

# 35" Waterfall Sculpture

Operating & Care Instructions



## Robert Compton Pottery

2662 North 116 Road, Bristol, Vermont 05443

[www.RobertComptonPottery.com](http://www.RobertComptonPottery.com)

802-453-3778

[Robert@RobertComptonPottery.com](mailto:Robert@RobertComptonPottery.com)

## \* THE 35" WATERFALL \*

Your Watersculpture was designed by Vermont artist Robert Compton. Its tapering tiers arranged one upon the other are joined firmly together by a central tube that makes it easy to transport and assemble. The fountain parts are composed of vitrified stoneware clay, plastic pipe, and specially made PVC fittings. The submersible water pump uses only 40 watts of electricity and may be run 24 hours a day. This self-contained fountain requires no additional plumbing or tools to assemble.

Your Watersculpture can be used inside or outdoors, however we do not recommend leaving it outside in freezing weather since ice may damage the clay forms. We encourage the use of plants when setting up your Watersculpture, as fountains look their best when surrounded by greenery. Our Matching Fountain Planters were specifically made to enhance the Watersculpture by forming a continuous circle of plants around its basin. We have also developed a Tiled Moisture Guard to protect floors that may be affected by moisture associated with plants and fountains. For additional information on these items ask for our color brochure showing all of our unique designs. If you decide to display your fountain on an elevated stand, make sure it can support the weight. A 35" Waterfall fountain weighs approximately 115 lbs. with water.

Congratulations on acquiring one of these unique Watersculptures. If you ever have a question or need advise please give us a call, we would be glad to help in any way we can.

*Robert and Christine*

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

\* Check the following parts list to be sure you have removed all the necessary pieces from the packing cartons.

\*\* Please read through all the instructions before assembling the fountain.

\*\*\* No tools or additional parts are needed to assemble your fountain.

\*\*\*\* Handle all fountain parts carefully when they are unboxed. *Disassembled upper tiers are top heavy when standing upright, therefore be careful to set these tiers face down on a soft surface or rug, to prevent them from being knocked over.* Give yourself plenty of space to work in whenever you assemble or disassemble the fountain.

\*\*\*\*\* Please save these operating instructions and the Little Giant Pump Operating Instructions, after you have assembled your fountain. You may want to re-read portions at a later date.

## PARTS LIST

**BASIN:** The basin is the large clay bowl approximately 19 inches in diameter. It is built with an off-center clay tube to accommodate the exit of the pump's electric cord. A "vinyl sleeve" will be found over this exit tube. The clay channel in the bottom allows you to divert the cord to the side of the basin and keep the basin in a flat position. The channel also creates a bump on the inside of the basin. See instructions listed under base tier. Figure #1.

**BASIN PAD:** A circular pad is included and may be placed under the basin before assembling fountain. This is provided to help prevent condensation and sounds caused by vibration of the basin on hard surface floors such as marble, wood or concrete.

**PUMP:** The submersible pump needs a three-pronged outlet for proper grounding. CAUTION: BE SURE TO DRY YOUR HANDS BEFORE MAKING ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS, AND AVOID STANDING IN WATER. The pump must not be allowed to operate without water. It is water cooled and will malfunction and need replacing if allowed to run dry. It can be left running 24 hours a day, as long as there is sufficient water covering it. Additional information on the pump is provided in the Little Giant leaflet. Replacement pumps are available through Robert Compton Ltd., R.D. 3 Box 3600, Bristol, VT 05443, 802-453-3778.

**PUMP PAD:** This green waffle like pad has been included to help reduce sounds created by the vibration of the pump. It is to be placed between the bottom of the pump and the clay basin. You may find this pad unnecessary. However, we have made it available to use at your discretion.

**VINYL SLEEVE:** A vinyl sleeve has been included which is to be placed over the electrical cord exit tube. This covers the cord after the pump is in place. It prevents water from splashing out the exit tube. Figure #2.

**BASE TIER:** The base tier is the largest tier of the fountain. It sits over the electric cord exit tube and the pump with the flow control valve. On the top of the base tier there is a threaded coupling for the water tube. On the underside of the base tier there is a vinyl tube which attaches to the pump. The base tier is designed with cut outs in its base, so that when it is installed in the basin a cut out fits over the channel. Figure #3.

**FLOW CONTROL VALVE:** You can adjust the water flow by opening or closing the control valve. It is included with the pump and when the fountain is assembled it will be located inside the base tier. The door in the base tier provides easy access to the valve and the pump. Figure #2.

**WATER TUBE:** The plastic water tube screws into the threaded coupling on the base tier. Figure #4.

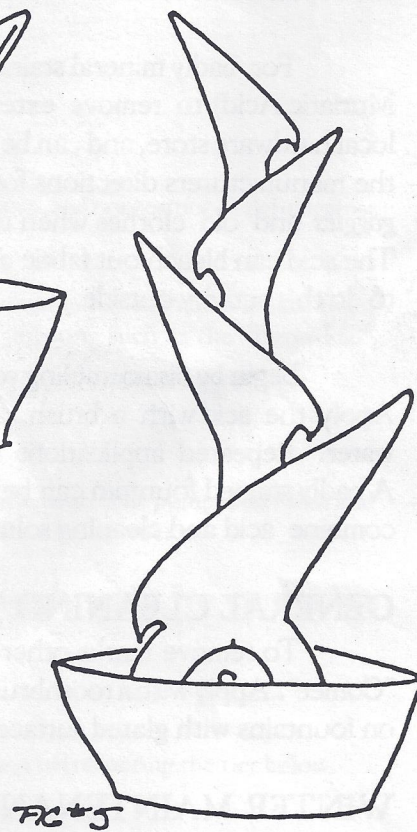
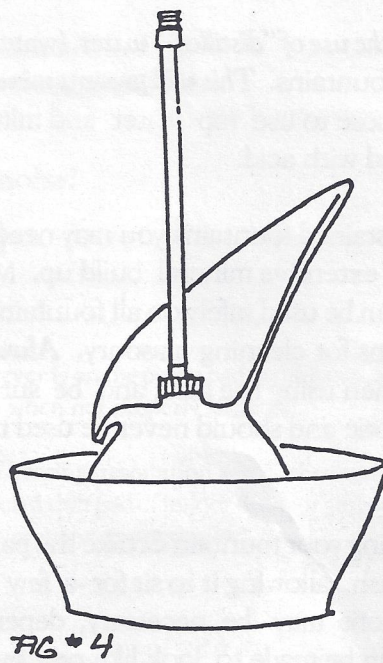
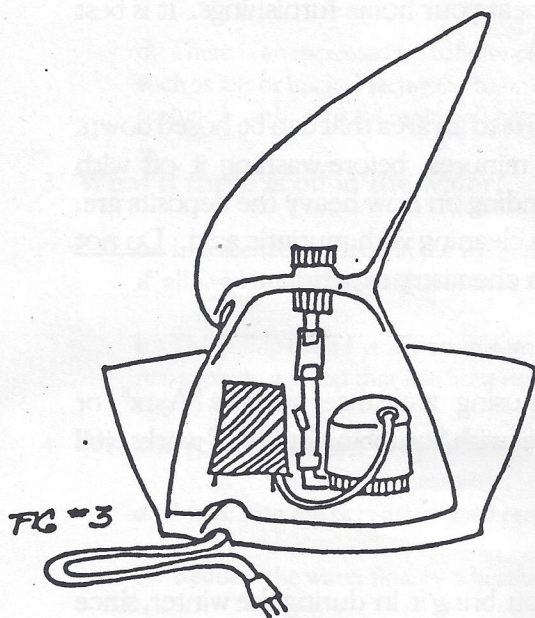
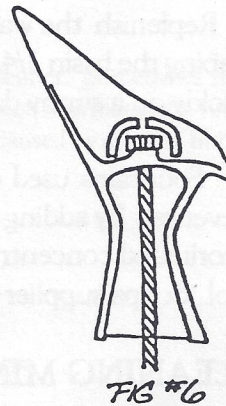
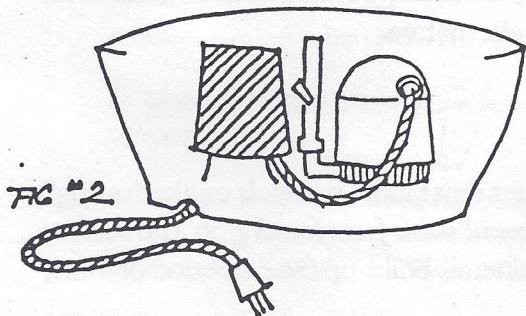
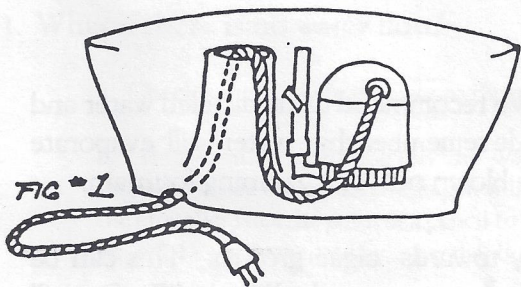
**UPPER TIERS:** There are three clay tiers that will be stacked over the water tube according to their size. Tiers will be held in place by a nut or nut and washers on top of the water tube. Figure #6.

**PVC NUT AND WASHERS:** These specially designed grey PVC fittings will secure the upper tiers to the water tube (they can be found packed inside the clay cap). Figure #6.

**CAP:** A small clay cap covers the nut. Figure #6.

## FOUNTAIN ASSEMBLY

1. Place the basin in desired location, use basin pad if necessary. Put the pump in the basin on the pump pad, and run its electrical cord out the exit tube, and under the clay channel; so the basin sits flat on the floor. Figure #1.
2. Cover the exit tube and cord with the vinyl sleeve. Figure #2.
3. As you gently place the base tier over the pump and exit tube, slide the flow control valve (attached to the side of the pump) into the flexible vinyl hose on the underside of the base tier. Take care not to hit the exit tube, as you lower the base tier into place. Figure #3.
4. The base tier is designed with a cut out in its base, so that when it is installed in the basin this cut out fits over the channel (lengthwise bump between the clay tube and side wall) in the bottom of the basin. This aspect of the assembly must be accomplished to insure that the base tier (and thus the entire fountain) sits solidly in the basin. Figure #3.
5. Screw the plastic water tube into the PVC coupling on top of the base tier. When the plastic tube is attached it may not appear perfectly straight, due to the irregularity of the junction fitting. To make sure it is as vertically straight as possible, tighten or loosen the plastic tube where it screws into the PVC coupling, to change the angle. Figure #4.
6. Stack the upper tiers over the water tube according to size, beginning with the largest and ending with the smallest. Adjust each tier so that it will pour in the desired manner. If your fountain appears to be tilting to one side, adjustment can be made by shifting the bottom of each tier in the direction it is tilting. The tiers are designed with extra space on each platform to allow for this adjustment. Figure #5.
7. Fountain tiers should be secured by modest hand tightening of the nut or nut and washers provided. Do not use wrenches. (You may not need all the washers provided.) Figure #6
8. Cover the nut at the top of the water tube with the clay cap. Figure #6. Plug in the pump. If the water does not begin to flow within a minute unplug the pump and plug it back in again (turn it on and off). This will stimulate water flow. The water flow may change as the pump warms up. You can adjust the water flow after it has been running for a few minutes with the flow control valve on the pump. Place the door on the base tier. Your fountain will look best with a small bubble of water coming out of the top of the cap.
9. Fill the basin 3/4 full with water. *We strongly recommend using only "distilled water", as this will prevent mineral build up.* See Maintenance Item # 5. Consult the pump instruction sheet regarding safety guidelines, operation, and service instructions before operating the pump.



## MAINTENANCE

### WATER TREATMENT

1. Replenish the water supply as often as necessary. We recommend using distilled water and keeping the basin 3/4 full. If the fountain is used outside remember that water will evaporate quickly on a sunny day and on windy days water can be blown out of a running fountain.
2. Fountains used outdoors have a greater tendency towards algae growth. This can be prevented by adding a 1/4 teaspoon of chlorine to the water once a week. We use "BioGuard" chlorinated concentrate, manufactured by Bio-Lab Inc., Decatur, Georgia 30031. Your local pool & spa supplier can provide this or an appropriate alternative.

### CLEANING MINERAL STAINS

1. *We strongly recommend the use of "distilled" water* (water that has no minerals unlike "spring" or "well" water) in all our fountains. *This will prevent mineral stains from forming* on the surface of the fountain. If you choose to use tap water and minerals build-up over a period of time, the deposits can be removed with acid.

For badly mineral stained fountains you may need to use a fairly strong acid (such as Muriatic Acid) to remove extensive mineral build up. Muriatic Acid is obtainable from your local hardware store, and can be used safely on all fountain parts. It should be used according to the manufacturers directions for cleaning masonry. *Always wear protective vapor mask, gloves, goggles* and old clothes when using the acid, and be sure to dilute it to the proper strength. The acid can bleach out fabric and should never be used near your home furnishings. It is best to do this activity outside.

Begin by disassembling your fountain & take the parts to an area that can be hosed down. Apply the acid with a brush, allowing it to sit for a few minutes, before washing it off with water. Repeated applications may be necessary, depending on how heavy the deposits are. A badly stained fountain can be made to look like new by cleaning with muriatic acid. Do not combine acid and cleaning solutions, as you may create a chemistry experiment.

### GENERAL CLEANING

To remove marks other than minerals we suggest using a cleanser such as "Ajax" or "Comet". Apply with a toothbrush. "Dow Bathroom Cleaner with Scrubbing Bubbles" works well on fountains with glazed surfaces.

### WINTER MAINTENANCE

If your fountain is used outdoors, we suggest that you bring it in during the winter, since ice may crack the clay forms. Merely draining the fountain will be inadequate since snow and rain will provide moisture for ice formation.

## TROUBLE SHOOTING

### 1. What if there is no water flow?

- a. Check to see if there is power to the receptacle.
- b. Is the pump operating/pushing water? Read over the Little Giant Pump leaflet. Sometimes the propeller inside the protective screen will stick. Unplug the pump, remove the screen and manually turn the propeller with the point of a pencil to loosen this part. This problem is usually caused by mineral build up and can be prevented by using distilled water.
- c. Check to see that the flow control valve is not closed.
- d. Make sure the pump screen is not clogged.
- e. Make sure that the connection between the pump and the flexible vinyl hose is complete.
- f. Make sure the water tube is free of obstructions.
- g. Is there sufficient water in the basin? Be sure the basin is approximately 3/4 full.

### 2. What if you hear excessive pump noise?

- a. Check to see if the pump is clogged.
- b. Is there enough water in the basin?
- c. Check to see that the pump is resting evenly on the pump pad in the basin, and not positioned tight against the exit tube. It can cause resonance when not properly situated.
- d. There is an increased probability of hearing resonance when the fountain is located on a hard floor, such as tile or brick. Placing the basin on a thin pad of indoor outdoor carpeting such as the "Basin Pad" included with your fountain will help prevent resonance.

### 3. What if there is oil in the water?

- a. Iridescent colored oil in the water indicates that the pump has burned out. The pump is oil filled and if allowed to run dry will over heat. This cannot be repaired, call for a replacement.
- b. The pump has a 1 year warranty and can last for many years if it is used properly. The warranty does not apply to a pump that has been run without water.

### 4. What if your fountain is splashing?

- a. Make sure the tiers are aligned properly so the water flows without overshooting the tier below.
- b. Reduce the water flow by adjusting the flow control valve.



## Tiled Moisture Guard

Our Tiled Moisture Guard was developed to provide a secure moisture-proof barrier under and around the Watersculptures. It is perfect for wooden or carpeted floors. It will protect them from possible misting and serve as a spill tray when watering plants that are placed next to the sculptures.

The Tiled Moisture Guard consists of a durable polypropylene disk with a 1 inch welded lip and 12 specially designed tiles. These unique tiles fit around the basin of the sculpture and conceal the water-proof tray, forming a decorative base 40" in diameter.

The Tiled Moisture Guard will enhance and define the space around the Watersculptures. It can be used alone, with Stoneware Planters, or in combination with the Matching Fountain Planters.

*For more information on this accessory and other designs please consult our color brochure.*