

Suspended. Splendid!

by Nicholl Spence

Many years ago, I discovered a substrate that I adore playing with: resin! This material is fascinating, from the chemical reaction that happens when first mixing the two ingredients, to the final results that this incredible epoxy renders. Jewellery resin is a two-part product: resin and hardener and is mixed in equal parts. I started using it with everything. First, I incorporated it with items from nature.

Resin has the wonderful ability not only to suspend an item within it, but also to illuminate such fine details as the veins in a leaf or flower petal. This is likely due to the fact that the resin, after curing, gives a wet-like, glass finish to the project.

My first experience included suspending a piece of driftwood I had found in Burlington along the shores of Lake Ontario. I experimented with adding drops of food colour to the resin and once cured, I sliced cross sections of the suspended driftwood to make individual pendants.

In the fall I gathered several acorn tops that the squirrels left behind after

they'd foraged the nuts. Using a silicone bead mould, I filled the cavity with flower petals and then poured in the resin. Twenty-four hours later I had beautiful marble-like beads which housed my garden flowers. Using a piece of 24-gauge wire, I threaded it through the bead, added an acorn top and then poured more resin over the top of it.

I have also experimented with using resin to make furniture from nature. A friend gave me a four-inch slab from a fallen tree. The inner markings were beautiful and you could see how two young trees had once intertwined into a single. The slab was beautiful, but the chainsaw used to cut the section had made jagged, ugly gouges in the hardwood. Masking off the perimeter of the slab to create an edge where the resin would stop, I poured resin to create the tabletop. The result ended with the ugly gouges disappearing and the inner circles of the tree coming to life. This beautiful side table sits under my window where I display fresh cut flowers from my garden.

Resin kits are readily available online or at your local craft store. You'll want to purchase resin specifically



▲ Top of an acorn with dandelion suspended in a resin bead.

► Cross section of a piece of salvaged driftwood found along the bank of Lake Ontario.



for jewellery. Be sure to send us your pictures!

Follow Along

You can find how-to tutorials on my YouTube channel @FarmhouseStudioOnFifth.

Nicholl Spence is a freelance graphic designer who works from her rural farmhouse home office in Erin. Among her work is the design and layout for this magazine.

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A commissioned necklace made from dried rose petals. This client had dried a rose from his wedding bouquet and gave this custom necklace as a surprise to his wife on their anniversary.

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