

Premier replica assembly instructions

1. Before assembly, preplan your mount. Your replica is prepped to be mounted through the backside of the fish unless you have instructed us to prep it for a pedestal mount
2. Affix a post on back of body (predrill holes and use coarse threaded screws) and put on a mounting stand for ease of work. We lay out the pieces and do a test fit. The gills are left and right and markings can usually be found on the interior side of the gill. All parts can be gently heated until pliable and to better fit the slots and points of contact.
3. Pre-paint the base gill, if present.
4. Attach other gills (if present) with superglue. We use an accelerant to speed up the process. Use Apoxie Sculpt as needed to smooth joints where gills meet mounting surfaces.
5. Test fit head onto body. Adjust if necessary. Use heat gun to make gills or gill covers slightly flexible. Do not overheat. The flare of some gill sets requires a squeeze to get the head on properly.
6. Epoxy the head on to the body. We use Epo-Grip Quick Repair Putty. Or you can use a 5-minute liquid epoxy and thicken it to a paste consistency with urethane filler, Cabosil, or even kitchen flour. The goal is to keep it from running all over the interior of the head.
Apply epoxy paste to points of contact at the top of head and under tongue where head fits to body.
7. Remove excess epoxy (use lacquer thinner) and hold in place until firm.
8. Test fit fins to body. Adjust fins slightly with heat if needed. Grind slightly if needed.
9. Glue fins into appropriate fin pockets using superglue. We also use the accelerant to speed the set and reduce drip out of the pockets.
10. Smooth fin-to-body joints with Apoxie Sculpt.
11. Fill in joint at base of head (in front of dorsal fin) with Apoxie Sculpt.
12. Finish joining tongue to mouth with Apoxie Sculpt. Pay attention to top of mouth.
13. Tool in scales as needed: top of head, fin pockets
14. If using LCR eyes, place Apoxie Sculpt in eye socket and squeeze eye into opening. (Other eyes may require different installation.)
15. Once the replica assembly is cured, sand joints as needed. Touch up scales, etc., as needed.
16. Wipe the entire replica with rubbing alcohol and allow to dry. (This removes any solvents or hand grime from the replica prior to priming.)
17. If desired, protect fins with cardboard, painter's tape, etc.
18. Prime body. (We use Polytranspar White Fiberglass Primer.) Do not apply too heavy. A light even coat will blend joints and cover marks. Use lacquer thinner to clean up overspray, eyes, etc.
19. Paint as desired. When mounting, predrill holes and use coarse threaded screws. A 3-point mount is always more secure.

Bondo, harsh strippers, and hotmelt are not recommended for use with premier replicas. Bondo doesn't bond well with urethane plastic. Strippers may melt plastics and/or remove the details. The premier replicas are made without the use of mold releases.

The suggested adhesives and sculpt are in the catalog and available to order.