

Alumilite Clear and Alumilite Clear Slow Dave's Scale of difficulty rating = Easy, 2 to 3 depending on the skill level and experience of the turner.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Alumilite Clear and Alumilite Clear Slow are professional grade, quick-curing, urethane based casting resins. It is ideal for use by hobbyists for both color casting and tube-in label casting or embedded object casting.

ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURER / OWNER

Alumilite Clear is a glossy, crystal clear resin that is convenient to use for a wide range of casting and turning projects.

Alumilite Clear Slow is the ultimate urethane resin for unmatched clarity and effortless shine. Embed with crystal-clear perfection, polish to a flawless mirror finish, and enjoy lasting beauty with superior UV resistance over epoxy resins.

- High impact
- Convenient 1:1 mix ratio (by weight)
- Extended Work / Open Time, (7-minutes for Clear and 12-minutes for Clear Slow)
- Thin viscosity for easy, bubble free mixing
- Crystal Clear but Mica and Dye friendly for vibrant finishes
- Can be turned, drilled, sanded, and polished to high gloss
- Minimal bubbles can be achieved by slowly mixing and pouring
- Pressure casting is recommended for bubble-free results

COST AND AVAILABILITY

In addition to blanks cast by individual turners, there are many trade named blanks made with Alumilite or with similar urethane casting resins. Color cast blanks can be found being sold as Alumilite Blanks, Lava Lamp and Lava Explosion brand pen blanks for example. These type of blanks can usually be found in the \$8 to \$12 range. Others include hybrid blanks which are made from a combination of wood (often burls), pine cones, seed pods, or other materials held together with colored Alumilite resin. Hybrid blanks generally cost in the \$12 to \$25 range depending on the materials used. And, finally, there are tube-in cast blanks. These blanks have embedded labels or other materials such as cloth, feathers, snake skins, and disassembled watch parts. This class of blank usually costs in the \$25 to \$50 range depending on the artisan and the rarity and quality of materials that are used.

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND OTHER COMMENTS

Alumilite Clear and Clear Slow are not as hard and brittle as many other types of resins, therefore they are some of the easiest blanks to work with, however, this also makes them more susceptible to surface damage from scuffing and scratching. Many turners apply thin layers of a CA (Cyanoacrylate) based finish over the top of polished Alumilite blanks in order to increase their durability and the longevity of their glossy shine. Alumilite blanks are often the material of choice for making kit-less/bespoke pens as they can be threaded easily and are often available in the longer lengths that are needed for kit-less pens. Alumilite Clear blanks usually have translucent areas so painting the tube, or better yet, the inside of the drilled blank, is very highly recommended.

DIFFICULTY RATING

Due to personal experience, and the reported experiences of many IAP members regarding its nature, on Dave's Scale of difficulty where 1=it almost turns itself and 10=problematic and most difficult, I rate blanks made from these Alumilite Urethanes at an 2 for skilled and experienced turners and a 3 for less experienced turners.

PICTURE OF ALUMILITE CLEAR SLOW BLANK (This is a blank I personally cast named Koi. It was cast with Alumilite Clear Slow colored with equal parts of Eye Candy Yamagata Red powder, Pearl-Ex Brilliant Gold, and Pearl-Ex Micropearl powders all of which were purchased from Exotic Blanks).



PICTURE OF COMPLETED PEN USING A BLANK MADE USING ALUMILITE CLEAR SLOW (Personally cast Koi blank. The kit is a Satin Silver Eco Zen Rollerball from Exotic Blanks. The translucent areas provide a great deal of depth to the blank. No CA or other protective finishes were applied).

