



# Instructions

## Half Ball Molds



### General Preparations

#### Items Needed:

- \*History Stones half ball mold(s)
- \*60 lb bag concrete mix (will create 2 12" hollow balls and 1 solid 10" ball)
- \*mixing tub or wheelbarrow
- \*mixing tool, i.e. small shovel or garden hoe
- \*lubricant ) or a mold release

- Prepare the molds using a lubricant or a mold release. This will help in removing the casting from the mold later and may extend the life of the mold itself. We recommend the use of any concrete release agent, cooking spray or petroleum jelly (use sparingly or you will see more surface bubbles).
- Mix the concrete according to the instructions from the concrete manufacturer, mixing a small amount of water at a time until you achieve a consistency that is well mixed, and is thick, not runny; similar to the consistency of crunchy peanut butter.

### Casting The Half Ball

- Place the mold on a round container (bucket works well) this will keep your mold steady.
- Fill the mold in quarters, bouncing and taping in between to spread the concrete inside the mold and to drive out all the air bubbles.
- If you are casting two sizes of half balls you may take advantage of casting the second half inside the bigger one. This will make the ball hollow, save material and make the ball lighter. You can remove the inside mold after 2 hours of casting or wait to remove it after is fully cured
- Place the molds in a dry place out of direct sun for at least 24 hours or longer if the conditions are humid.
- Once concrete is set, remove the castings by turning the molds upside down on a soft surface, pull and lift on the end of the mold and the casting will slip out. If you have any difficulty removing your casting, place the mold with the plastic facing the sun for one hour. This sun will warm up the plastic and it will be easier to remove your items, (or use a blow dryer to warm the plastic a bit).
- The concrete will continue to set up for 5 more days so be gentle with handling until it is fully cured.
- Clean the mold immediately after use and store the molds out of the sun.



### Creating The Balls

- After casting two half balls you can mortar the two halves using mortar mix
- Clean any squeezed out mortar between the joint
- If you are not pleased with the joint you can use mosaic tiles to hide the joint or use a chisel and a hammer to texture the balls or sandpaper to smooth (use protective eye wear).

### Applications

- You may use the balls as a finial or a decorative element to your yard.
- You may place the balls in and around plants to protect them from the garden hose.
- A half ball can be made into a planter.
- You may place a tube during casting to create a hole and create a bubbling fountain.
- If you have the column molds use the half ball molds to create a cavity in the crown and place a ball into it.

