

Instructions Using The History Stones Baluster Molds

Included in History Baluster Kit:

Two half baluster molds, 16 bolts 16 nuts, Instruction Sheet



General preparations

Additional Items Needed:

- 53 lbs Ready Mix Concrete or Portland cement and sand mix (*described at right*)
- 29" steel rebar (if creating balusters for railing)
- Mixing tool, (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 will extend the life of the mold itself. We recommend the use of any concrete release agent, cooking oil spray or WD40 lubricant (use sparingly).
- **The Mix is two parts sand and one part cement** or pre mixed concrete
- Mix a small amount of water at a time until you achieve a consistency that is well mixed, and is thick, not runny.
- **Weight**— baluster only 53 lbs.

Casting Baluster

- If you are casting balusters for railing you must **pre drill the baluster mold** in the bottom to accommodate the rebar to protrude from the bottom and 1" above the rim.
- Place the mold assembly upright and **begin filling** the molds 4" at a time.
- **Shake, bounce and tap the sides** of your mold in between pouring to spread the concrete and to help drive out air bubbles. You may use a 2" x 2" piece of lumber to pack the mix in (do not use a sharp tool that can scratch your mold — which will show on finished castings)
- **Do not use pencil vibrator inside the mold. It will destroy the mold.**
- **Let molds set up** in a dry place out of direct sun for 24 to 48 hours



Removing Casting

- Once concrete is set, remove the bolts, carefully tilt the baluster flat to the ground taking care not to rest heavy casting on edges of mold (best to remove on grass area, carpet, cardboard for softer surface).
- Now unmold the castings by pulling and lifting on the ends of the mold.
- 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 molds out of the sun.
- It is normal to have some air bubbles in the surface of your baluster you can fill them easily by using a mix of one part cement and one part sand to fill the hole.
- Smooth over filled area with damp sponge.

Using the Baluster

- Especially designed to be used with the History Stones Concrete Railing System which includes rails and newel posts.
- You may use the baluster as a *bird bath pedestal* or as a *pedestal for concrete balls, finials or other art.*
- The baluster is a good choice for a table base.
- Use your imagination and be sure you use thin set mortar to attach other concrete pieces to your baluster for a stable and safe project (concrete is heavy) Have Fun!

Important—Please Read

Artistic Home & Garden Co. will not be held responsible for any installation. All installations are the responsibility of the installer.

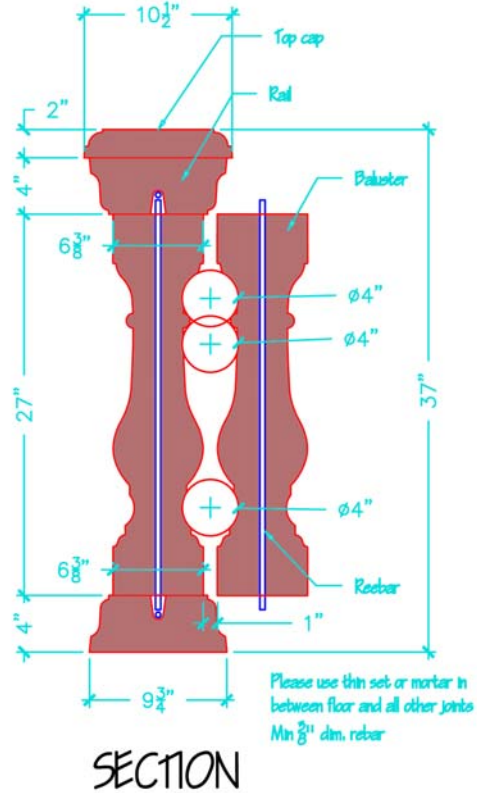


Tips

In cold weather — Plastic gets harder and stiffer in cold weather. If trouble removing from molds, set them out in the sun till plastic is warm., or use a hair blow dryer, but be careful to not melt the plastic. Do not cast in temperatures close to freezing.

In warm weather — let molds set up in the shade, not in the sun. Let concrete dry slowly and in hot, dry weather cover with plastic to slow dehydration. In humid weather allow more time, even another day ,to allow the concrete to set up in mold.

For use as bird bath pedestal that will not tip when placed on grass or soil, replace the rebar in center of baluster mold with conduit (plastic or metal tube). When you are ready to set up your bird bath insert 2 ft length of rebar into the ground and place baluster on top so conduit slips over the top 1 ft of rebar securing your beautifully bird bath in place.



Other Available Molds For History Stones Concrete Railing System:

- Straight Rail Molds
- Curved Rail Molds
- Corner Rail Molds
- Newel Post and Post Cap Molds

