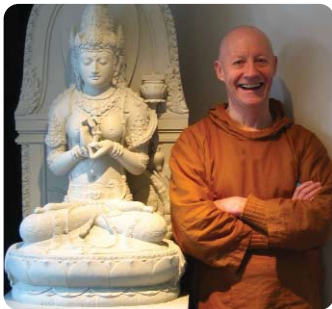


## Moulding Meditation

**B**uddhist monks engaged in deep contemplation whilst working out the complexities of detailed moulding and casting techniques may seem a little bizarre, but that's exactly what's been happening at two monasteries, thanks to help from Bentley Creative Chemicals.



Buddhist Vimalo with Prajna

Located on the banks of the river Esk in Scotland, Kagyu Samye Ling was the first Tibetan Buddhist Centre to have been established in the West, and its monks and nuns have been using Bentley's moulding and casting materials for some time.



Tibetan Long Horns

Nun Ani Yangtso has built special protective cases for their musical instruments, in particular for a Tibetan long horn called the Radong.

At a monastery near Hemel Hempstead, senior monk Vimalo has become known in Buddhist circles as "the monk who made the statue of Prajna", a work that he

had started many years ago as a layman, but was encouraged to finish by some of the nuns when they discovered the piece wrapped up and hidden away...

"I still tell people how happy and grateful I have been for the help Rob Price from Bentley offered and

for the success I have had using Rebound and Plasti Paste" said Vimalo.



Mould preparation

### FLEX FOAM

Following its launch in 2006, the EZ~Spray Junior has proved highly successful as a unique and highly cost effective system which sprays five different products, including, for the first time, silicone rubber. It has made possible the

production of "instant moulds" from a wide variety of materials and surfaces.

Now a sixth product has been added to EZ~Spray's portfolio – FlexFoam, a sprayable, flexible foam. The new product is a polyurethane foam

compound that cures quickly to give a strong, lightweight, flexible foam that can be used for a variety of applications. FlexFoam comes as two liquid components in a disposable 400ml EZ~Spray cartridge. It combines together to produce a foam that

quickly cures.

FlexFoam is ideal for applications such as spraying animatronic skins, or backing up polyurethane rubber skins when required. It is also very good for filling deep under cuts on polyurethane rubbers.

To celebrate 30 years in the business, Bentley Creative Chemicals have launched a new initiative called Curetime. The concept is designed to evolve into an industry wide resource, accessible to anyone with a genuine interest in promoting excellence in moulding and casting. "We have exciting plans for Curetime," commented managing director, Richard Watson, "it's a name that



in time will become well known as a dynamic and interactive information resource. We are uniquely positioned to make available a wealth of practical experience, a depth of product knowledge and examples of best practice from the industry's leading practitioners. Curetime is going to grow into a real asset for the moulding and casting community – watch this space."

# Curetime 'Vidcast'

As part of the Curetime initiative, Bentley Creative Chemicals have launched their very first "Vidcast" - a downloadable, portable video podcast.



Still shot of 'Vidcast'

Available from the new Curetime section on Bentley's website ([www.bentleychemicals.co.uk](http://www.bentleychemicals.co.uk)), the Vidcast gives unique advice from the industry's leading experts on how to create a gravity pour skin mould for a complex design.

The film gives insider tips on how to avoid common pitfalls such as trapped air, and how to make the release process easier. "There are practical tips on advanced techniques and on the very latest

materials," commented Rob Price, "it's designed to appeal to both the expert and to anyone looking to refine their general technique."

There is an introductory, one-off "sign-up fee" of just £5 which gives access to the seven minute Vidcast download. A detailed fact file is also separately available to accompany the Vidcast.

## Curetime E-newsletter

The first Curetime e-newsletter is now also available via the Bentley website and is designed to appeal to anyone with an interest in prosthetics and special effects.

The quarterly newsletters will all contain practical, hands-on advice on moulding and casting

techniques, as well as the most up to date information on new products.

As with the first Vidcast, the newsletters can be accessed via a one-off payment of just £5 via the special Curetime section on the website.

# South Bank Workshop

Another highly successful specialist workshop was held at the South Bank University in London in January. It featured the very latest products and techniques which were demonstrated in a series of live workshops by the industry's leading experts.

Over the two days, delegates were able to get first hand advice watching detailed demonstrations that covered everything from lifecasting to special effects make-up and prosthetics. Delegates were encouraged to interact and ask questions which produced a relaxed atmosphere and resulted in an interesting flow and exchange of information



South Bank workshop

between the experts and the audience.

Workshops were given by Jason Reece from Smooth On, Guy Louis XVI from FuseFX (yes, that really is his name!), with first hand assistance from Mike Dargon, who has recently joined the team at Bentley.

"It's been excellent," commented Steve Nicholls, prosthetic technician with Otto Bock Healthcare, "there has been a broad spectrum of advice and information appealing to people from different backgrounds. It's always good to learn about new products and we are constantly looking for new materials and techniques."

# Life-Like Lullaby



*Silicone silence!*

**S**pecial high performance silicone rubbers, including a recently launched silicone which has taken ten years to develop, are being used in the production of a range of incredibly life-like collector's dolls called Lullabydolls. The silicones, supplied by Bentley Creative Chemicals, can achieve perfect skin tones, hues and colour depth.

The original range of dolls first saw life back in 2002 and were developed by two sisters, Carol Audis and Janet Paulger, who had been captivated after visiting a dolls show. "We couldn't afford to buy any of the exhibits," commented Carol, "so we decided to have a go ourselves! We learnt by trial and error to

begin with."

The sisters began to make the dolls purely as a hobby but the cost of materials and production slowly forced them to take a more commercial view, and they took their first few dolls to a specialist show where they were eagerly snapped up. They haven't looked back since.

The finishes now being achieved are made possible because of new materials such as FuseFX developed specifically as an easy way to replicate the look of human skin for special effects, medical prosthesis and sculpture work. Its application system has been developed to be extremely simple too and features a dual syringe system which dispenses the

colourant and the silicone at the same time.

Each doll has its own unique identity and is first modelled by hand in clay before being moulded in silicone. The dolls that are being produced today are still very much a labour of love, each one has every single hair grafted by hand and they can take up to two weeks to be completed.

The main body of the dolls is made from high performance platinum cure silicone rubbers that are very soft and strong and cure at room temperature with no shrinkage. These new silicones are also being used in prosthetics, where they give a much greater degree of comfort cushioning, as well as in animatronics where repetitive motion

is required.

The final detailed colouration of the dolls is painted on by hand using a silicone paint with a low viscosity which makes it easier to control. It can even be delivered to a model's surface with an air brush and is particularly fast curing.

The dolls are primarily sold through annual dolls shows up and down the country, although some are exported as well. The sisters say that they still enjoy doing the work and although it is a business for them, they still view it as a hobby.

# FRIENDLY CAST

**A** solvent free, aqueous, acrylic resin for casting and laminating that is both non-toxic and environmentally friendly is now exclusively available from Bentley



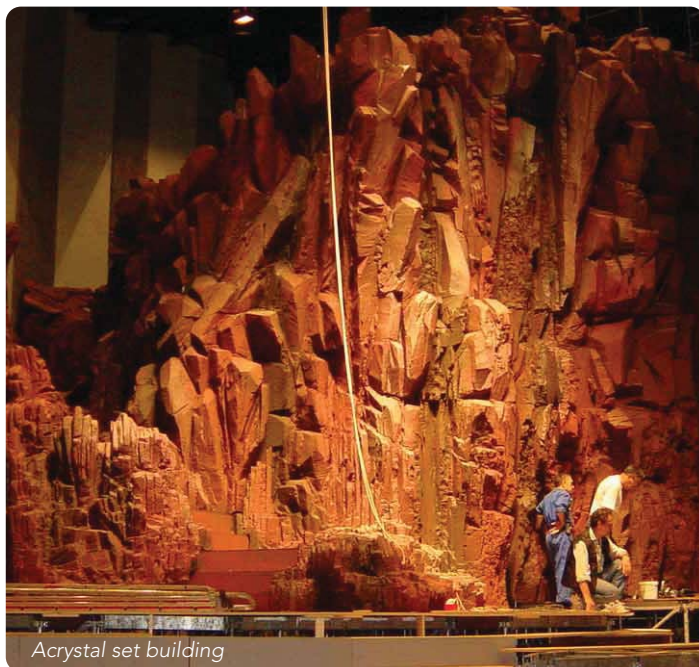
Acryal bust

Creative Chemicals. "Acryal" has widespread applications in construction, architectural decoration, restoration, modelling, special effects and film and theatre sets. It is easy to work with, has a very low odour and with added pigments and metallic aggregates, it can be used to produce a very wide

range of finishes.

"Acryal has massive potential," commented Chris Warren, Bentley Sales Director, "in a sector used to operating with materials that can be unpleasant to work with and environmentally challenging, this acrylic resin can transform the way many operators work and at the same time provide better performance properties than many traditional materials."

Acryal was developed in France where it has already established a successful



Acryal set building

track record in construction, architectural decoration and stage sets. The resin's basic performance properties have made it a favourite with operators

delivering good durability, stability, moisture resistance and fire resistance. It requires less working time, increases the life of silicone moulds, has a low exotherm, and tools can even be cleaned with water afterwards.

The resin can be cast into moulds using traditional techniques or it can be spray applied. It can also be applied in thick layers to a base material like polystyrene or polyurethane foam and then sculpted, cut, milled or drilled.



Acryal Art

## LIGHT LOOKS

**J** Harry Hunt of Bradford Street in Birmingham began making lighting over 100 years ago as part of his Art Brass Foundry business. Today, David Hunt Lighting, based in Shipston on Stour is known for innovation in the design and manufacture of a wide range of high quality decorative lighting.

Bentley have been supplying them with specialist rubbers and resins for nearly ten years, used to create striking and unusual



mouldings across a range of different types of lighting.

Their own design studio

produces a wealth of original ideas both in classical themes and contemporary and their

team of in-house designers also commission work from some of the most exciting young British designers. Some of their Arthurian range of lighting was recently featured on TV's Grand Designs.

"The technical assistance that we get from Bentley is very good," commented purchasing manager Kevin Quint, "we can't fault them or their materials."

# Future Fashion

**L**ondon College of Fashion is the only college in the UK to specialise in fashion education, research and consultancy, and with a vibrant department specialising in technical effects, it has had a close association with Bentley Chemicals over the last ten years.

The college attracts students from all around the world who have a particular interest in the use of make-up and costume at the leading edge of fashion. Over the last four years, Bentley has provided the college with a bursary to help support the student's work. The money has been used to create three awards to assist the students in buying materials for their work.

Each year, the Company has also sponsored an individual student and last year it sponsored Russell Hindmarch in his final year of an M.A. in Fashion Design through an independent project. Russell's theme has been focusing on the "emotional value of clothing" which began when he designed a suit for a friend who was a dwarf. "It helped give my friend Nash a better quality of life," commented Russell, "after all, fashion can be seen as frivolous and this was something that was an inclusive piece of design."

His work continued to explore the ethical side of fashion, evolving a repeated theme which incorporated the use of silicone horns protruding



*Silicone Horns*

through the clothing to give a shock effect. Last year he went to Beijing as part of a fashion competition open to university students. Organised by a sportswear company, it once again gave Russell the opportunity of developing his unusual theme on the catwalk.

One of the core values of the sponsorship brought by Bentley is to be able to offer the college leading edge technical advice on new products entering the market place. "We tend to be inside of a bit of a bubble within university," commented Technical Effects Programme Leader, Caroline Gardener, "it is impossible for us to know about all the latest developments. We often talk to Bentley to try and find the solution to a particular challenge. They

can help us to push out the boundaries."

The college uses a wide variety of foams, rubbers and resins in its work and Tony Lall-Chopra, a course teacher at the college, has been involved with using many of Bentley's

students to the Master-Class workshop that was being held at the South Bank University. They found it a really useful experience."

Each year the undergraduates put on a



*Beijing Catwalk*

materials. He describes much of what they do as a crossover between sculptured work and fashion. "We were able to bring quite a few of our

special show with help from Tony and Caroline. This year's theme was 'Penguin Café' which was also sponsored by Bentley Creative Chemicals.

# Fox Effects

In 1878 Mr. Charles H Fox established his eponymous company in the heart of London to supply the professional theatre of his day with costumes, wigs and make-up. Among his chief clients were Sir Henry Irving and Ellen Terry, resident at the Lyceum Theatre.

Today, the historic business is based in new premises in Covent Garden and is supplied with a variety of materials for special effects make-up by Bentley. The company offers

products covering Beauty & Fashion Make-up, Special Effects Make-up, Facial Hair, Accessories, Books & Videos, as well as a series of workshops where make-up artists and actors can gain first hand advice.

The century old link with the theatre profession remains as strong today as it was in 1878, and whilst the company primarily sells to professional make-up artists, the premises are also a haven for actors who are looking for the right materials to source their own creative requirements.



Make-up from Charles Fox

## NEW PRODUCTS

**FlexFoam** - A sprayable, polyurethane foam that is applied through the EZ-Spray Junior spray system.

**Moldmax Stroke** - A brushable silicone rubber from the can that self thickens. Great for silicone skin moulds where thixo agent's not needed.

**New Shell Shock** - A new self thickening version of Shell Shock plastic.

**Task 8 Liquid Plastic** - A new product for high impact castings. Also has high H.D.T (Heat distortion temp). Great for applications that require plastics in the 265f/ 130c temp range.

**Soma Foama** - A soft, flexible silicone foam, versatile and easy to use.

**Mold Max XLS** - An extra low shrinkage tin cat silicone with 30A shore hardness.

**Ignite** - Colour pigments that appear bright in ambient light and glow under UV light.

**Cryptolite** - Clear glow additive for silicone rubbers that glows under UV light.

## Safely Sealed



Digitron connectors

The unique properties of some of the special RTV silicones and polyurethane casting resins supplied by Bentley are leading to their

increasing use in the encapsulation of sensitive electronic components in a number of industries.

Selecting the right silicone

or resin is primarily determined by the type of environment in which the component is to be sealed. If it is a particularly hostile or aggressive environment, then harder resins are often used, whereas RTV silicones are more appropriate where there is a need for a flexible encapsulation.

Other factors that have to be taken into consideration include access and maintenance, as well as any requirement to be able to see the component once it is encapsulated.

Some of the applications include X-ray inspection technology, high integrity sub-sea power and data connection systems in the oil and gas industry, and special electronic rail track monitoring equipment.

## SFX News

Latest films to feature special effects foams, silicones and rubbers from Bentley include Wolfman, the latest Bond Film - Quantum of Solace, Nut Cracker, Harry Potter 6, Mummy 3 and Angels & Demons. While, on TV, you will have seen Bentley products in Holby City, Torchwood and Dr Who, or Aardman Animations.

**bentley**  
creative chemicals

Tel +44 (0)1562 515121  
Fax + 44 (0)1562 515847  
info@bentleychemicals.co.uk  
bentleychemicals.co.uk

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Rowland Way, Hoo Farm Industrial Estate,  
Kidderminster Worcestershire DY11 7RA, England.  
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