PREPARING RESINS

All resins require the addition of catalyst (hardener) to initiate the curing process. Use a safety dispenser to add 20ml of catalyst per kilo of resin, and pro rata *as* shown in the table above. Stir thoroughly. The hardening process begins immediately, so only catalyse a working quantity, or your mixing containers will soon be full of solidified resin! If pigments are being used, these should be stirred into the resin before adding the catalyst. Add up to 10% of pigment, depending on the depth of colour required. To maintain consistent colour on a large project, it is often a good idea to pigment ALL the resin, and then decant working quantities to be catalysed as required.

Once catalysed, the resin gradually cures, taking on a jelly-like consistency in about 10-20 minutes, before becoming hard in about 30-40 minutes at room temperature (about 20°C). The curing process generates heat (known as "exotherm") within the resin. Too much catalyst or large volumes of resin increase this heat, so a thick laminate should preferably be built up in stages.