

TANCAST AND TRICAST IN MODEL MAKING

Both Tancast and Tricast are rigid polyurethane foam products. Their cellular nature allows them to be both strong and light in weight, and their polyurethane polymer matrix ensures that they are resistant to a wide variety of solvents. These combined properties make Tancast and Tricast ideal candidates for most model-making applications.

Product Specifications

TANCAST

- Density Range: 128 – 256Kg/m³
- Standard Block Sizes: Dependant on density
- Supplied as: Sheets or custom-cut shapes

TRICAST

- Density Range: 32 – 96Kg/m³
- Standard Cast Block Size: 2.44M x 1.22M
- Supplied as: Sheets or custom-cut shapes

Workability & Machining

- **All woodworking hand tools** are suitable for shaping.
- **Lower density foams** are easier to carve and more cost-effective.
- **Higher density foams** provide better stability for clamping in vices and lathe chucks, making them ideal for engineering applications.
- Both products can be **machined or hand-carved** depending on project needs.

Bonding & Adhesives

- **Can be bonded** to itself or to a wooden armature.
- **Resistant to most solvents**, allowing for a variety of adhesives to be used.
- **Recommended adhesives:** Contact adhesives, polyester resin, and epoxy resin.
- **Not suitable for solvent welding** techniques.
- **Water-based adhesives** can be used for bonding to moisture-absorbent materials such as wood or paper.
- **Bond line considerations:** A hard adhesive like epoxy may create raised areas, while soft adhesives (e.g., contact adhesives) may leave rubbery residues on machine tools.
- **Best practice:** Groove or gouge the bond line before applying filler to achieve a smooth surface.

Surface Preparation & Finishing

- **Cellular nature** requires proper surface treatment for a smooth finish.
- **Filling options:** Body fillers, most water-based fillers (thick sections may take longer to dry), and dental plaster.
- **Priming options:** Cellulose, acrylic, or high-build primers, which can be **sprayed or hand-applied**.
- **Final finishing:** Once prepared, the model can be **painted and finished as required**.

Please get in touch if you require any further information. sales@tridentfoams.co.uk 01663 740 120