

USES OF WINTERSTONE ICING MIX

The **Sculpting Mix** & **Casting Mix** are both “balanced” and were developed to be used without the addition of any other fillers or admixtures. The **Icing Mix** however, was designed specifically for use with the addition of fine **Metallic Powders** and/or fine **Mineral Fillers**. A “balanced” mixture in such cases would be 1 part metallic/mineral filler with 2 parts of **Icing Mix**, all measured volumetrically. The purpose was to allow the sculptor complete freedom to achieve virtually any metallic effect and/or a fine, highly polishable/burnishable surface.

As an example, the recommended mixture to produce a hi-metallic effect would be 1 part **Metallic Powder** with 2 parts **Icing Mix**. The metallic proportion may be reduced if desired, but the reduction should be offset by adding a mineral filler: e.g. 1 part ($\frac{1}{2}$ metallic + $\frac{1}{2}$ mineral) to 2 parts **Icing Mix**. This would result in a relatively reduced metallic effect but still allow the sculptor to produce dramatic results by employing the appropriate patination and burnishing techniques. The overall “balanced” formulation should be maintained to reduce the basic richness of the **Icing Mix** itself to avoid potential shrinkage problems.

Any of the above **Icing Mix** combinations may be used as the final layering(s) to a directly modeled sculpture. They may also be used in a “brushable” consistency as a “face” mix into a mold as the first step in producing a casting – but only at the mixing water proportions recommended (Reference: Technical Basic Data Sheet at www.winterstone.com). Do not attempt to achieve “pourability” of these mixtures by over-compensating with excess mixing water. To do would only result in a weakened final product sensitive to cracking.

In all cases when the mixes are used in the modeling/sculpting process or as a “face” mix in casting, the addition of Hi-Dispersant ARG (Alkali Resistant Glass) chopped strand ($\frac{1}{8}$ ” - $\frac{1}{4}$ ” length) is recommended in the amount of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ % by weight of the **ICING** portion.

The recommended **METALLICS** (iron, brass, bronze, copper etc.) are generally available in fine powder form. An intriguing combination of the metallic component is a mixture of iron and brass, firstly because it is very cost effective and, secondly, it expands the palette of patina effects possible. The recommended **MINERAL** filler is a calcium carbonate with a mean particle size of 6-7 microns (e.g. OMYCARB #6). The fineness of these materials is crucial to achieving a refined surface that is highly polishable and/or burnishable.