Instructions Using The Baluster & Railing Molds

Included in History Baluster Kit:
Two half baluster molds, 16 bolts 16 nuts , Instruction Sheet

General preparations

Additional Items Needed:

- Portland cement
- sand
- 29" steel rebar
- mixing tool, I.e. small shovel or garden hoe
- Lubricant or a mold release
- (1 baluster uses apx. 53 lbs sand & cement total)

- 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 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. Rail 83 lbs. Rail cap 54 lbs. completed 3 LF= 485 lbs

Casting Baluster and railings

- Pre drill the mold assembly in the bottom to accommodate the rebar to protrude from the bottom and 1" above the rim, place the mold assembly upright, Fill the molds 4" at a time. Keep filling, tilt to one side and turn the mold, bouncing and tapping in between to spread the concrete inside the mold and to drive out all the air bubbles. You may use a wood2x2 to pack the mix in
- **Do not use pencil vibrator inside the mold. It will destroy the mold.**
- Place the molds in a dry place out of direct sun for 24 to 48 hours.
- Once concrete is set, remove the bolts , tilt the baluster flat to the ground and unmold the castings, pull and lift on the end 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 the 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, swipe after with a wet sponge
- Use the same mixture & process listed above to cast the railings, no rebar is needed in the railing cast.

Assembly

- The channel in the railing is to accommodate the steel rebar far extra strength.
- Overlap rebar in the channel if it land at the joint.
- Place mortar in the groove and in between all parts
- You can use concrete glue with the mortar for extra strength. It is available at your home center.

Using the Baluster

- You can use one railing piece (one railing piece on bottom and one on top and cap with the rail cap. Use the same mixture as before to mortar the pieces together. Look for the building code requirement in your area.
- You may use the baluster as a bird bath base, or as a pedestal for concrete balls, etc. The baluster is a good choice for a table base. Use your imagination and be sure you create 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.