



Build It Yourself

Make Your Own Plastic

While this recipe doesn't involve boiling lilies or eggs, combining the following ingredients over heat will result in a natural plastic that you can shape, dry, carve, and paint, very similar to Leonardo's plastic glass.

What you'll need

- ½ cup heavy cream
- up to ½ cup white vinegar



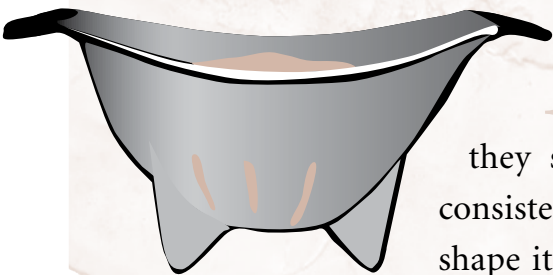
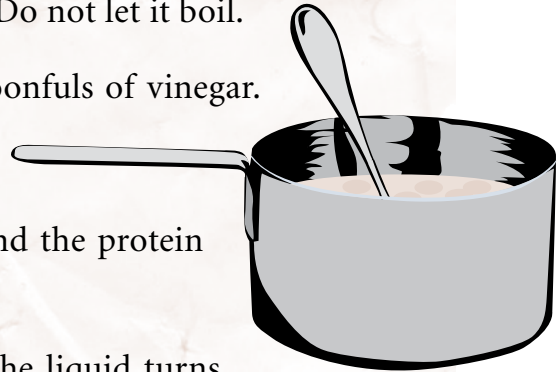
What to do

1 Pour the cream into a saucepan and heat. Do not let it boil.

2 When it starts to simmer, stir in two spoonfuls of vinegar. Slowly simmer over medium heat. You will start to see yellowish lumps (curds) forming.

These curds are a mixture of fat, minerals, and the protein casein (a natural plastic).

3 Keep adding vinegar and stirring until the liquid turns mostly to curds. Take it off the heat, let it cool, then strain the liquid from the casein curds and rinse the curds in cool water.



4 Knead the curds until they stick together and have the consistency of a ball of dough. Then shape it any way you like and let it dry overnight.

