

Cajun's Container Candle Making Kit Instructions

A Free Step-by-Step Candle Making Instructional Guide

compliments of www.cajuncandles.com

Important: Read these instructions carefully before you begin your candle making project. The first thing you'll need to do is be sure that you have all the proper and necessary candle making supplies and equipment on hand before you begin your candle making.

Weigh the Wax

Next, you will need an accurate and reliable scale for weighing your wax to put in your melter. A scale that weighs up to 10 LBS should be sufficient. You can usually find one at Walmart or at any office supply store. When we weigh our wax we either break it up with a hammer or score the wax using a painter's tool and then break it apart, then put the chunks onto the digital scale until we reach the amount we are going to melt. The wax featured in this candle making kit is a performance enhanced wax that is manufactured solely for candle making. It contains all of the necessary ingredients to make highly scented candles.

Wick Your Jars

While your wax is melting you will need to wick your jars. To wick the jars we recommend using a hot glue gun and a straightened out piece of small copper tubing (a BIC pen with the ink removed works well too). Slip the wick inside the copper tubing and then add a gob of hot glue on the bottom of the metal wick tab, then center the wick inside the jar but don't push down too hard or you will push all the glue from the bottom of the wick tab. The last thing you want is for your wick to start moving around after you've poured your wax. Your wick(s) must be centered properly and secure because if they move around once the wax melts the heat from the wick will crack or break the jar if it gets too close to the side. If you are wicking 16 oz apothecary jars you need to use 2 wicks, centered in the jar about 1" apart. I don't recommend using wick stickers, or any other type of adhesive because I've seen too many disasters using those products.

Melting Wax

One of the main things you will need is something to melt your wax in. Some people believe you should only use the double boiler method to melt wax. The double boiler method is the safest way to melt wax but it is also the slowest. There are a few ways to melt your wax for making candles, and we'll discuss those so you can decide which way is best for you.

One thing I will warn you is to never melt wax on your stove unless you are using the double boiler method. **NEVER MELT WAX ON DIRECT HEAT.** Also, never melt wax on or in anything that does not have some form of temperature control because wax does have a flash point and will burst into flames without warning once it reaches that point. Depending on the wax the flash point may be between 290 - 380 degrees. Always be safe and use extra caution when melting your wax.

You don't have to have an expensive wax melter to make great candles either. I recommend you purchase a Presto "Kitchen Kettle" from your local hardware or Walmart store. I've seen them in just about every Walmart I've ever been in and they're only about \$20.00! Just be sure you are getting the "Kitchen Kettle" there are many variations but the Kitchen Kettle comes with a numerical temperature gauge. Never melt wax in anything that doesn't have a numerical temperature gauge. Don't ever use anything with just high, medium and low settings. Again, the safest way to melt wax is by using the double boiler method, but even then use caution and watch your temperature closely!

The Presto "Kitchen Kettle" will hold about 8 LBS of wax. You can melt any amount up to that. Even though it will hold 8 LBS of wax, I don't recommend that you start off ever melting more than 5-6

LBS at a time while you're learning how to make candles, because when you try to stir it can slosh out of the pot and cause a big mess.

Thermometer

The next thing you will need is a good thermometer. Some of our kits come with a thermometer and some don't. If you need one, you can purchase a good thermometer while you're buying your kitchen kettle for around \$6 or so. A candy making type thermometer works great as well. We also offer a great thermometer for candle making from our shopping cart.

Pour Pot

Whether you use the double boiler method of melting wax or melting wax directly into a wax melter or kitchen kettle you'll need some type of pour pot. Some of our kits do come with a pour pot. You can even start out using an old, clean coffee can to pour your candles. If your kit did not come with an aluminum pour pot, I can tell you that a glass pyrex measuring cup works just as well. Tip: Heat your pour pot up before using it so the wax doesn't harden on it while you're trying to pour a candle.

So far you will need the following items to begin your candle making:

1. Melting Pot
 2. Candle Wicks
 2. Thermometer
 3. Pour Pot
 4. Scale to weigh your wax
 5. Hammer to break up wax or tool to score and break up wax.
 6. Candle Wax
 7. Fragrance Oil
 8. Candle Dye
 9. Container for your candle
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Working Area

All of the candle making supplies that you will need are included in your kit. Ensure that your work area is clean, safe and be sure that you have the necessary tools and supplies arranged in a work friendly manner. If you're working inside your home you will want to place foil, paper towels, or old newspapers on your counter tops underneath your work area so you can clean up easy. We suggest that you also get a cheap plastic floor mat to place on the floor where you will be working. Candle making can be a very messy hobby.

Step 1 – Wax

Your container candle making kit comes with the highly acclaimed IGI-4630 one pour container wax. It is called a one pour because unlike most candle making waxes, a second or third repour is not necessary. This wax saves you allot of time and if you're starting a candle making business...time is money. Add your wax to your melting device and melt the wax until it achieves a temperature of between 150 – 155 degrees Fahrenheit.

Step 2 – Adding Dye

Add dye very slowly to your wax, it is very concentrated so a tiny amount will go a long way. The best way to find out the color of the wax is to drizzle a few drops of the dyed wax onto a white tile and let it harden, that will give you a good idea about what the color of your candle is going to be. Again, add dye very slowly to the wax. Stir the dye into the wax for about a minute.

Step 3 – Adding Fragrance Oil

Check your temperature again and ensure you are at least 155 degrees. Add your fragrance oil slowly to the mixture while stirring the whole time. We use a wire whisk to stir our wax because it seems that the wire whisk helps bind the dye, fragrance and wax together much better than using a spoon or other utensil. Stir the mixture for a full 2 minutes in order to bind everything together properly.

If your temperature gets higher than 155 degrees don't worry about it. Just be sure to bring the temperature back down to about 150 degrees before you pour your candles. Your temperature should never get above 200 degrees, if it does you will begin to lose the strength of your fragrance oil and you also have a fire hazard in the making.

Step 4 – Pouring Candles.

Now it's time to pour your candles. We don't recommend pouring hot wax into room temperature glass so you'll want to warm your jars by putting them into the oven for about 5 minutes before you actually pour the candles. You can leave them in there longer, but they need at least 5 minutes. Be careful removing them as they will be hot. Pour your melted candle wax into the jar(s) slowly and try not to move them once you've poured them.

Step 5 – Secure The Wick

You will notice that the wick(s) seems real loose in the container once the hot wax has been poured around them. If your wicks are not tight, they will be permanently pulled crooked as the wax hardens. To secure the wick we recommend using either flat wooden tongue depressors or popsicle sticks that you can get at any craft store, with a small hole drilled through the center of them. Slide the centered wick through the hole in the tongue depressor or popsicle stick and let the tongue depressor or popsicle stick rest on the top of the jar. Your wick should be close to centered, then make sure the wick is as straight as possible and use a clothespin to clamp the wick so that it is centered and so that as the wax hardens it won't pull the wick downward.

CONGRATULATIONS! You have successfully made your first container candles! Relax and Enjoy your creations! I hope we've helped to save you a little time, money and energy with these instructions.

For answers to frequently asked questions go to the "Frequently Asked Questions" page of our web site. www.cajuncandles.com/frequently-asked-questions.html. We want, need and appreciate your business. Email me at support@cajuncandles.com if there is anything we can help you with that isn't on the web site! Be sure you write and let us know how your candles turned out! Thank you for allowing us at Cajun's Candle Making Supplies to be a part of your candle making experience! Best of luck!

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