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### Easy Way Tips and Techniques

by Jay Rhodes



**Easy Way is a relatively new** restorative art product. Once you develop a basic level of skill using Easy Way, you will find it the easiest way to deal with some of the more challenging restorative art cases that you will encounter.

Easy Way creates a flexible, textured surface which will serve as an excellent base for any non-solvent-based cosmetic. In my opinion, an Easy Way surface is even better than a wax surface or a surface sealed with Pore Closer. Moreover, Easy Way will completely eliminate any leakage from the tissue being restored. You'll find you can move the remains without cracking the repaired area, and the family can touch the restored areas without damaging the work. Once an Easy Way job is done, it is really done. Having to repair a restorative art case is a thing of the past.

Practice is required to develop the level of skill needed to use this product effectively. I would not suggest that you wait until your next accident victim to start working with Easy Way. Occasionally, or even regularly, you should use Easy Way to cover the carotid incision on any female that you embalm. You will benefit from the practice.

To get the most mileage out of your Easy Way kit, use an eyedropper to dispense the liquid which comes with the kit onto a flat work surface (which you would use much like a palette). You will soon discover how little liquid it takes to do most jobs. Now mix Easy Way powder into the liquid with your favorite spatula. This powder/liquid mixture will eventually become the gel you'll work with.

### Key Concepts For The Successful Use Of Easy Way:

1. The base for Easy Way must always consist of properly embalmed tissue.
2. Cauterize exposed tissue as necessary using Basic Dryene.
3. Clean surfaces surrounding trauma with Dry Wash.
4. Colors can be added to Easy Way in its gel stage by means of either Dodge cosmetic powders or Easy Way toners.
5. After starting to create your gel by adding the powder to the liquid, be aware that you can adjust the consistency by either adding more liquid or more powder as needed. You'll notice that

adding powder accelerates the speed with which the gel sets.

6. After applying the sticky gel to tissue, manipulate it using Dry Wash. Either a gloved finger or a brush dampened with Dry Wash works well to spread the gel. The original Dry Wash formula will melt latex gloves. However, Micro-Flex gloves stand up reasonably well. Dry Wash II is compatible with all kinds of gloves.
7. The use of Dry Wash to form and shape the gel also reduces setting time and improves the final texture of cured Easy Way. While the use of Dry Wash is not required, the results are dramatically better if it is used.
8. When shaping and forming the gel, feather all edges as thinly as possible. Don't leave an edge that's discernable. Again, Dry Wash facilitates this.
9. Use the Easy Way powder (not a cosmetic powder) to set the gel once the desired shape is achieved. This will prevent gravity from shifting the gel. Cover the entire area with Easy Way powder before stippling. A dry brush lightly coated with powder can be used to create the pores of the skin. Pick a brush with bristles which create indentations appropriate for pores.
10. It is necessary to use Easy Way powder to finish your work; do not omit this step.
11. Use metal spatulas or metal sculpting instruments to create sulci and similar features. You will experience less "pulling" of the gel using metal implements.
12. A certain amount of re-working can be done with Dry Wash. Apply a few drops of Dry Wash and smooth or reshape the area.
13. Always re-powder and stipple any areas which have been re-worked. Otherwise, they will remain sticky, even after you've allowed time for them to set up.
14. Softouch Liquid Powder, French Rose Tint, Complexion Spray or tinted Kalon Massage Cream are all good base coats to use over Easy Way. In fact, using these materials will clean up any traces of the powder.
15. The use of any other cosmetics will require some effort because of the pores you've already created when stippling the Easy Way surface. A circular stippling motion will facilitate application of cosmetics. If you use Kalochrome creams, you may want to thin them to facilitate application. Don't use Dry Wash to do this, however; use white Kalon Massage Cream to thin Kalon pigments or Kalochrome pigments.
16. Sculpting sulci and other features can be done before or after the final powdering of the gel. Fine tune your sculpting using a brush wet with Dry Wash. The powdering and stippling process will reduce the size and change the shape of the sulci being created, so make the initial sulci bigger than you want them to end up.

17. Use Inr-Seel to do the initial filling in areas where there is loss of tissue such as small caliber bullet holes, scraps, nicks and minor gouging. Finish the surface with Easy Way.
18. When the damage is more substantial, use a combination of Inr-Seel and Pore Closer; Inr-Seel and Webril; or Inr-Seel, Webril and Pore Closer to create the base, then finish with Easy Way. Since Easy Way is flexible, you want the base firm so that any pressure which is applied will not create a depression.

When using Webril to strengthen Inr-Seel, peel off one layer of Webril and shape it so it covers exactly the same area covered by the first layer of Inr-Seel. Feather the edges of the Webril by gently pulling on them. Then apply Pore Closer which will stiffen the Webril and protect the Inr-Seel. Do not allow the Inr-Seel to dry out.

You can use other fillers rather than Inr-Seel, but Inr-Seel is particularly well suited for this purpose. On the other hand, Easy Way is not particularly good when used for this sort of filling process.

19. Always allow adequate time for the material to cure. Once you have shaped Easy Way, let the work stand for a minimum of 20 or 30 minutes. When using a thin layer, especially for hair restorations, let it stand for 60 minutes before doing cosmetics. Don't start cosmetic work until Easy Way has totally cured.

\* \* \*

Here are some examples of successful work done with Easy Way. Each will give you an idea of the sort of things that can be done.

#### **Case 1:**

The problem: The tip of the nose is raw. The first layer of skin is missing.

Application: After embalming, the area is cauterized with Basic Dryene and cleaned with Dry Wash. A large drop of Easy Way gel is prepared and colored to match the skin of the deceased. Drop this gel on the highest point of the area to be treated. Gravity will start the smoothing process. A few drops of Dry Wash on a gloved finger will help you get the edges thinly feathered. Now apply powder and stipple to create pores. When base cosmetic is applied to the entire face, the blemish on the nose will totally disappear.

Advantage: The treatment cannot be accidentally dislodged or marred by the embalmer or the family. Also, moisture from the abrasion will not leak through or lift the Easy Way. Finally, cosmetic application would be far easier than if wax had been used.

#### **Case 2:**

The problem: The upper border of the ear (superior portion of the helix) has been shredded and torn away. It now dangles by a thin piece of skin.

Application: After embalming and cauterization, the damaged tissue should be glued into place with Aron Alpha. The ear would now look

intact, but the damage would still be apparent. The gaps and holes should be filled with Inr-Seel. Now prepare some Easy Way colored with brunette powder. Make the consistency a little thicker than usual. Place the gel in the curve of the upper ear and spread it with a brush damp with Dry Wash. Apply extra Dry Wash to thin the gel out over both the inside and outside of the ear. Special attention should be paid to the top of the ear to be certain that all damaged areas are covered.

Advantage: Once powdered and cured, very little cosmetic work is needed to finish the restoration. Also, the ear can be touched as safely as if it had never been damaged.

### **Case 3:**

The problem: Cancer surgery and a tracheotomy have left the neck misshapen and hollow.

Application: Use Inr-Seel to create a foundation. Do a quick job of forming a new neck and larynx with Inr-Seel so that the appearance is normal. Then place one ply of Webril (the whole sheet consists of three plies) over the area and press it lightly into the Inr-Seel. Follow this with a coat of Pore Closer. After the Pore Closer has dried, apply Easy Way and stipple. About 45 minutes later you'll find the neck can be rotated and moved forward and back without any cracking. Even normal sulci which may have been created underneath the Easy Way will not break the seal created by the Easy Way.

Advantage: Obviously, you will create movement in the neck when moving the remains. With other restorative media, you'd have cracking and splitting. Aside from setting time, a job like this might take no more than 15 minutes to do.

### **Case 4:**

The problem: The face of an accident victim is covered with abrasions and pockmarks.

Application: Since the pockmarks and other holes are not deep, they can be filled with Inr-Seel alone. Now make the Easy Way application by starting at the top of the area to be restored. Drip Easy Way onto the surface and let gravity begin spreading the gel. Use a brush wet with Dry Wash to finish the spreading and allow your work to set for 45 minutes.

Advantage: Inr-Seel and Easy Way together will seal the area to prevent seepage from the wounds. In addition, the thin covering will not lift or peel when applying cosmetics.

### **Case 5:**

The problem: The back of the left hand of an accident victim is severely lacerated. Even after embalming and cauterization, there is a small leak from one of the numerous lacerations which have been sutured previously: one of those leaks that releases a drop of fluid every now and then. When you think it's under control, another drop appears.

Application: Apply Easy Way over the whole area, covering the leaking area last. Once in place, apply the powder quickly so that the Easy Way sets rapidly and prevents further leakage. No further moisture will seep through the Easy Way barrier. Once cosmetized, no one will be able to see the damage or the leakage.

Advantage: This restoration will hold up throughout the visitation and

service.

### **Case 6:**

The problem: A blunt trauma has opened a gash along and into the hairline on the left side of the forehead.

Application: The wound is sutured and gaps and nicks are filled with Inr-Seel. A few sections of hair are trimmed from the back of the head and lined up on the counter. After Easy Way is colored and applied, the hair is placed in the gel and positioned. The gel is then powdered and stippled where appropriate. Setting time is extended to one hour so that one can be sure the hairs are going to remain where they've been placed. A broad, flat-profile China bristle brush (Dodge No. 701961) should be dampened with Dry Wash and used to clean the hair, taking care to avoid the Easy Way.

Advantage: Easy Way holds the hair in place better than wax and most glues. The cosmetic transition from the forehead through the hairline will be excellent and undetectable.

### **Case 7:**

The problem: The removal service has ripped off a large piece of fragile tissue on the back of the deceased's left hand while moving the remains.

Application: Place the right hand over the left...or you can use Easy Way. In feathering the application, use extra Dry Wash to extend the Easy Way thinly over the entire back of the hand so that the cosmetic treatment won't show any line of demarcation. Using a wide sable brush (Dodge No. 701896 or 701805) which you have made wet with Dry Wash, clean and position some hairs removed from the back of the head. These brushes seem to grab the hair better for this purpose. You can also use a dental pick to position hairs in the gel. Once powdered, the hairs will have to be cleaned again using the China bristle brush dampened with Dry Wash. Obviously, you don't want to hit the Easy Way with the brush.

Advantage: Arranging or rearranging the hands by either the funeral director or the family will not disturb this restoration. Also, no moisture will bleed through.

## **Observations**

As I've mentioned, the use of gravity makes many applications easier. There will be times, however, when you'll have to fight the same force. Plan to make your gel thick and set it quickly with powder. Also, you'll notice that much of the cosmetic you use with Easy Way will be absorbed into the surface which is produced by Easy Way.

Best results are obtained by setting the gel with the powder. If you do not take time to powder and stipple your work, the surface will turn out to be as shiny as a waxed surface or one covered with Pore Closer. It will also tend to be sticky, and it will not accept cosmetics well.

Remember that it is easiest to dispense and control Easy Way liquid using an eyedropper or pipette. Mixing is best done on a flat surface using a spatula. And remember especially that you must use this product regularly so that you are well practiced with it when faced with a restoration where it can really help you.

Much as I like Easy Way, I would be the first to agree that the gel stage is sticky and requires a new set of skills from the user. In general, Easy Way applications will take a bit more time than using wax or using Pore Closer. You must also get used to the fact that curing time will vary with various applications. However, once you're done with an Easy Way job, it will not need to be re-worked since it is flexible and will not crack or break due to handling. I also think it takes cosmetics better than wax or Pore Closer.