

# Rolling with success

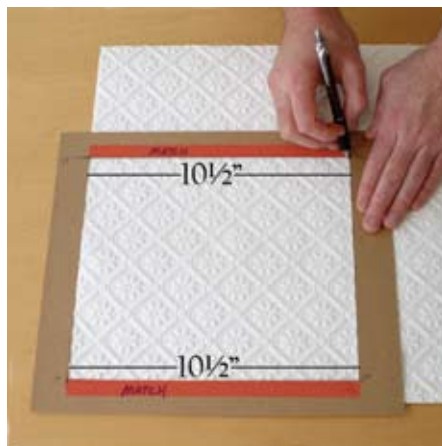
*How to make your own textured rolling pin.*

by Michael Joy

**S**ometimes, to stand out in the crowd, you have to make your own equipment. A select few chefs take naturally to this, while others believe they either do not have the time, or access to special construction tools or materials. In this demonstration, we will show you how a small amount of silicone, a sheet of textured wall paper and a trip to your local hardware store can result in a highly versatile textured rolling pin. Since the rolling pin's surface is silicone, it is ideal for adding texture to your chocolate, fondant, sugar, bread dough, pastillage and even marzipan. Because the rolling pins are not for sale, the only way to get one is to make one. The good news is, they are simple to make.



**[1] Primary materials needed:** Textured wall paper (vinyl backed), silicone (Flex & Bake™), PVC pipe 1 - 12" L x 3" diameter, 1 - 13½" L x diam., 1 - 16" L x 1½" diam., 2 - 1½" PVC unions, 1 - 2" diam. PVC end cap, 1 - PVC 3" diam. inside fit closet flange with test cap.



**[2] Measure the wallpaper.** Make a cardboard template (9¾" x 10½" interior). Set on wallpaper. Position the 10½" (red) sides to find where the pattern repeats. The 10½" (red) lengths must match up for your rolling pin seam line to repeat invisibly. (See # 7)



**[3] Precisely cut a 9¾" x 10½" sheet.** A craft rolling knife is the best way to cut textured wall paper. Use a metal ruler to make sure the cut is straight. If your cuts are sloppy, they will show up as flaws on your rolling pin surface.



**[4] Vaseline the wallpaper surface.** With the low setting, use a heat gun to liquefy the Vaseline in the jar. Brush the liquid Vaseline over the entire surface of the wallpaper. (Textured side only.)



**[5] Melt the Vaseline into the detail.** With the heat gun on low, melt the Vaseline into the wallpaper. When the wallpaper darkens (see left side of paper), you have proper Vaseline coverage.



**[6] Remove excess Vaseline.** Use paper towels to 'mop' up the excess Vaseline. The surface should look saturated (darker) but not greasy. Vinyl backed wallpapers from Anaglypta® and Lincrusta® work the best.



**[7] Tape the wallpaper together.** With the textured side of the wallpaper facing down on the 2" diameter pipe, tape the edges (10½" length) of wallpaper together. The entire length of paper must be tightly taped together (no gaps).



**[8] Center and secure the 2" PVC pipe.** Stack two pop sickle sticks on each side of the 2" pipe to help center it within the flange. Next, tightly seal the gap between pipe and flange with oil clay. Remove the sticks and fill in the gaps. Clean up the seal.



**[9] Line the 3" pipe with acetate.** Place three sheets of 8½" x 11" acetate (long side down) into the 3" pipe. Each sheet should overlap the other by at least 50%. If you don't do this, the silicone will stick to the pipe. Disaster.



**[10] Place wallpaper inside of 3" pipe.** Gently compress the wallpaper cylinder so it will slide inside the 3" pipe. You must be sure the wallpaper is touching the acetate sheets inside the pipe. If the paper does not fit snugly against the acetate, silicone will leak in-between (See photograph 17).



**[11] Flatten the wallpaper seam inside.** Place the 1½" pipe inside the 3" pipe. Use a gentle rolling motion to press the wallpaper cylinder flat against the inside surface of the 3" pipe. If the wallpaper was not cut accurately, it may not lay flat. Fix it by re-cutting your paper.



**[12] Put the 3" pipe over the 2" pipe.** First, pull the acetate up so a ½" tall lip extends above the 3" pipe. Next, slide the wallpaper upwards so it is flush with the top edge of the 3" pipe. Vaseline the flange (short post at bottom) before securing the 3" pipe on flange.



**[13] Center the 2" pipe.** There should be a consistent ¼" gap between the 2" pipe and the inside of the 3" pipe. This is the gap where the silicone will flow into. If the gap is not uniform, carefully tilt the 2" pipe until it is perfectly centered.



**[14] Cap the 2" pipe.** Carefully, set the 2" end cap onto the pipe. Do not push it down more than ¼" onto the 2" pipe. Seal the bottom joint of the 3" pipe and the flange with oil clay. If you do not do this, silicone will leak out the bottom of the pipe.



**[15] Pour the Flex & Bake silicone.** Mix 450 grams of base and 45 grams of catalyst from your Flex & Bake™ kit. Pour the silicone in a slow, thin stream over the end cap. You might choose to sit down while pouring, as it will take about 6 minutes to slowly fill the pipe.



**[16] Allow the silicone to cure.**  
In 24 hours, the silicone will be ready to remove. Use a razor knife to trim off the ½” tall acetate lip and the excess silicone that it contains.



**[17] Pry the 3” pipe off the flange.**  
Remove clay seal from the flange base. Use a screw driver to pry the pipe off the flange. If you didn’t use enough Vaseline on the flange, you will have to stand on the flange and pull upwards with force.



**[18] Push the silicone out of the pipe.**  
Use the 2” end cap as a pushing block to help force the silicone cylinder out of the 3” pipe.



**[19] Use force to free the cylinder.**  
This is the moment of truth. The only reason why the cylinder slides out of the pipe is because of the acetate liner (step 9). If you forgot the acetate, no amount of force will help you free the cylinder.



**[20] Remove the acetate liner.**  
Peel off the acetate sheets and trim away the silicone ‘flash’ (excess material that leaked around the edges).



**[21] Peel off the textured wallpaper.**  
Carefully peel away the paper. If you applied enough Vaseline, it should come off easily. After removing the paper, the silicone will feel greasy. Wash off the Vaseline residue with soap and water.



**[22] Insert the roller pipe.**  
Place the ½” D x 16” L pipe inside of the 2” pipe. Push the ½” PVC coupler onto the end of the 16” L pipe.



**[23] Add rolling pin handles.**  
Turn the pipe over and put the second coupler onto the 16” L pipe. Push firmly. If you do not permanently glue the ‘handles’ on, the center roller can be reused for another textured rolling pin.



**[24] The completed rolling pin.**  
If you would like to see an extended version of this demonstration and learn more about the materials used to make the rolling pin, please visit Tips & Tools at [www.ChicagoMoldSchool.com](http://www.ChicagoMoldSchool.com).