

Chris Coleman in cooperation with Costa Co. Sheriff Criminalistic Laboratory gave a presentation about the Forensic Sil at the AFTE ( Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners ) 2005.

[http://www.afte.org/TrainingSeminar/AFTE2005/Summaries/afte2005\\_thurs.htm](http://www.afte.org/TrainingSeminar/AFTE2005/Summaries/afte2005_thurs.htm)

**Conclusion: Overall Forensic Sil is highly recommended for barrel casting.**

**Did was there study case ( Consecutive Barrel study ):**

- 20 consecutively manufactured Ruger barrels;
- Wanted to cast the barrels before and after test-firing;
- Wanted to create 25 sets of casts and test-fires;
- 1000 barrel casts.

**They worked with:**

- Forensic Sil
- Mikrosil
- Extruder

**Thoughts on Forensic Sil:**

- Looks and smells like Mikrosil;
- Has same feel as Mikrosil ( rubbery );
- Same level of fine detail as Mikrosil;
- Easier to use than Mikrosil;
- No waste of material;
- Strong, easy to remove from barrels;
- Tip precludes contamination of cartridge.

**Thoughts on Extruder:**

- Has a more plastic feel than Mikrosil;
- Care must be taken when removing from barrels, fractures with moderate stress;
- Does not appear to capture deeper fine detail as well as Forensic Sil and Mikrosil;
- Colors ( yellow ) make comparison difficult due to lack of contrast;
- Easy to use but much tinner in viscosity;
- Must wipe off cartridge when done.

**Overall Forensic Sil is highly recommended for barrel casting!**