

How to Make a Resin River Table Using Clear Epoxy

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Making Resin River Table Using Clear Epoxy Casting Resin and Wood

Live-Edge Resin River Tables are beautiful pieces of furniture and highly sought after and with the right planning and skills can be created by experienced wood workers and DIY'ers.

We recently published our Penny Floor Project Instructable due to the demand for information on the subject and now we're experiencing high volumes of calls regarding making Resin River Tables. So we're back with a new Instructable on how to create your own Epoxy Live-Edge Resin River Table. For this project we decided to create a coffee table with a central resin 'river' running along it, but we also mitred the sides to create a waterfall effect on both legs. You can adapt the process to create small side tables, large dinner tables and other types of furniture and art pieces.

How To Make An Epoxy River Table?

Step 1: What You'll Need: Preparation and Materials

The Products and Materials used in the project:

- GlassCast® 50 clear epoxy resin
- Wood - English Yew - with a waney edge
- Translucent Tinting Pigments - we used blue
- Tape - flash/release and double-sided
- Polypropylene Sheet
- Polishing Compound and Oil (or similar)
- Tools - various
- Abrasives
- Spreader & Mixing sticks

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Mixing Cups & Mixing Buckets

Epoxy Adhesive

Safety Equipment

Hot-Melt Glue-Gun

Digital Scales

Step 2: Choosing and Preparing the Wood

When choosing your wood you need to make sure that the wood is seasoned, dry and as flat as possible.

The style and type of the wood is a personal choice - although interesting grains and waney-edges work best for this type of project.

Step 3: Sealing the Wood and Filling the Knots

Next you need to check for cracks, knotholes and gaps on both the top and bottom of the pieces of wood and fill these with resin to seal them

Use some tape to seal the cracks and gaps to prevent resin running out- a release tape works well for this.

Step 4: Creating a Container

Now position your slabs of wood and allow for your river channel so you can make a container around the whole table slab - this will support the resin whilst pouring and curing (the river):

Step 5: Resin - Measuring, Adding Colour and Pouring

Personal taste will dictate whether or not you choose to tint or colour your resin or leave it clear. Lots of makers are using glow powders, metallic pigments, solid colours and embedding things in their resin rivers and we would recommend thorough testing in a small amount of resin with any effect you want to achieve before attempting your table.

Step 6: Pour Base Layer and Allow to Reach the B-Stage

We advise pouring a base layer to seal the underside of the wood - this will help to minimise air bubbles during the main pour.

Step 7: Pour River Layer 1

Once the B-stage has been reached on the base/sealing layer you need to prepare the resin for Layer 1:

Use a heat-gun to remove any bubbles - the GlassCast 50 will self de-gas but you can speed up the process by using a heat-gun or hairdryer on a medium heat held back from the resin.

Then leave Layer 1 to cure to the B-stage

Step 8: Pour River Layer 2

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Repeat the stages again for the 2nd main pour once the B-stage has been reached on part 1:
Measure - Mix - Pour - Heat-Gun

Step 9: Routing & Sanding

To finish the table in the project we used a router set up over the slab on a bridge as we didn't have access to a drum sander or thicknesser and routed the surface all over by making multiple passes.

Step 10: Making and Attaching Sides/Legs

Then we created the sides - you could attach ready made legs like hairpins but we wanted to create a waterfall effect on the sides to add more interest to the piece.

Step 11: Polishing

To finish off the table you will need to seal the wood - you can choose the look you want to achieve - we used a clear Danish Oil and rubbed it in using a lint free wipe, then allowed it to soak in and dry.

Step 12: That's How You Make a Live-Edge Epoxy Resin River Table!

That's how we made our Resin River Table!

You can see from the images that the river is so glossy and the blue pigment looks so water-like.¹

What Is The Best Clear Epoxy Resin For Wood?

When it comes to creating a beautiful wooden table top, the epoxy resin is off the charts, period. While there are stains and the like are fairly popular solutions, they are not the most long-term options available, often requiring regular touch-ups.

I personally think that Pro Marine Supplies Epoxy is the top option, but a DIYer might want to keep reading for a more convenient option.

Furthermore, could you create something gorgeous like river table using only wood finishes? I think not. This is where having some good epoxy resin would really come in handy. That is why I have taken the time to thoroughly list 12 best epoxy resins for wood that I have used, highlighting what each one does the best. I also provide a quick comparison table as well as a more thorough buyer's guide to help you decide.²

¹ <https://www.instructables.com/id/DIY-Resin-River-Table-Using-Clear-Epoxy-Casting-Re/>

² <https://woodimprove.com/best-epoxy-resins-for-wood/>

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The Benefits of Using Waterproof Epoxy Resin

At home, epoxy resins have practically unlimited uses, and home owners will find that in a wide variety of home improvement projects epoxy will be one of the key ingredients to have around especially as it is a water repellent. First and foremost, think waterproofing: wherever there's a leak to be plugged, there's an epoxy resin to be applied. An example of such an application is when fixing a sink basin to the bottom of a kitchen countertop (made of wood, metal, stone, etc.). Thanks to the excellent bonding properties, the epoxy won't have a problem fastening to either the material of the sink or the countertop, whether they are the same or different. Epoxy resins are also widely used to help seal pipes and drains and to help prevent the build up of corrosion on such items and other metal surfaces. Epoxy might also come in hand when simply fitting a home appliance into place, such as when changing a given appliance from a stand alone position to a built-in one; simply applying a limited amount in key contact areas will give a nice firm hold that won't fail.

For heavy duty applications, it's important to remember that heat cured epoxies will be more durable and will specifically withstand high heat a lot better than an epoxy that has been cured at room temperature. In the same sense, always remember that there are a thousand different varieties of epoxy out there on the market and that many have been specialized for particular uses, so make sure that you are using the right one for your projects around the house.³

Supporting Docs:

- [How to Make a Resin River Table Using Clear Epoxy](#)
 - [Making Resin River Table Using Clear Epoxy Casting Resin and Wood](#)
 - [How To Make An Epoxy River Table?](#)
 - [What Is The Best Clear Epoxy Resin For Wood?](#)
 - [The Benefits of Using Waterproof Epoxy Resin](#)

³ <https://www.constructionchemicals.co.uk/blog/2009/10/15/the-benefits-of-using-waterproof-epoxy-resin/>