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Figure Making Can Be Fun?!?: A Complete Guide To Making A Professional Ventriloquist Figure.

**FIGURE MAKING
CAN BE FUN???**

**A complete guide to making a
'professional ventriloquist figure'**

By Michael Brose



Synopsis

Detailed information on the art of making professional ventriloquist figures. Includes: Proportions, Sculpting Models, Plaster Molds, Latex Molds, Silicone Molds, Casting (numerous techniques & materials), Mechanics and Animations (many not covered anywhere before), Painting & Body Construction (full dimensions), Wigs, Clothing and much, much, more! Shows more than one way to make molds and castings to produce quality figures. A way to make a figure without molds! Learn how to work with the materials that many top figure makers use. Learn what it takes to make quality mechanics and animations inside the head. This and more has been included inside this one volume. There are numerous photos and quality illustrations along with detailed instructions of each part of the process. See here for testimonials:

<http://www.puppetsandprops.com/DummyBookComments.html>

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the days when I was making puppets instead of editing the Puppetry Journal, I had a low-grade obsession with the search for the perfect puppet making materials and methods-to find something no one had ever thought of. I experimented with white glue and dryer lint, and once suggested (out loud) that Instant Mashed Potato flakes could be mixed with a bind agent to make a good modeling compound. Someone talked me out of it, which was probably a good thing. I never made the goal, but the fun was in the chase. So when I opened up Michael Brose's book on vent figure making, I felt like I had discovered the secret book of all knowledge -like peeking into the sorcerer's book of spells and incantations. In its 200 pages this book covers all the steps involved in the creation of ventriloquist figures, from planning through, sculpting through mold making, casting, painting and

finishing. What boggles the mind is the depth of the information and instruction. For every stage of production, Mr. Brose provides several alternative methods: you can sculpt in clay (several kinds) but how about wax and foam; you can make a mold in plaster (one-piece, two piece, multiple pieces) but how about silicone rubber or fiberglass. And so on. Mr. Brose deals with each process in such clear and practical detail that you quickly realize everything in the book comes from years and years of experience and work by a man who has totally immersed himself in a craft that he obviously loves. Here's the puppeteer connection: all the processes used to make vent figures can be adapted to puppet making. Mr. Brose, says in his introduction that the book is intended for the beginner, the intermediate and the professional. And I think that promise holds up. For the beginner, his language throughout is clear, conversational and encouraging. He explains things well. He occasionally offers the kind of advice that keeps beginners from getting in over their heads, and also offers tips about avoiding mistakes and pitfalls, or cautions about using materials safely, advice useful to everyone. For those with more experience he deals with some pretty high-level materials and techniques. It is clear that everything he tells and shows us comes from real experience, acquired over many years in the shop, and lovingly put together in this book. Each process is illustrated with very clear and useful photos and drawings. The last few pages of the book are a guide to purchasing materials. Mr. Brose points out something that puppet makers understand as well as vent figure makers -that you tend to settle on a method you like and then generally stick to it. But sooner or later you may become curious about what else is out there. For that reason he calls this a "progressive" book. It holds choices that are available to you when you're ready to move on to something new. This book would be a great reference work for the workshop of any vent figure builder or puppet maker. Though I have searched in vain for any mention of mashed potatoes.

--The Puppetry Journal - Fall 2002 Issue - Editor: Paul Eide "I just got my copy of Mike Brose's fantastic new book on figure making. It's a great book and I can't imagine any vent oriented collection being without it. Great job, Mike!" --Kelly Asbury - Author & Animation director at Dreamworks Studios

The author, Michael Brose, has been involved with mold making, casting, and puppet building since the late 1960's. He has had an interest in ventriloquism since age 10, and won first place in a talent contest at age 11, using a Jerry Mahoney vent doll and a routine from Paul Winchell's book 'Ventriloquism for Fun and Profit'. Michael evidently took this to heart! He has also personally worked with just about every mold making and casting material out there. In addition to being a professional figure maker, he has also earned his living as a professional mold maker for many

years. Michael is in an elite class in this field, in that he is one of the very few that actually makes his living creating and selling high quality, professional, ventriloquist figures. The author is well known for his clear teaching and instruction, both in person and in print.

These books are great! I purchased the Winker Mechanics and the Figure Making Can Be Fun books and this review applies to both. The physical format of both books is large enough to allow for clear detailed photos and the text font is large. This is good for me because it lets me read the books without glasses! There are detailed instructions and a ton of photos to accompany the text. They cover all aspects of the fabrication process, the mechanics and the finishing of the figure. I know I will refer to them many times. They also include templates and sources for the products used in building of a figure. I highly recommend both of these books.

The book is very well written....The author knows his subject as he had been making Ventriloquist Figures many years...The biggest thing I like about the book is that he doesn't just explain how to do a certain thing One way...He gives you several different ideas on each subject! That way he leaves it up to the reader, Which method to use in building a certain part. I highly recommend this book!!!

Still reading the book, making notes and sketches. There are some great tips in the book

Let me start by saying that I bought this book with absolutely no experience whatsoever in building dummies, puppets, or anything of the sort. I bought this book because I felt it may be a good extension to the "puppets and props" website tutorials. I was floored with how well written this manual is. This book is detailed to the finest degree. The author leaves absolutely no question whatsoever on what needs to be done to complete the project. Typically, when you buy a how-to manual, there are dozens of open ends left dangling for you to figure out; this is not the case with this book. This book covers every possible aspect of building a dummy, from A to Z. Even the mechanics of the dummy are covered in excruciating detail. Don't get me wrong; this book covers a serious project that would take serious focus, detail, and attention. The author, however, has a lifetime of experience, and does not hold back in this book. He knows exact sizes for every single item used. Even in Clock Repair manuals, the authors will tell you to just figure it out; not in this book. This book gives you exact dimensions for every aspect. The ONLY aspect of this book that is not exact in detail is the artistic side. The author rightfully leaves it up to the reader to use his own artistic style for his dummy. Fair enough; but he still gives a slew of pointers on how to accomplish

what. I am so very glad I bought this book. Immediately after buying this book, I bought his (unpublished E-Book) "Winker Mechanics Can be Fun?!?" which, again, is detailed to the core. I have no doubt whatsoever after reading these two books that I will be able to build a quality professional ventriloquist dummy.

Lets face it. There are no secrets to making a ventriloquist figure. It is just that these skills are becoming rare in our world. The section that deals with making a frame to construct a head and using non-hardening clay is a great way to start. Work from gross to fine. Also keep your attitude right. There are no mistakes, just iterations.

Only for the experienced model maker. Well step by step instructions, pictures and drawings

This is the best and most comprehensive book on the subject available. It lives on my workbench within easy reach.

old as all get out but still somewhat accurate.

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