds shipped Monday, I should get them today or tomorrow.
IF I get the DVD finished up and burned this weekend, can anyone guess what I'll be doing NEXT weekend (aside from the psychiatric exam)?

See ya!

Jim

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by Kenneth - 2007/12/09 19:27

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I would never use plaster for HA pieces... but I am seriously thinking of buying pre-cast ones. No way I'd spend my weekends messing with moulds...

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by lupus - 2007/12/09 21:05

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Pouring the molds isn't actually that difficult. Yes, it's messy but it is generally quite low stress. You pour them, and leave them alone for at least half an hour, in which time you can do other things, be it paiting other minis, or babysitting in my case :)

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by Dead - 2007/12/10 09:28

_____

Pouring the molds isn't actually that difficult. Yes, it's messy but it is generally quite low stress. You pour them, and leave them alone for at least half an hour, in which time you can do other things, be it paiting other minis, or babysitting in my case :)
lol

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New Hirst molds with DF Applications
Posted by Ghenghis Ska - 2007/12/10 12:24

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I have found i am not using the Walls much at all, for any of my HA purchases, but use the floors A LOT.

They are just so usefull for expanding the are inside or making things DF doens't make (though now with the Chasam set they make one of the things i was working on... :))
I wanted some of the new Cavern Walls but couldn't justify shelling out the $90+ it would take to get maybe just the 3 or so casts i really wanted from each one, just to add a little versitility and not just have the same old in cave props. In the end i actually did order some precast from one of those places. They arrived pretty quick, came in good shape for the most part (a few chips on some of the lock and key parts of the caverns where the Key was busted) but in the end i got a bunch of stuff to decorate a cavern at only $2 a pop.

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