

SSC
SCULPTURE SUPPLY CANADA
Worbla's Finest Art

Thermoplastics for crafts, cosplay, 3D Designs

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Worbla?

Worbla is the brand name for a line of easy to use thermoplastics popular in costuming, crafting and theatre.

Worbla Finest Art was the initial product. Finest Art is an opaque thermoplastic made from renewable natural raw materials, with an inherent adhesive and zero waste.

Worbla TranspArt is a transparent thermoplastic with incredible flexibility and resiliency that is also stable (not damaged by solvents).

Worbla Black Art is made entirely from plastics, and was created to give a smoother finished surface and greater fine detail in sculpting than Finest Art.

What are the differences between Worbla's TranspArt, Black Art and Finest Art?

Worbla's Finest Art (WFA or Worbla) is highly moldable and activates at 90°C and can be shaped easily by hand.

Worbla's TranspArt is more resilient and can be more difficult/require more patience to work with. While it can be worked by hand, **gloves are strongly recommended** as it activates at 120°C. TranspArt does not have the same adhesive as Finest Art, so glue is suggested to join parts.

Worbla's Finest Art is opaque and used for sculpture, armor, jewelry, props, masks, etc. TranspArt is clear and has been designed for creating clear casts of items, as well as creating things such as gems, casings for LED lights, visors, and other applications for a clear plastic.

Worbla's Black Art has most of the properties as Finest Art, but with slightly less adhesion, a longer working time, and the ability to take much finer detail do to the smoother surface. It also requires far less work to smooth before painting.

What tools do you use?

Worbla products can be cut with regular scissors, drawn on with pen or marker, sanded, hot glued and painted with anything from acrylics to spray paint. To shape Worbla's Finest Art and Black Art, a heat gun is the best tool but hot water, steam, or your oven can also be used. A hot knife can be used to cut relief designs, though power tools such as a Foredom or Dremel can also be used. For Worbla's TranspArt, a heat gun or oven are necessary, and a soldering iron can be useful for cutting designs or etching into the plastic.

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How do you attach Worbla?

To attach Worbla's Finest Art or Black Art to itself, the natural adhesive activates when it is heated. Simply press two heated pieces together to attach them – always heat both sides. You can also use hot glue, or epoxy-type glues, when the pieces are cool. For Worbla's TranspArt, you can fuse edges with a soldering iron, or use clear, solvent-free glues such as crazy glue to join pieces.

To attach finished pieces to costumes such as leg armor or shoulder pauldrons, you can use Velcro, leather strapping, and Earth magnets.

How strong is Worbla? Can I use it to build a very large prop?

Worbla is strong, but is not made to support weight in itself and can snap if too much weight is placed on one area. If you need to make something large you are best to use a core of foam or pvc to support the weight. Large, long props or accessories that need to hang from a point on your costume will need a large base of support, or the weight will make the plastic bend.

What sort of foam can you use under Worbla's Finest Art and Black Art?

For the sandwich and backing methods many people use foam sheets you find in craft stores – usually called fun foam, craft foam or foamies. You can also use thicker foams – such as what yoga mats or garage flooring are made of, often called EVA foam. You can also use the hard pink insulation foam, or expanding aerosol foam, and carve shapes that you then cover with Worbla for additional strength and rigidity.

Sandwich method? What is that?

Worbla's Finest Art and Black Art, if shaped by hand completely, can end up uneven or lumpy. A way of keeping it smooth is to back it with a thin sheet of foam. For extra strength, sometimes the foam is sandwiched between two pieces of Worbla, especially useful for pieces that will be under high stress.

Can I use Worbla for an Aquarium? Pond? Garden display?

Worbla hasn't been tested for long-term underwater use, but we expect that it will behave as most plastics do. It is suggested that Worbla Black be used for water features, as it is less porous than Worbla's Finest Art. All Worbla products are generally safe for the outdoors.

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How does heat affect Worbla?

Worbla's Finest Art will manage the heat of outdoors no matter how hot, though it can get a bit soft in extreme temperatures. Often people have more issue with their attachments – the hot glue they used to adhere velcro or strapping, becoming too soft and pulling away in extreme heat. Do not store Worbla in a car, or inside a tent in the sun, as it will begin to soften or warp completely. (A car can reach an indoor temp of 80C in the sun, and Worbla's Finest Art activates at 90C. This is close enough to soften Worbla, and if it is weighed down it will shift and warp, or stick to itself.)

Can I attach Worbla to metal/wood/foam/fabric/leather/bone?

Yes. Worbla products can be joined to any material. The natural adhesive in Worbla's Finest Art or Black Art may be enough, but using a glue is strongly suggested. Contact Cement, barge-type glues and epoxies all work well. **Always** test your glue on both materials and follow safety instructions.

Worbla's TranspArt does not have similar self adhesive. Solvent free glues such as crazy glue work best, especially to maintain clarity.

Is Worbla toxic?

Worbla's Finest Art is non-toxic. However, it's not meant to be used for mouth appliances. If you need to build something like a bite guard for a costume, use friendly plastic.

Can Worbla be laser cut?

Yes! Worbla's Finest Art is similar to a wax, and cuts using commercial laser cutters. You'll need to test to see what settings work best for you.