



## Fireplaces

### Supplies

White and/or gray Milestone  
#70 grit sand  
#1 fine gray sand  
Colored glass (if doing recycled glass finish)  
Milestone acrylic liquid  
Universal tints  
Wire plaster's lath  
4 inch fiberglass cloth mesh  
(made for use with cement products)  
5/8 inch screws or larger if material permit  
Cementic urethane  
Enviropoxy (if doing stain resistant finishes,  
on hearth for example)  
¾ inch blue tape  
1 ½ inch blue tape  
Two 5 gallon buckets  
Quart containers (five or six)  
Mixing sticks  
Drop cloths  
Maroon scotch brite pads  
#80 grit sandpaper  
#120 grit sandpaper  
#150 grit sandpaper  
Sandpaper pad  
Rags  
Painter's tray and liners  
Rectangular pad and handle  
Respirator  
Knee pads  
Gloves (canvas or leather)  
Latex gloves  
Rubber cleaning gloves  
Safety glasses

### Tools

12 inch steel trowel  
16 inch to 24 inch steel trowel  
(optional)  
10 inch Venetian trowel  
Putty knives, sized as needed  
Hock  
Bucket scoop  
Margin trowel  
½ inch drill for mixing  
Small drill for screws in metal lath  
Dry wall paddle  
Squirrel cage mixing paddle  
(for smooth finish mixes)  
Wire cutters  
Bondo squeegee  
Straight edge

### Step by step process summary

Tape off and protect surrounding area  
Cut and screw wire lath into place  
Plaster lath with *scratch coat* mix  
Let set up

Scrape with steel trowel to get of high marks.  
While moist, and with #80 grit sandpaper on sanding pad  
Remove tape  
Let dry over night  
Re-tape  
Apply second scratch coat, straighten edges and surface areas  
While moist, sand with #80 grit sandpaper on the pad  
Pull tape  
Let dry  
Sand again with #80 grit sandpaper on sanding pad, remove dust  
Re-tape  
Apply brown coat with 12 inch steel trowel  
Let set up  
Sand with #80 grit sandpaper with sanding pad  
Remove tape  
Let dry  
Re-tape  
Sand with #80 grit sandpaper with sanding pad, remove dust  
Apply finish coat (types of finishes will vary)  
Remove tape  
Let dry  
Re-tape  
Sand by hand with #120 grit sandpaper (if aggregate finish) or #180 (if smooth finish)  
Re-tape  
Apply sealers

### **Preparations and basecoat**

*Attaching wire lath:* Cut enough wire lath to cover the entire fireplace surface. Do not overlap lath at joints. Install lath securely in all directions using screws. Fasten 6" on center in field in all directions and 4 inches around the edges. For screws, use Durock brand cement board screws or equivalent.

*SCRATCH COAT:* *This is the first base coat. It is used to create significant depth to cover the plasterers wire lath, or to fill in grout lines between bricks or tile.*

*Ingredients:* You will need 4oz of acrylic liquid per square foot, #1 superfine grey sand and Milestone cement.

*Application:* Add 1 part #1 superfine grey sand to 1 part cement by volume to a portion of the acrylic liquid. Do not mix all of your acrylic liquid with the dry ingredients, as you will need the extra liquid for thinning your mix as you work. Add enough dry mix to the acrylic liquid to create a smooth flowing mortar. Penetrate and coat metal lath.

*Sanding:* Allow each plaster coat to "set up" until firm to the touch, (approximately one hour depending on the thickness of the plaster, air flow, and temperatures you are working in), scrape down trowel marks and high spots with the edge of your steel trowel. Sand with #80 grit sandpaper on a sanding pad. High spots will be impossible to sand once the plaster is dry. Be sure to pull the tape while the plaster is still soft or it will dry into place and become difficult to remove.

*Dry time:* Overnight

*Second coat:* After the first coat is dry and sanded, a second coat is needed to level the surface, straighten edges, and completely cover lath. Using a straight edge as a

guide, smooth on the mortar until satisfied that all surfaces are straight, plumb, level, flat or curved as you desire. Levels or wood strips can be used as a straight edge. Allow to set up, sand, then allow to dry. Sand again after it is dry to prepare for the brown coat remove dust.

*BROWN COAT: This coat is usually applied before your final finish to enhance adhesion, smoothness and workability. The brown coat is generally colored and can be a part of the final finish. Apply brown coat to any smooth ready to work surface, or over the scratch coat once it is ready.*

*Ingredients: You will need about 1 oz per sq foot of colored acrylic liquid, #70 grit sand and Milestone powder.*

*Application: Add Milestone acrylic liquid (can be colored to match final finish) to create a smooth flowing mortar. Spread the mix tightly with a 12" steel trowel, as thinly as the sand grit will allow. Press firmly on you trowel, adjusting the angle to get a smooth coat.*

*Sanding: When surface begins to dry, you can sand ridges or high spots.*

*Dry time: Allow to dry until dark spots are no longer visible.*

### **Existing Fireplaces**

*If you have an existing fireplace to plaster, skip the wire lath portion of the process and directly apply the scratch coat. To ensure patterns from bricks or tile don't show through, you will need two separate applications of the scratch coat allowing them to dry between applications. If your surface has cracks or large seams, re-enforce them with fiberglass cloth tape before applying your scratch coat.*

### **Repairing cracks and seams with fiberglass cloth mesh**

*Supplies: 4 inch fiberglass cloth mesh, #70 grit sand and Milestone powder*

*Application: Place a strip of 4" fiberglass mesh tape over the crack and work brown coat mix through the mesh in a thin coat over the fiberglass tape. Apply the mix as thinly as possible preventing unnecessary build-up, but covering the pattern of the mesh. Allow it to dry partially, then sand with #80 grit sandpaper. You are now ready to apply the scratch coat, brown coat, finish and sealers.*