

WRIGHTS OF LYMM LTD

Excellence since 1840

PRODUCT DATA SHEET

COMPO

Traditional Composition Material for Ornamental Moulding & Restoration

Product Description

Compo, also known as **composition**, is a traditional mouldable material used for producing and repairing decorative ornamentation.

It is particularly associated with picture frames, furniture, architectural decoration and restoration work. When suitably warmed, Compo becomes flexible and can be pressed into moulds to reproduce detailed decorative patterns and ornament.

Traditional composition materials are generally manufactured from a combination of **whiting/chalk, animal glue, natural resin and oil**.

Typical Uses

Suitable for:

- Restoration of antique and period picture frames
- Replacing missing decorative ornament
- Creating moulded decorative details
- Furniture restoration
- Architectural ornamentation
- Gilded frames and decorative finishes
- Conservation and restoration work
- Reproducing traditional mouldings and motifs

Key Features

- Traditional moulding and restoration material
- Becomes workable when warmed
- Can reproduce fine decorative detail
- Suitable for pressing into suitable moulds
- Can be cut, shaped and trimmed
- Suitable for subsequent preparation, painting and gilding
- Particularly useful for restoration of traditional frames and ornamentation

Application

Compo should normally be **gently warmed before use** until it becomes sufficiently flexible to work.

1. Prepare a clean and suitable mould.
2. Warm the Compo gradually until pliable.
3. Press firmly into the mould, ensuring all decorative detail is filled.
4. Remove excess material as required.
5. Release the moulded section carefully.
6. Apply the ornament to the prepared substrate while the material is suitably workable.
7. Allow the material to cool, dry and stabilise before further preparation or finishing.

Avoid excessive heat, which may damage or alter the properties of the material.

Surface Preparation

Surfaces should be:

- Clean
- Dry
- Sound
- Free from dust, grease, wax and loose material

When repairing historic work, ensure the substrate is stable before applying replacement ornament.

Finishing

Once fully dry and stable, Compo can normally be prepared for decorative finishing including:

- Gesso
- Bole
- Paint
- Oil gilding
- Water gilding where an appropriate traditional ground system is used

Always ensure the moulded ornament is thoroughly dry before applying subsequent coatings.

Working Properties

Compo is a **thermoplastic traditional material**, meaning that controlled warmth softens the material and makes it easier to mould and manipulate.

As the material cools it becomes firmer and retains the moulded decorative shape.

Drying

Drying time will depend upon:

- Thickness of the ornament
- Temperature
- Humidity

- Substrate
- Method of application

Allow sufficient time for the material to dry and stabilise before sanding, preparing, painting or gilding.

Storage

Store in a:

- Cool
- Dry
- Well-ventilated location

Keep away from excessive heat, direct sunlight and moisture.

Keep packaging securely closed when not in use.

Handling

Use good workshop hygiene.

Avoid prolonged skin contact and wash hands thoroughly after handling.

When warming the material, use gentle controlled heat and do not expose it to naked flames or excessive temperatures.

Compatibility

Due to the wide variety of historic substrates, finishes, adhesives and restoration materials encountered, a small compatibility test should be carried out before commencing important restoration work.

Important Information

Traditional Compo is manufactured from materials whose characteristics can vary slightly between batches. Colour, consistency and working properties may therefore show minor variations.

Natural shrinkage may occur during drying. Excessive heat, moisture or unsuitable storage conditions may cause distortion, cracking or deterioration.

For conservation work on valuable or historically significant objects, application should be undertaken by an experienced restorer or conservator.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this Product Data Sheet is provided in good faith and is intended as general guidance only. The suitability of the product for a particular application should be established by the user before use.

Application methods, substrates and environmental conditions are outside the control of Wrights of Lymm Ltd. Users are responsible for ensuring that the product is suitable for their intended purpose and is used in accordance with appropriate working practices.

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