



CANDLE MAKING

Candles can be made from:

- Old candle stubs
- Paraffin
- Wax Crayons
- Beeswax
- Mutton tallow
- Mixture of one or more of above mediums

(Beeswax is much more desirable than the tallow since it does not drip. Tallow burns quickly and drips. Steric acid can be added to keep the tallow from dripping but is seldom available.)

Candle-making is a practical way of using old candle stubs. However, if you have none available, the other mediums mentioned can be used.

Wicks can be made from:

- Cotton rug yarn (Do not use wool).
- Regular candle wick (Braid with one strand looser than other).
- Wicks from old candles

To **color** candles:

- A. 1. Use any oil paint that comes in a tube (not in a can).
2. Thin to liquid with coal oil, kerosene or turpentine.
3. Pour into hot wax.
- B. 1. Add a small piece of wax crayon to the paraffin, beeswax or other mediums. Melt. (Remember, a little wax crayon goes a long way in coloring.)
- C. 1. Many interesting colors and shadings can be made by combining colored candle stubs or colored candle stubs with white candle stubs or other mediums.

To give candles different **odors**:

- Pine – put in liquid wax
- Citronella – put in liquid wax

Note: There is no need to heat the candle-making medium beyond the liquid stage.



SNOWBALL CANDLES

You will need:

- Cotton rug yarn or other candle wicking
- Paraffin
- Fork or egg beater (or both)
- Pan in which to melt the paraffin

How to make:

1. Cut cotton yarn in 2 to 3 inch lengths.
2. Melt paraffin.
3. Dip length of yarn in the liquid.
4. Whip up the liquid with fork or egg beater until crystallized. (You may find it best to start whipping with the egg beater and finish with a fork.)
5. Shape the crystallized paraffin into a ball shape around the candle wick. Work as quickly as possible since the heat of your hands will tend to break down the paraffin crystals and give a slick appearance to the candle.
6. The candle may flatten out some as it cools. If this should happen, let it cool completely. Then add another layer of the crystallized paraffin. (An interesting rough effect is achieved by putting this last layer on with a fork instead of with your hands.)

FLOATING CANDLES

You will need:

Jello molds

Old candle stubs or paraffin, wax crayons and rug yarn

Pan in which to melt candle stubs

Knife

How to make:

1. Cut old candle stubs in 1 to 1 ½ inch lengths.
2. Melt to liquid form.
3. Pour into Jello molds. (Fill the molds to the depth you will want the finished candle.)
4. Place the wicks from which the candle has been melted on paper to cool and harden.
5. When the liquid is partially congealed, stick one of the wicks you saved in the center.
6. These can be easily removed when cold. A quick way of doing this is place the mold in a cold place – refrigerator or open window – for a few minutes. The candle will contract and come loose from the side. Sometimes a gentle tap on mold is needed if the candle tends to stick.

CANDLES MADE IN TIN CANS

You will need:

Small tin can (baby food or frozen orange juice)

Old candle stubs, paraffin or other

Small stick or pencil

Pan in which to melt the candle wax

Small weight such as fish line sinkers

Cotton rug yarn

How to make:

1. Melt candle stubs, paraffin or other candle-making medium.
2. Cut rug yarn 2 to 3 inches longer than the height of can being used as a mold.

3. Tie a fish line sinker to one end of the rug yarn.
4. Put a stick or pencil across the top of the can and tie the other end of the rug yarn to it so that the wick is in the center. Make sure that the end of the yarn with sinker attached just touches the bottom of the can.
5. Pour the liquid wax in the can until you reach the depth desired for the candle.
6. When it hardens, the wax will draw away somewhat from the wick. Add more wax to fill the space.

Note: Finer-size birthday candles may be used as your base for these candles. In that case the rug yarn would not be needed for the wick.

CHRISTMAS TREE CANDLES

You will need:

- A cone-shaped container such as those used at drug store fountains
- Old candle stubs, paraffin or other candle-making medium
- A short piece of candle stub
- Cotton rug yarn or other candle-wicking

How to make:

1. Make small perforation in center of the bottom of cone-shaped container.
2. Insert candle wick through this perforation so that $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches shows below the container.
3. The wicking can be held taut by tying the top to a pencil or small stick which can be placed across the top of the container. Care should be taken to see that the wick is straight.
4. Melt the candle-making medium.
5. Pour carefully into container filling it to the depth desired.
6. Cool.
7. When almost congealed, remove the pencil or stick holding the wick taut and cut the wick off.
8. Add stub of candle in the center and let finish harden. The finished candle should be used with the point up.

Ice Candles

1. Reinforce the sides and bottom of disposable container. A plastic milk carton, round potato chip can, or metal can lined with layers of freezer wrap are suggested.
2. Melt paraffin to 140 degrees in the top of a double boiler.
3. Center a purchased taper candle in your container and surround it with enough crushed or chipped ice to keep it upright. The more ice you use, the more lacy your holes will be in the finished candle.
4. Place the container in a bucket. (Don't use your sink – you don't want wax to get into the sink drain.)
5. Slowly pour the melted wax into your container. Fill it to the top. Keep your extra melted wax warm. Water may start to ooze from the top of the container as your pour the wax in. If the wax level seems to be dropping, pour more wax into the container. You only want to see the wick of the taper candle. The tip of the taper should not be showing.
6. Wait at least 30 minutes, then check to see if the wax has solidified. If the container seems cool, peel off your container or lift the candle out. Water will run out of the candle, so do this over a bucket or outside.

Hints: Wax coated milk cartons are not recommended.

The taper candle must be dry when you start.

Holes need to be even.

The top must be level except for holes left by the ice.

There should not be any solid layers of wax on the bottom or top of your finished candle.



4-H CANDLE MAKING

When experimenting with candle making there is a distinct advantages if you are not happy with the results of your attempt. You just melt the wax down and start over again on a new candle.

When choosing molds, you are limited only by imagination. There are any number of household items that can be used for molds; cardboard boxes, tubes, tin cans, milk cartons, egg shells, glass bottles, etc. There are also flexible vinyl, metal, or plastic molds that can be purchased. (1-2-3)

It is best if you melt wax in the top of a double boiler. First break the wax into small chunks. (1-2-3) When the wax is melted, add color, crayons or candle dye, a small amount at a time. You can always add more if you want a darker candle. For best results let wax cool just slightly before pouring into a container. (1)

Before the wax is poured from the double boiler, remember to wipe any moisture off the outside and edge of the pan so that no water will mix with the wax. (1)

The next step is to set the wick in the container. Make sure the wicking material is longer than needed, the wick will be trimmed to the desired length when candle is finished. (1-2-3)

Some purchased molds have a space to insert wicks into the bottom of the mold. Insert the wicking material through the bottom hole and tie a slip knot around a nail to secure the wick at the base of the candle. (1)

If the container you are using does not have a hole to put the wick through, it will be necessary to use a piece of cardboard with a slit cut from the edge to the center of the board. Slip the wicking end into the center of the slip. Set the cardboard on the bottom of the container and then secure the top of the wick. (3) This is done by wrapping the wick around a pencil and taping the pencil onto the edge of the container or top of the mold. (1-3)

Sometimes it is necessary to make the wick stiff. This is done by cutting the wicking a few inches longer than the candle. Dip the wick into the melted wax and lay it flat on a piece of wax paper. When it is cooled, pull both ends to straighten the wick and then place it in the mold or container. (3)

The next step is to take any seams or joints in the mold so the hot wax will not seep out of the mold or container. (1-2-3)

Now that the wick is set, you will be ready to pour the melted wax into the prepared candle mold or container. Some references say to pour wax from the double boiler into another container with a pouring spout. Place the pouring container into a cake pan full of water, then set the cake pan onto a stove set as low heat for 2 or 3 minutes. This will help any air bubbles to escape. (1-p72 #7)

Molds should be placed in paper or Styrofoam cups for stability.

Carefully pour wax into the mold allowing the wax to run down the side of the mold. Fill the wax almost to the top of the container and level desired. (3) When the wax cools and hardens, make a small indentation with a little bit of wax you have saved to bring the wax level to the top of the candle. (1-3)

Maturing the candle: When a crust forms on top of the candle, slowly plunge a wire into the candle wax close to the wick 2 or 3 times. When a well forms, repeat the former step, then fill the well almost to the top with hot wax. Repeat the procedure until the candle is completely level. (1-p73 #10)

Allow the candles to cool and harden for 8 hours or so before removing the candle from the container or mold. It is helpful if the candle is at room temperature.

Remove all tape from the seams, and the stick from the wick. (1-2-3)

To remove glass molds from candles gently tap the glass with a hammer, being careful not to scatter the glass in the eyes or damage the wax. Remove the broken glass from the candle. If the candle is a 2-piece mold, take the tape off the seams and remove the mold. If the mold does separate, carefully drop the container onto a padded area to release the candle from the mold. (1)

Once the mold is removed, it is necessary to smooth the seams with a palette knife and buff the sides of the candles with soft rags or pantyhose. (1-2-3)

The wick should then be cut to desired length.

Candles for exhibit can be decorated with glitter, paint, art prints, carving designs, wax shapes, Rub & Buff, etc. when the division allows.

RESOURCES:

1. "Candles and How to Make Them." Craft Encyclopedia, Illustrated Step-by-Step Instructions on 22 Popular Crafts, #9592D, Published American Handicraft Company, 1973, pp. 70-79.
2. Waltner, Elma and Willard "Candle Crafting, Ice Candles," The Workbasket and Home Arts Magazine, July 1975, pp. 36 to 38 & p. 40.
3. Eames, Alexandra, "Egg and Canister Candles," The L'eggs Idea Book, Copyright 1986, p. 89.



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