**CANDLE MAKING**

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| **What you will need:** |
| — [Wax](http://www.peakcandle.com/category/Waxes/Paraffin-Wax.aspx) suitable for container candles and any desired additives such as dye, fragrance oil, etc. |
| — [Containers](http://www.peakcandle.com/category/Containers.aspx) suitable for candles; many ceramics, glassware and tins fit the bill for this. |
| — Some kind of [double-boiler](http://www.peakcandle.com/meltingwax.aspx) set-up to melt your wax. |
| — Pre-tabbed [wicks](http://www.peakcandle.com/category/Wicks.aspx) of a size that is suitable for the diameter of your container. |
| — Hot glue - from a hot glue gun or a [hot glue pot](http://www.peakcandle.com/products/Glue-Pot__A1031.aspx) |
| — Bic Pen |
| — Clothespins |
| — [Thermometer](http://www.peakcandle.com/products/Glass-Thermometer__A1005.aspx) - always use a thermometer when melting wax. |

**Step 1) Prepare your molten wax mixture.**

You should be able to review these instructions while your wax is melting. Before continuing, set up a double boiler to melt your wax. A good target temperature is 170-175° F (for IGI-4786). Once your wax has completely melted, add any additives you have selected and mix thoroughly. Add them in the following order:

1. Additives such as vybar or stearic acid (not needed for IGI-4786)
2. Fragrance Oil
3. Dye (this is done last so that you get visual confirmation that everything else has mixed well with the wax)

While your wax is melting, proceed through the next few steps. But, monitor your wax temperature frequently.

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| **Step 2) Add pre-tabbed wicks to your containers.** | |
| bic pen | Disassemble a Bic pen. What you are after is the barrel (white). Discard the rest. |
| pre-tabbed wicks | Straighten your pre-tabbed wicks out. They don't need to be perfectly straight. |
| wicks inside of bic pen | Insert a pre-tabbed wick through the barrel of the pen as shown. 6" wicks are good for this. If you have a different length, you may have to improvise. The point of the barrel is that it makes handling the wick much easier. |
| glue pot | While holding the wick within the barrel, apply hot-glue to the base of the wick tab. In the photo to the left, we are using a [glue pot](http://www.peakcandle.com/products/Glue-Pot__A1031.aspx). However, a hot-glue gun will work just as well. |
| wick inserted into container | Using the barrel to guide the wick, press the tab to the center of your container. |
| guide removal | Slide the barrel off the wick. |
| wicked container | Proceed to the next step.  (I promise the next step won't have so many images) |

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| **Step 3) Secure the top of your wick.** | |
| [clothes pin to secure top of wick](http://images.candletech.com/containercandles/images/large/clothspintrick.jpg) | Using a clothespin, secure the top of your wick as shown. Clothespins work for containers with a opening diameter of up to three inches. For larger containers, you will have to improvise. Looping the wick around a wooden skewer also works. The objective here is to provide some sort of support to help keep the wick centered while the wax is cooling. You can actually carryout this step after you have poured your wax. |

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| **Step 4) Pre-heat your container.** | |
| heat gun to pre-heat jar | Once your wax mixture is at the proper temperature, and you have thoroughly mixed in any additives, pre-heat your container to about 150 degrees F. In the photo we are using a heat gun. However, pre-heating can also be done in the oven on the lowest heat setting. If you are using a heat gun, exercise some care as heat guns can get much hotter than 150 degrees F.  Note: This step is not absolutely necessary, but it does improve the finished product. It permits us to pour our wax at lower temperatures without trapping bubbles and it improves the glass adhesion. |

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| **Step 5) Initial Pour.** | |
| pouring liquified wax | With your wax at the proper temperature (160 degrees F), carefully fill your container to the desired level. If it is a container with a lid, remember to fill it only to a level that will leave enough room for the lid to properly fit back on the finished candle.  Save about 20% of the wax in the pouring pitcher for Step 6. Do NOT return it to the heat source. |
| initial wax pour complete | In the photo, we have filled the container to a level that leaves some clearance for the wick and lid.  Allow the wax to completely cool before proceeding. This will typically be six or more hours. Slow cooling generally provides the best results when it comes to container candles. So, don't attempt to accelerate the cooling process. |

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| **Step 6) Re-pour** | |
| repour wax to fill void | Once your candle has completely cooled, you will notice that the wax has sunken a bit in the middle. With the wax that you saved from the previous step, melt it back down and bring it to a temperature of 185 degrees F. We use a higher temperature for the second pour because it increases the adhesion between layers of wax. |
| repour level | Re-pour to a level that just barely covers the wax from the initial pour. Going to this level helps hide any seam lines.  Allow your candle to completely cool. |

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| **Step 7) Trim Wick** | |
| trim wick after cooling | Once your candle has completely cooled, remove the clothespin and trim the wick to ¼" |

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| **Step 8) Enjoy!** | |
| container candles burning |  |