ROCK BLENDING AND COLORING INSTRUCTIONS

1.0 Blending systems using Epoxy Mastic

Step 1 – If there are large gaps that need to be blending, use a foam similar to Dow's 'Foam in a can' to fill the gap (available at most hardware stores). Once the foam cures – the excess foam will need to be cut back or sanded back with a grinder until it is flush with the surrounding area.

Step 2 - Using something like paint stick or putty knife (use separate sticks for each component and do not cross contaminate) – dig out equal amounts of each of the epoxy components - 1 part of Polygem 307 Component A with 1 part Polygem 307 Component B and place a small to medium size pile of each material on a 1 foot square piece of cardboard or wood.. Mix the two components together and mix well (until the mixture is uniform in color) with a putty knife or similar tool. Sand can be added to this mixture to provide a more realistic texture to the mixture.

Step 3 –Apply epoxy mixture to area requiring repair with a putty knife or similar tool. Spread roughly over the area requiring blending (it will be smoothed out in a later step)

Step 4 – Dip a brush (for best results cut half the length of the brush bristles off) in a cup of water and use the wet brush to push the epoxy mastic uniformly over the blend area. Keep the brush wet and smooth out the epoxy – and thin out the edges so that the epoxy blends in with the rest of the rock feature. This step is mainly to insure that the thickness is uniform and that the edges do not abnormally stand out.

Step 5 – Once the epoxy mastic has been blended uniformly and while the epoxy is still uncured – wet you brush again in water and shake excess water off. Now use the cut brush and push the tip perpendicular into the epoxy to provide a rough but uniform "rock-like" texture into the epoxy. Make sure that the brush textures all the epoxy mastic so that there are no smooth areas visible. Depending on the texture of the rock – if more texture is needed then sand can be post added to the surface (but while it is still uncured). To add sand directly into the epoxy surface, take a wet brush and dip it into a cup of dry fine sugar sand and this will grab a layer of sand. Then press the brush with the sand into the epoxy.

Step 6 – Allow Epoxy to cure for 4 – 8 hrs at 70 - 85 degrees F. This can be accelerated by using a heat gun or general head source.

2.0 Rock Coloring process

The coloring system for the rock system is somewhat a cross between a wood staining process and a faux finishing wall painting system. The procedure is as follows:

Step 1 – Base Coat process: The process begins by spraying with a simple spray cup gun (or rolling or brushing if equipment is not available) a coat of the base color specified over the entire surface (See the Color addendum for specific paint colors for you project.). The water base coating may require some minor thinning with water to provide a uniform wet coat (do not dry spray) over the entire surface.

Step 2 – Adding Highlights: Once the basecoat is dry – the highlighting process can begin. The key to this next step is to keep the highlight color wet so that it can be wiped off on the surface but not in the deeper texture of the rock. Depending on the specific color system (Gray Granite, Fieldstone Brown, Sandstone, Sedona Red or custom color) there are anywhere between 1 and 3 highlight colors added.

> **Step 2.1 –** To begin the highlighting process, water will need to be misted on the surface of the area to be painted. First, using a spray bottle of water – mist the surface of an area that you can easily reach (such as an area that is 3ft by 3 ft square). When you are misting the area, you do not want to flood the area or have water heavily in the depressions of the texture – just mist it so that you can see a uniform gloss to the surface.
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> **Step 2.2** - Before spraying your highlight color, you will need to thin the highlight paint so that it is more like a thin stain or glaze (typically we recommend 1 pt of water per gallon – or when the paint is very fluid). You should use a spray gun or if in a pinch you can load the thinned coating in a hand pump spray bottle or a garden sprayer. You should spray a uniform coat of the thinned topcoat uniformly over the section of misted rock area.
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> **Step 2.3 -** Wiping the topcoat off – utilizing a dry soft cotton rag – your should immediately start wiping off the topcoat before it dries. In the process of wiping the paint off the surface there are a number of techniques to consider. First, depending on the texture of the rock and epoxy mastic you may need to vigorously wipe the surface hard – which will remove most of the paint off the immediate surface but leaves the paint in the depressions. If the texture is shallow, then a light wipe and or blotting action may be more appropriate. If the color is too light – then repeat this step

The key end result desired is to leave the highlight colors in the depressions of the rock and to allow a portion of the base coat to show through the highlights to provide the natural looking multi-toned appearance.

If there are any questions on this coloring procedure, please feel free to call Jerrod Jarboe or Rod Jarboe at 314 524 2040.