

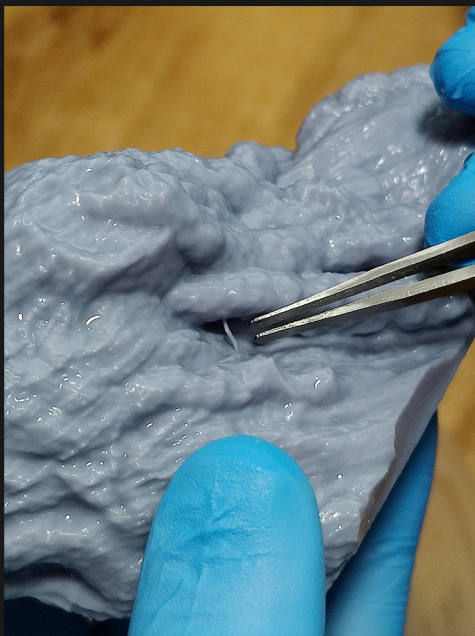
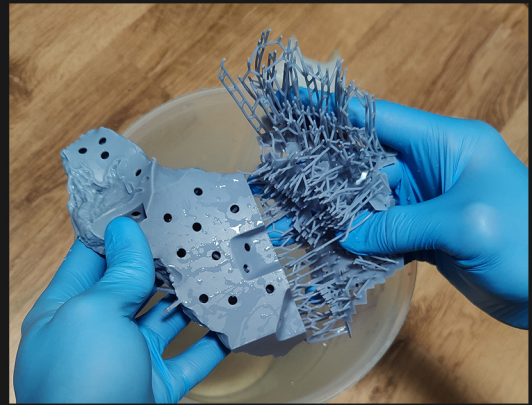
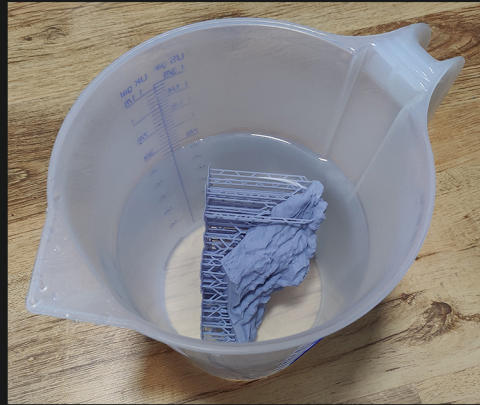
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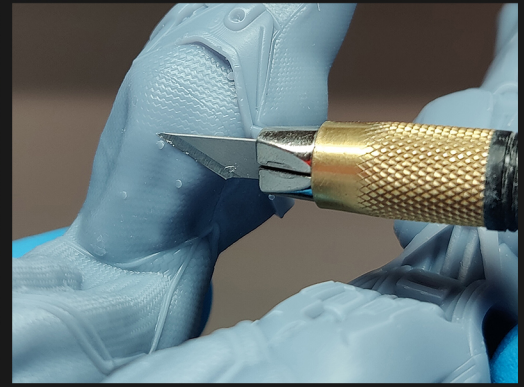
Tips for preparing your 3D prints for paint!

TIP 1: *Support removal and safety*

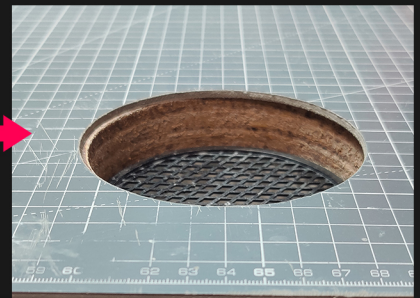
After cleaning and drying your prints, heat is an effective method to remove supports. I prefer hot water (not boiling), but you can also use a hair dryer or heat gun!



Having a pair of tweezers nearby is handy for removing smaller, hard-to-reach supports. Alternatively, you can use side cutters or a hobby knife for delicate or stubborn supports

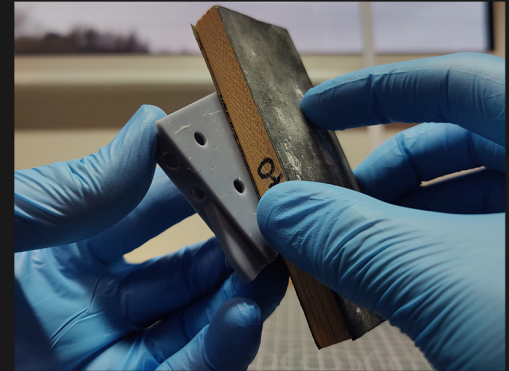


Stay safe! Wear gloves, respiratory protection, and eye gear when sanding, as the dust can be toxic. Using a vacuum connected to a hole in your desk is effective, or consider wet sanding for a safer option (add a few drops of dish soap to your water)

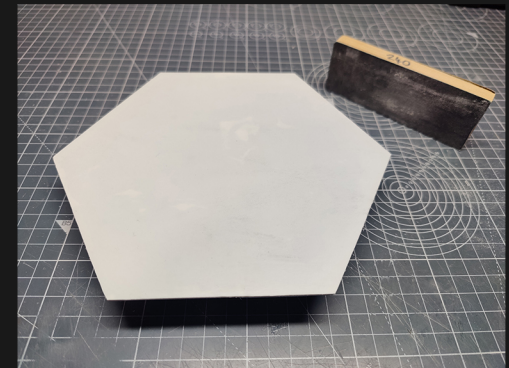
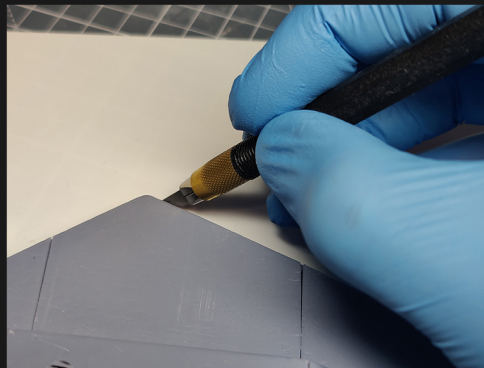
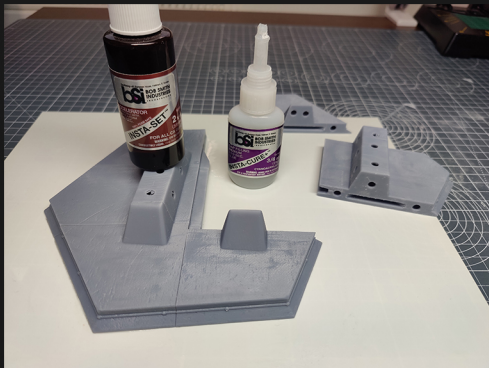


TIP 2: *Let's improve those bases! part 1*

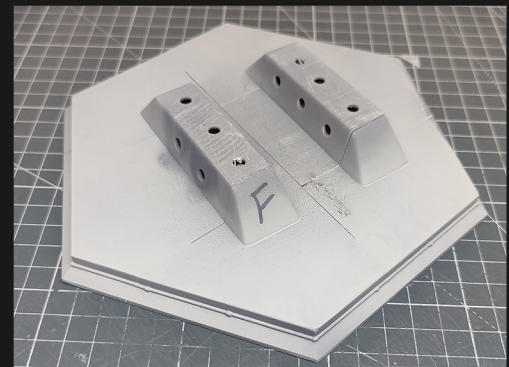
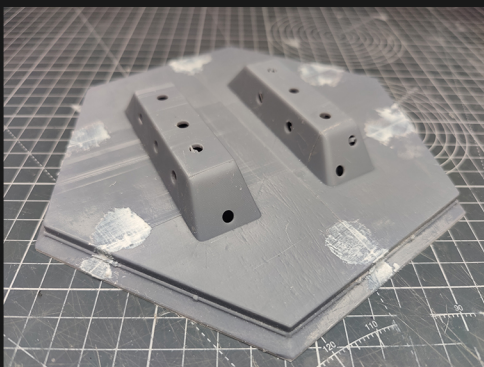
Homemade sanding blocks are excellent for smoothing support marks or imperfections. Begin by sanding the bottom of your base parts



To conceal drain holes and reinforce your base, you can glue your base parts onto a sheet of styrene. Using an accelerator can speed up this step. Then, carefully cut around the edges with a sharp knife. Finish with a light sanding, and voilà!



Next, let's eliminate any gaps or seams in our base. Apply your preferred filler to cover these areas, then sand it down. Take your time with this step, especially when sanding a flat surface. Utilize a flat sanding block, file, or stick to achieve the best results without pulling the filler out of the gaps



TIP 3: *Let's improve those bases! part 2*

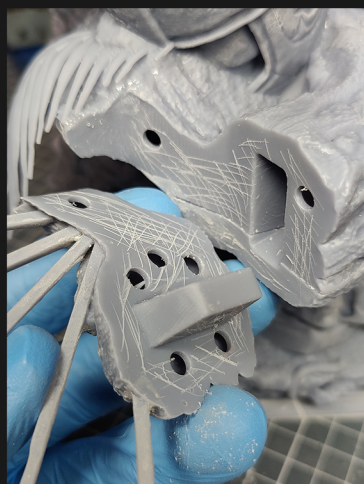
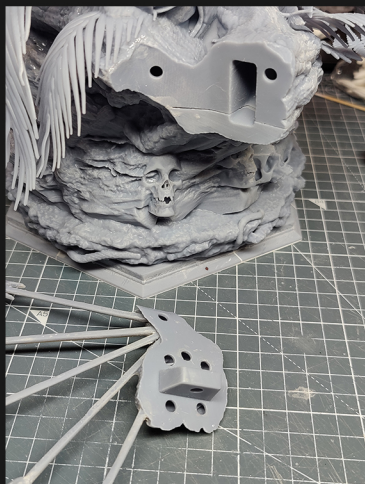
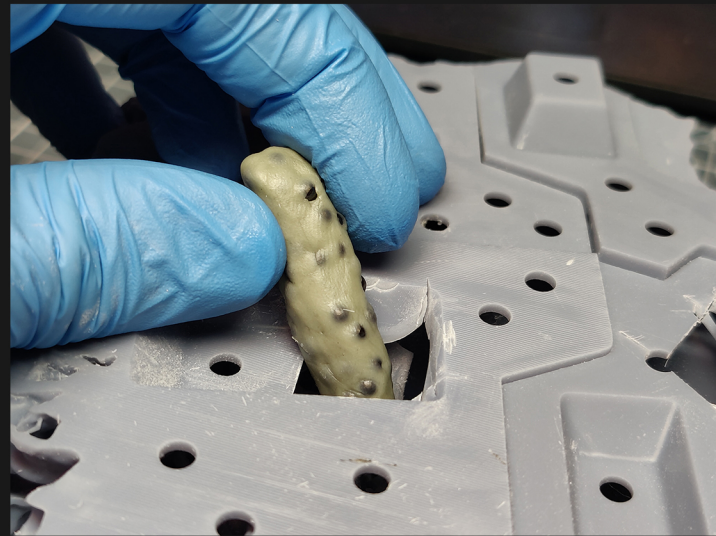
Printing hollow is an efficient method to save on resin, but it may decrease the weight of our bases, potentially affecting the balance of a dynamic statue. In Volume One, we used casting resin; this time, I propose an alternative solution



Combining lead shot with epoxy clay can significantly increase the weight of your prints. I prefer forming small snakes of clay and embedding the shot into them.

DO NOT use super glue (cyanoacrylate) or PVA to secure lead shot, as this can result in a toxic chemical reaction →

Remember to wash your hands thoroughly after handling lead and different types of epoxies, even if you've been wearing gloves

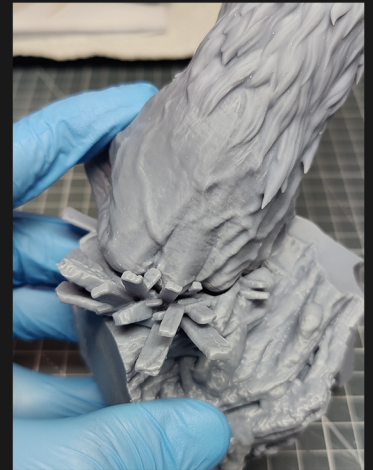
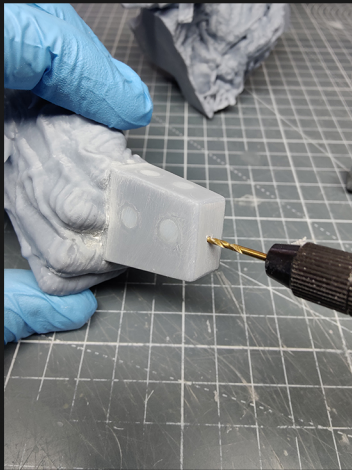


When handling difficult-to-secure or heavy parts, use a two-part epoxy glue for a strong bond. Score or mark the surfaces to enhance grip

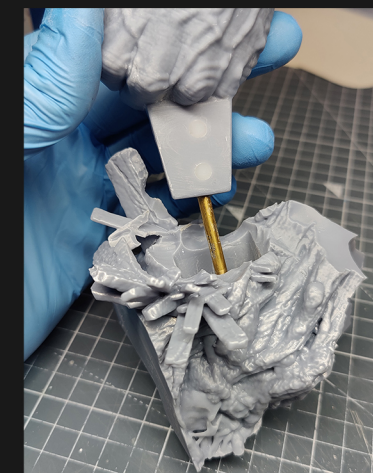


TIP 4: *How to pin and secure parts*

Glue isn't the only method for ensuring a robust bond between parts. Utilizing brass rods for pinning is an excellent technique to keep parts together or make them removable during the painting process



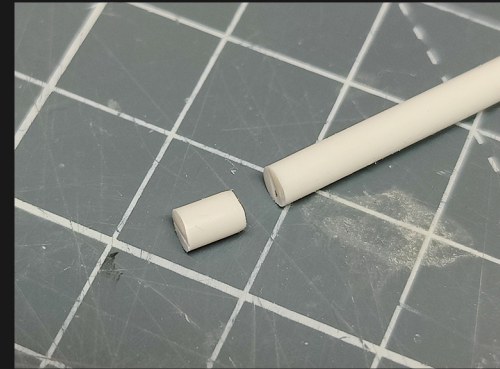
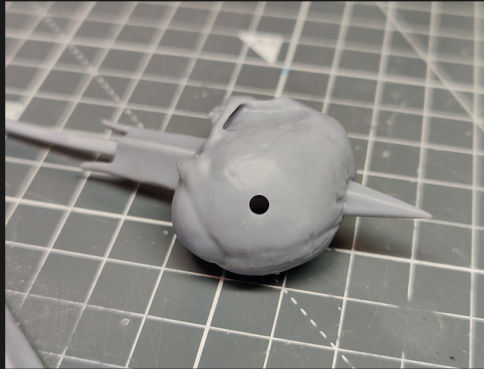
Begin by drilling a hole in one of the parts you wish to connect. Then, apply Blu Tack (mounting putty) to the other part. Adding a small amount of water on top can help prevent the Blu Tack from being pulled out. Finally, press the first part into place. This will result in a guide for drilling your second piece



Once you've located your guide marker, use a sharp pin to create a pilot hole for your drill. Then, gradually increase the drill bit sizes until you achieve the desired diameter for your brass rod. Be careful while drilling, aiming to align the hole with the direction of the rod. If the guide hole doesn't match the direction of the rod, you may need to adjust the hole or bend the rod accordingly

TIP 5: More gap filling!

Start by sizing up your drain hole and finding an equivalent styrene rod

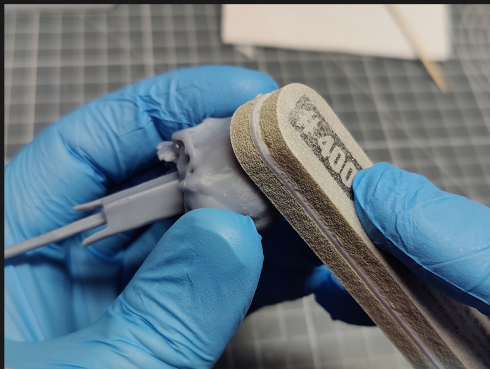


Super glue the rod in place leaving a small gap for your chosen filler. In this instance, we are using the printer resin and talcum powder mix



from Volume 1

Make sure to fully cure your filler. Given the coarse nature of the initial mixture, I suggest using resin alone as a top layer for smoother results



Use your favorite sanding sponge/paper to smooth off the filler. Primer is excellent for checking smoothness and errors. For smaller areas, a sharpie can quickly reveal mistakes (don't forget to lightly buff away the sharpie before painting)



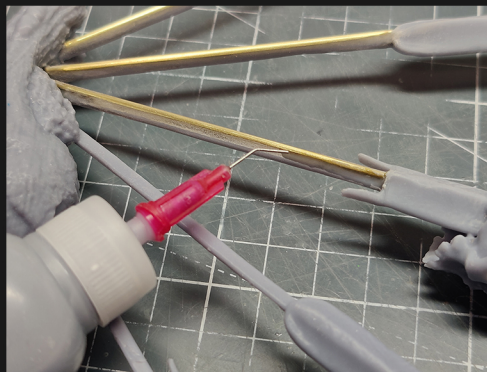
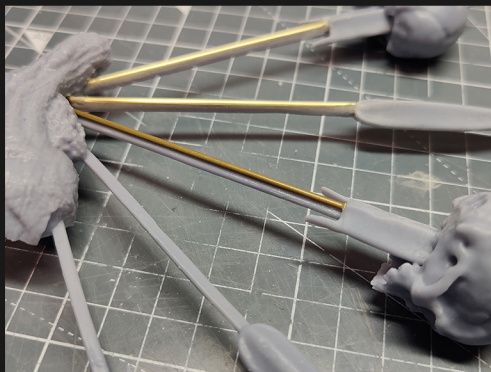
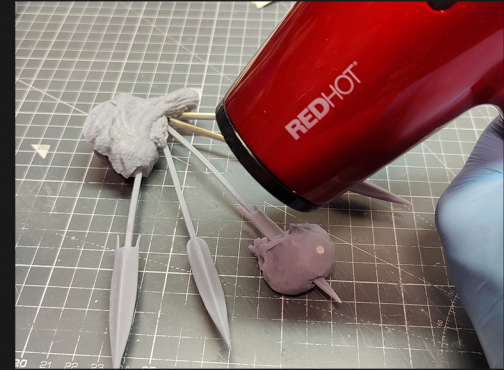
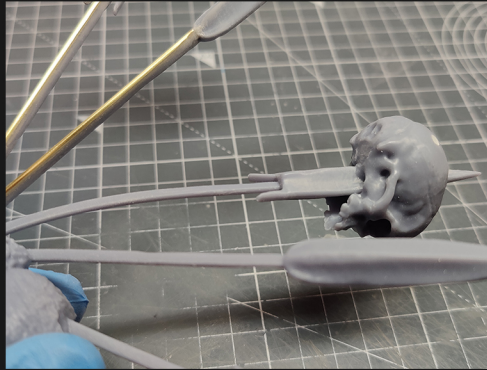
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Tips for preparing your 3D prints for paint!

TIP 6: Adding support to weaker areas

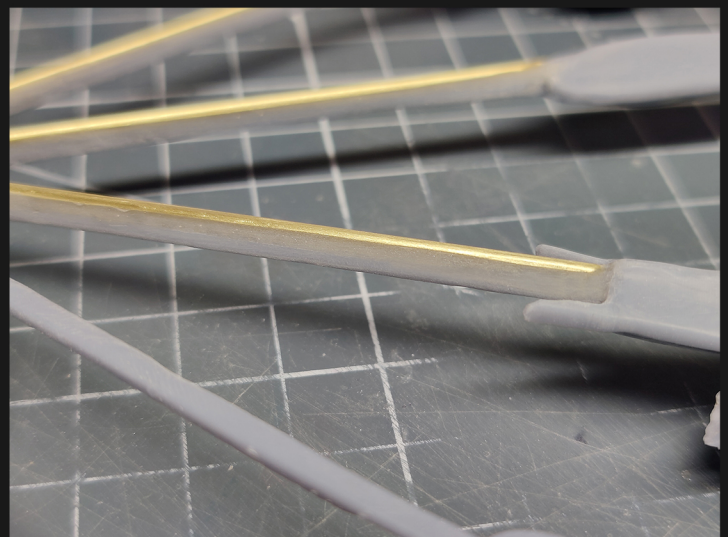
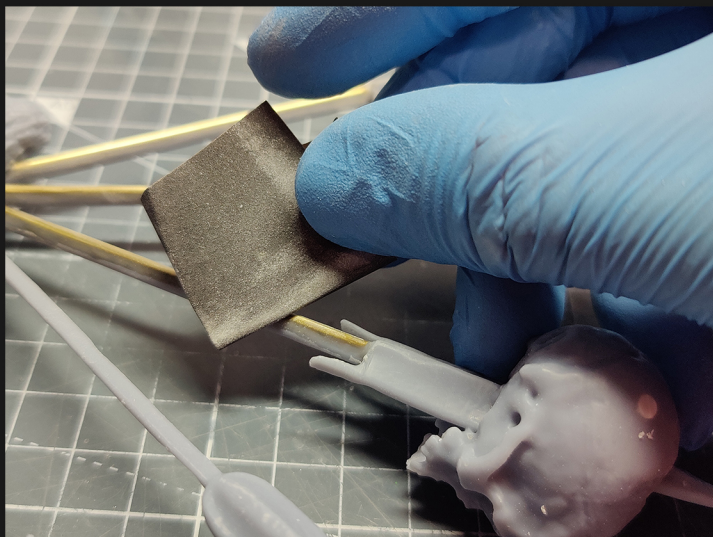
Over time, your model may bend from weight or instability. Use heat, like a hairdryer, heat gun, or hot water, to reshape as needed



Brass rods provide great reinforcement for weaker areas. After securing them with your preferred glue, apply filler to seamlessly blend any edges



Take your time sanding the filler to achieve a smooth transition. Once primer is applied, the brass rod will blend seamlessly into your model. Use either primer or the sharpie method to check for errors as you work



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VOLUME TWO

Tips for preparing your 3D prints for paint!

Thank you *for your invaluable feedback!*



Thank you for all your fantastic feedback! I hope you found this volume helpful. If you have any suggestions for Volume 3, please feel free to share them with us!

