



Creating Candles



CREATING Candles



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CREATING **Candles**

Luisa Sacchi



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MATERIALS

The materials and equipment used to make candles are inexpensive and easy to find; most items are available at craft centers or from online retailers.



What You'll Need

1 Paraffin wax

Paraffin wax is sold by weight in craft centers. It comes in the form of flakes or small granules and is the core ingredient in creating candles.

2 Stearin

This white powder, another necessary candle-making ingredient, is mixed with wax to give the candle a more luminous appearance; it also allows the candle to burn better. The standard ratio is 1:10—1 spoonful of stearin to 10 spoonfuls of wax.

3 Gel wax

Gel wax is an increasingly popular candle-making product. It looks like clear gelatin; after melting the gel in a double boiler or microwave, you can add a variety of objects to it, which will remain visible in the finished candle.

4 Old candles

An alternative to melting wax flakes, granules, or gel is to simply melt down old candles. This is an inexpensive option because the wax is often already colored and scented. The final product, however, may provide less light than one created with raw materials.

5 Small pots

You can use two small pots or a double boiler to melt the candle wax (with two pots, the larger one should hold about 3 inches of water; the smaller one will be used to melt the wax).

It's important that the wax never come into direct contact with the heat source because it could catch on fire.

6 Coloring

You can color the wax using the following materials:

- Colored disks, found in most craft centers
- Wax crayons, although the disadvantage of this material is that it makes the wax more opaque
- Liquid colors (mainly for gel wax)—use only a few drops, especially if you want to maintain the gel's transparency.

7 Scents

Candle-scenting oils are available in almost every imaginable scent. You need to use only a few drops to create an intense aroma. Never use scents that contain alcohol as they are highly flammable.

8 Modeling clay

Use modeling clay to secure the area where the wick passes through the wax to ensure it doesn't slip back into the wax. Clay is not necessary when making a candle in a container.

9 Wicks

Wicks come unwaxed in long strands or already waxed and fitted with a metal base; to make container candles, you'll usually have to snip off the base.

10 Needles

A candle-making needle is used to pierce the semihardened surface of the wax in order to insert the wick.

11 Wooden skewers

To ensure the wick remains vertical when inserted into still-warm wax, wrap the tip of it around a wooden skewer and lay the stick across the top rim of the container.

12 Thermometer

This is a useful tool, especially if your melting equipment doesn't have its own temperature gauge. Wax is very temperature sensitive and can reach a flash point very quickly. Depending on the wax, this temperature can be as low as 290°F.

Basic Techniques

This simple candle project, made in a container of glass, ceramic, terra-cotta, or wood, will illustrate basic candle-making techniques.



Melt the wax

Pour 10 spoonfuls of wax and 1 spoonful of stearin in a small pot, then place the small pot in a larger pot filled with about 3 inches of water. Place them both on the stove and melt the mixture over a low setting.



Color the wax

Once it's melted, you can color the wax using coloring disks, liquids, or crayons. Add the color, then gently stir the mixture with a spoon to ensure the color is evenly dispersed.



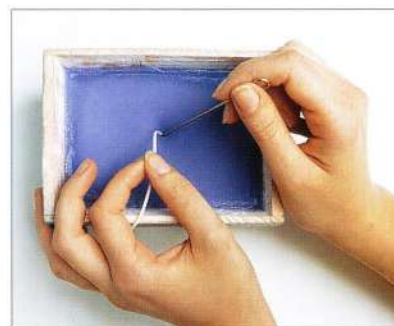
Scent the wax

Add about 8 drops of scented oil to the wax—more for a stronger scent, less for a weaker scent. Stir to mix the oil thoroughly.



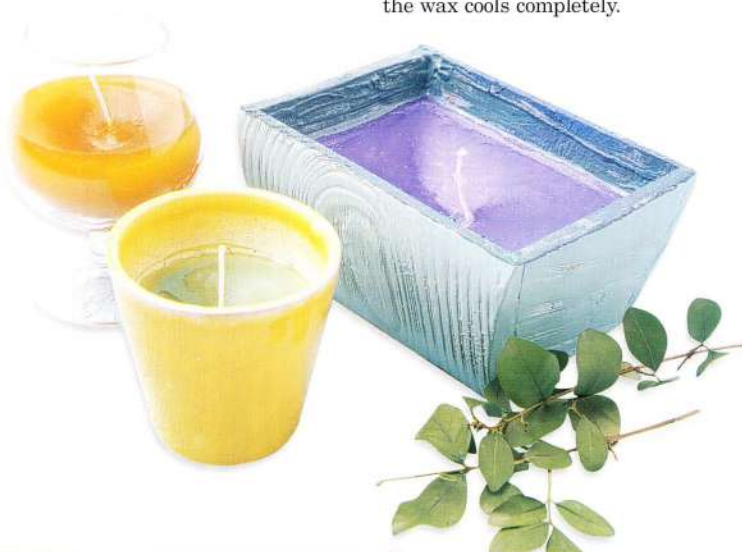
Cool the wax

Slowly pour the compound into the candle container. Let it air dry for approximately 1 hour. *Do not put the wax into a refrigerator*—if it cools too quickly, the wax will sink in the center. Remember to insert the wick (next step) before the wax cools completely.



Insert the wick

If the wick has an attached base, snip it off. While the wax is still soft, pierce through its center with a needle and insert the waxed wick. Trim to the desired height.



TIPS AND TRICKS

- To avoid a mess, protect your work area with aluminum foil. Newspapers are porous, and the wax's color can seep through if spilled.
- If you spill wax, let it dry, then rub the spot with an ice cube. This will freeze the wax and allow you to easily scrape it off with a knife.
- Wax is a flammable material. Never leave it unattended on the stove, even if you are using a double boiler.

MOLDS

The typical way to create a candle is to use a mold—a container into which you insert the wick, pour the wax, cool the wax, and remove the shaped candle.



Many containers are permanent (glasses, bowls, ceramic or metal forms, and so on). With these, the candle does not need to be extracted. Leaving the candle in a container, however, causes the wax to lose the opalescence and shine it would have if it were removed. Using molds allows you to create a greater variety of candle projects.

Molds can be divided into two types:

- **Store-bought molds.** These molds are specifically constructed for making candles and are sold in a variety of shapes. They are convenient and, if used correctly, provide such excellent results that they quickly pay for themselves.
- **Homemade molds.** You can use any number of household containers to make candles. With a little creativity, these containers can yield inexpensive, unique, and beautiful candles.

Using Store-Bought Molds

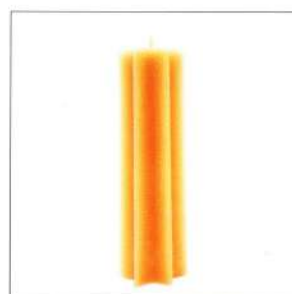
Store-bought molds made of rigid, smooth-surfaced plastic can be found in most craft centers. They often come equipped with a candle-making needle.



1 Pass the wick through the hole in the bottom of the mold, then make a large knot on the end of the wick so it will plug the hole and hold in the wax. Stretch the wick to the top of the mold and tie the end to the needle. Support the needle on the top rim of the mold so the wick remains stiff and centered.



2 Heat the wax in a double boiler and pour it slowly into the mold. This type of mold usually has a kind of raised foot that allows it to remain steady during pouring.



3 Allow the wax to dry for 3 or 4 hours (longer for large molds), then cut off the knot at the bottom of the mold and remove the candle. Unwrap and trim the wick.

Rubber Molds for Embossed Candles

Malleable rubber molds are perfect for making elegant candles. They are a little more expensive than rigid molds, but they allow you to create stunning textures.



1 Pierce the tip of the mold, then pass the wick through it and knot it at the bottom. Hold the wick stiff and wrap the other end around the needle supported on the top rim. Put the mold into a drinking glass or other suitable container so it will remain vertical, then slowly pour the melted wax into it.



2 Let it cool for 4 or 5 hours, then trim the wick and remove the needle. Extract the candle by gently peeling back the rubber mold from the top, turning it inside out.



3 To give your candle an antique appearance, you can wipe a soft cloth dipped in brown shoe polish over its surface.

Plastic Molds for Silhouette Candles

You can buy these silhouette candle molds in craft centers at relatively low prices (they are also used to make soaps and shapes from modeling clay). Such molds are useful for making place-holder or floating candles.



1 Heat the wax in a double boiler and pour it into the mold until it reaches the mold's top. Allow the wax to cool for about 30 minutes—until it is solid, but not completely hard.



2 Remove the wax form and place it on a square of aluminum foil used to protect the work area.

TIPS AND TRICKS

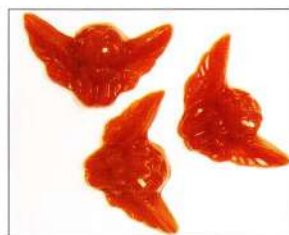


molds, dust them with a little talcum powder and place a balled-up cloth inside each one.

- To more easily extract candles from molds, put them in the freezer for 15 minutes after they have cooled and are solid.
- To clean the molds, soak them in an old pot filled with hot water for a few minutes. Then quickly wipe them with a paper towel or dry cloth.
- In order to retain the form of the rubber



3 Cut a piece of waxed wick, heat the tip of a needle, and make a hole through the center of the candle. Quickly insert the wick into the hole. The wax will mold itself around the wick to secure it.



4 These candles burn quickly. Make sure they are on a plate or other non-flammable surface before you light them.

HOMEMADE MOLDS

An inexpensive way to create candles is to use molds made from containers found around your house, such as cake and cookie molds, plastic bottles, or aluminum cans.



The method for using homemade molds is very similar to that of using store-bought molds. With homemade molds, you don't need to worry about clean-

ing or storing them—simply throw them away. It only takes a little imagination to find new forms, and you will save not only money, but also time and space.

Soda Cans

These are the simplest and most inexpensive molds to use for creating cylindrical candles. The concave bottom of the can creates an ideal indentation for the top of the finished candle.



1 Pierce the bottom of the can using a hammer and nail. With a pair of sharp scissors, cut off the top of the can, being careful not to cut yourself (wear gloves). A good way to protect your hands when you're done cutting is to cover the sharp edge with masking tape.



2 Thread the wick through the hole at the bottom of the can. Make a knot in the wick, and cover the hole with a small ball of modeling clay to ensure the wax doesn't leak. Knot the opposite end of the wick to a needle or skewer so it remains centered.



3 Keep the can upright and pour in the melted wax. Let it dry 3 to 4 hours, untie the bottom knot, and remove the candle. Trim the wick to an appropriate height. This kind of candle is ideal for decorating with leaves or flowers, or in a thousand other ways.



Plastic Bottles

All shapes and sizes of plastic bottles can be used for candles and then simply thrown out.



1 Cut a plastic water bottle to the desired height, using the bottom half as your mold. Pierce the bottom with a large nail.



2 Insert the wick through the hole and seal the hole with a small ball of modeling clay. Pull the wick through the length of the bottle and affix the other end to a needle. Place the bottle in a bowl so it doesn't shift while you're filling it. Pour melted wax into the bottle, being careful not to move the wick.



3 Let dry for at least 4 hours before you remove the candle. To make this process easier, use scissors to make several small cuts around the top edge of the bottle. You can then peel the plastic away from the candle. Trim the wick to an appropriate height.



Metal Cake and Cookie Molds

Little cookie molds, found in kitchen and pastry shops, are particularly handy for creating floating candles.



1 Heat the wax in a double boiler and pour it slowly into the mold. Let it dry for 15 minutes, which should be sufficient for a small mold. Do not allow the wax to harden completely.



2 Cut a waxed wick into as many pieces as you have candles. Push the wick through the center of the candle to the bottom. The wax will quickly shape itself around the wick.



3 Let the wax cool for 1 hour before you remove the candle. Place the candle on a plate or other nonflammable surface before burning. These are also perfect as floating candles.

GEL CANDLES

Gel candles have become very popular in recent years. Store-bought gel wax looks like a transparent or translucent goo and can be melted just like regular wax, but once it solidifies, it remains transparent.



The transparency of gel wax allows you to make candles containing interesting objects, from flowers to fruits to small gifts. The gel is practical—it is easily removed from molds and, once solid, doesn't drip. Gel wax is more expensive than standard wax flakes or granules, however. You can purchase uncolored wax and add your own color with food coloring or buy already-colored wax. Some gel wax comes in a tube and doesn't need to be melted—you just put it in a container and insert the wick. If you do need to melt the

wax, you can do so in a double boiler or in a microwave-safe bowl heated in a microwave on high for 2 to 3 minutes (time will vary according to the quantity of wax). Just don't bring the wax to a boil.

You can also melt used gel wax candles to remove the inserted objects and reuse the wax to make new candles—the new ones won't be as transparent as they were when they were first created, but they can still be quite attractive.

Basic Preparation



1 Slowly melt the gel wax in a double boiler on medium heat (or in a microwave) to avoid forming bubbles. When the wax is completely melted, add a few drops of scented oil to perfume the candle.



2 Pour the melted gel into a glass or other clear container.



3 Let the wax solidify for about 20 minutes, then insert the wick, making sure it's perfectly centered.

Gel Candle with an Object



1 Heat the wax in a double boiler until it is completely melted, then slowly pour it into a glass container of your choosing, creating a base approximately 1 to 1½ inches high on which to place the object.



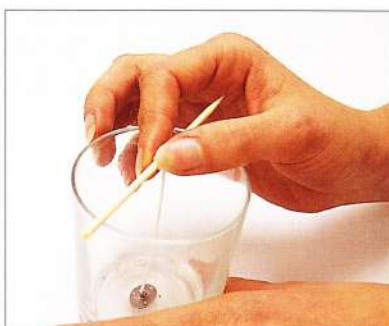
2 Allow the wax to partially solidify, then arrange your chosen objects, pushing them down about ½ inch into the wax. Cover the objects with more melted wax until it is about 1 inch from the top of the container.



3 Let the wax cool for approximately 20 minutes and insert the wick. Make sure the wick is stiff and centered so the candle will burn evenly.

Layering Candles with Wax and Gel

To create a particularly interesting effect, you can layer regular wax with gel wax. Although you need to wait for each layer to solidify completely before adding the next, the results are well worth the effort.



1 Cut a waxed wick so it is an inch or two higher than the container and knot the end around a skewer. Support the stick on either edge of the container so the wick remains stiff and centered.



2 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler. When the wax is completely melted, slowly pour it into the container, making a gel layer approximately 2 inches high. Let this layer solidify.



3 Melt a solid, colorful wax in a double boiler and pour a layer approximately 1 inch high on top of the gel. Allow it to solidify.



4 Create a third layer with colored transparent gel. Let this layer solidify.



5 Complete the candle with a final layer of gel—yellow is used here, and dried pine needles were added. Trim the wick to an appropriate height.





Projects



Orange Candle

These aromatic candles are reminiscent of winter in the Mediterranean. The stimulating and harmonizing characteristics of the citrus are diffused by the heat of the flame. Great for freshening any room, they are especially useful in the kitchen to soften the smells of cooking.





As Gifts

These candles make wonderful gifts. An elegant way to present one is to wrap it in transparent acetate paper (such as that used by a florist) and knot it with a green cord to which you have tied dried pieces of orange. Prepare the pieces by cutting slices at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick and drying them for 30 minutes on a cloth, then warm them in an oven set at a low temperature (120°F) for 8 to 10 hours.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 4 large oranges
- 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz paraffin flakes and stearin (10 parts wax, 1 part stearin)
- Orange wax crayon
- Orange-scented oil
- Waxed wicks

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Kitchen knife
- Skewer

Note: For this and any other candle—if you don't have a premade wick, you can create one by dipping a cotton cord in melted wax.

HINT

These delicious candles can be made with all kinds of citrus fruits. Trust your instincts and your nose to create personalized candles: a mandarin orange that smells like lemon, a grapefruit with the fragrance of bergamot, an orange scented like cedar . . .



1 Select a large orange with a uniform round shape. Using a sharp knife, cut off the top of the orange, making sure the cut is straight all the way around.



2 Using a teaspoon and the knife, remove all the pulp from the orange. Clean it out carefully while making sure not to break the peel—this would make it unusable. Rinse the orange with cold water and let it dry.



3 Wrap the tip of the wick around a skewer. Support the skewer on the top edge of the orange so the wick remains suspended in the center and touches the bottom. Prepare four oranges in this manner.



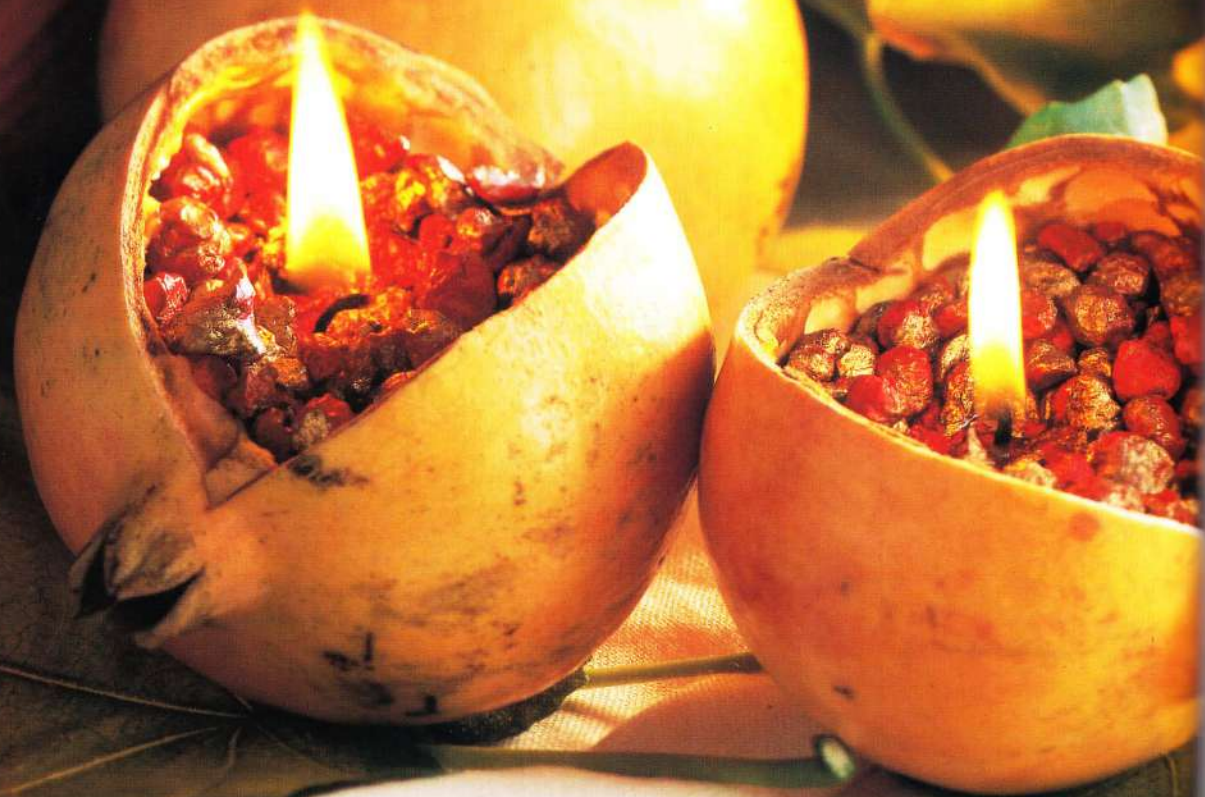
4 Melt the paraffin and stearin mixture in a double boiler. Add orange coloring and 12 drops of orange-scented oil, increasing the number of drops if you want a stronger scent. While the wax is melting, stir it with a skewer or spoon to ensure there are no lumps and the color is consistent.



5 When the wax is completely melted and colored, slowly pour it into one of the emptied oranges, being especially careful not to move the wick, which must remain centered. Let the candle cool until the wax is thoroughly hardened. Untie the wick and trim. Follow the same steps to create the other three candles.

Pomegranate Candle

Here's a surprising combination: Is it a candle or a pomegranate? Actually, it's a little of both. Made from two carved pomegranates, these candles are filled with irregular wax shapes. The wax is scented with peach to create a pleasing combination of the two fruits, making these candles ideal for use as a centerpiece.





An Alternative

You can make an elegant display with this candle by adding a ring of autumn decorations around the bottom, such as fabric leaves, corn, gourds, and so on. Perfect for a romantic dinner for two, or, for a formal meal, you can create a centerpiece using whole or open pomegranates combined with the pomegranate candles. The result is sure to impress.

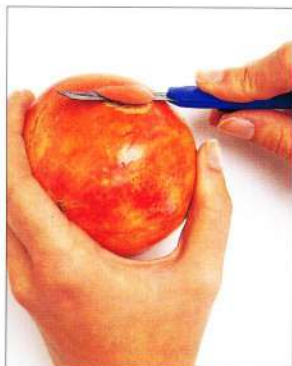
To Make the Candles

Materials

- 3 1/2 oz gold wax granules
- 2 large pomegranates
- Peach-scented oil
- Waxed wick
- Red water-based spray paint

Equipment

- Kitchen knife
- Bowl
- Spoon
- Paper towel
- Newspaper
- Skewer
- Scissors



1 Using a knife, slice a thin, quarter-sized circle from the peel on one side of the pomegranate. This will serve as the candle's base.



2 Make two cuts in the pomegranate from end to end, approximately 2 inches from each other in the middle, then remove the wedge-shaped slice from the fruit.



3 Remove all the seeds from the fruit with a spoon and thoroughly dry the shell with a paper towel.

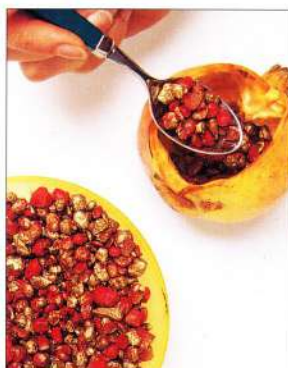
HINT

To ensure that the pomegranates last a long time, dry them first. Scoop out all the inner fruit and seeds and place a balled-up paper towel inside each of the shells.

Place the pomegranates in the oven at a low temperature (not above 120°F). Change the paper towel every 2 hours, repeating this process 3 or 4 times, allowing the pomegranates to dry for approximately 6 hours.



4 In a well-ventilated area, spread gold wax granules on a newspaper and spray lightly with the red spray paint (make sure to use water-based paint). Let the granules dry completely, then place them in a bowl and add 4 drops of peach-scented oil.



5 Stir the wax granules to disperse the peach fragrance, then use a spoon to fill each of the empty pomegranate shells with the wax.



6 Cut a piece of waxed wick approximately 3 or 4 inches long. Use a skewer to make a small passage through the wax granules, then insert the wick through the center. Make the second candle the same way.

Vanilla Candle in a Coconut Shell

These scented candles will remind you of a tropical beach and add an exotic breeze to any room. The vanilla candle, warm and sweet, is perfect for creating a relaxed atmosphere.





An Alternative

You can use similar materials to create a Zen-inspired centerpiece. Use the coconut shell as a candleholder and line the bottom with small pebbles or sand, then place a vanilla-scented pillar in the center. Use smooth stones to create a base for the candleholder, and decorate with tropical green leaves. Another quick and simple idea is to create a small lantern using the coconut shell: Carve a design into one half of the coconut shell, then place a tea light in the other half and cover with the carved shell to create an illuminated sphere.

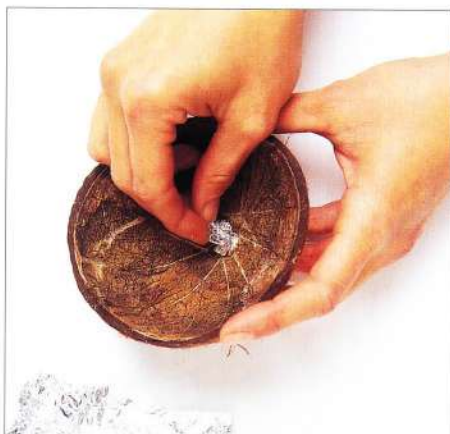
To Make the Candles

Materials

- Aluminum foil
- Empty coconut shells
- 1 3/4 oz opaque white wax
- Waxed wick
- Vanilla-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Needle
- Spoon



1 Form a small ball of aluminum foil and place it in the hole in the coconut shell to prevent the wax from leaking.



2 Melt opaque white wax in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly, and then pour a couple drops of wax into the coconut shell to test the aluminum foil plug. Add 3 or 4 drops of vanilla-scented oil to the wax and stir to disperse the fragrance.

HINT

To obtain two coconut shells, drill into the bottom of a store-bought coconut, drain the milk, and cut the coconut in half with a hacksaw. Then remove the inner pulp with a knife.



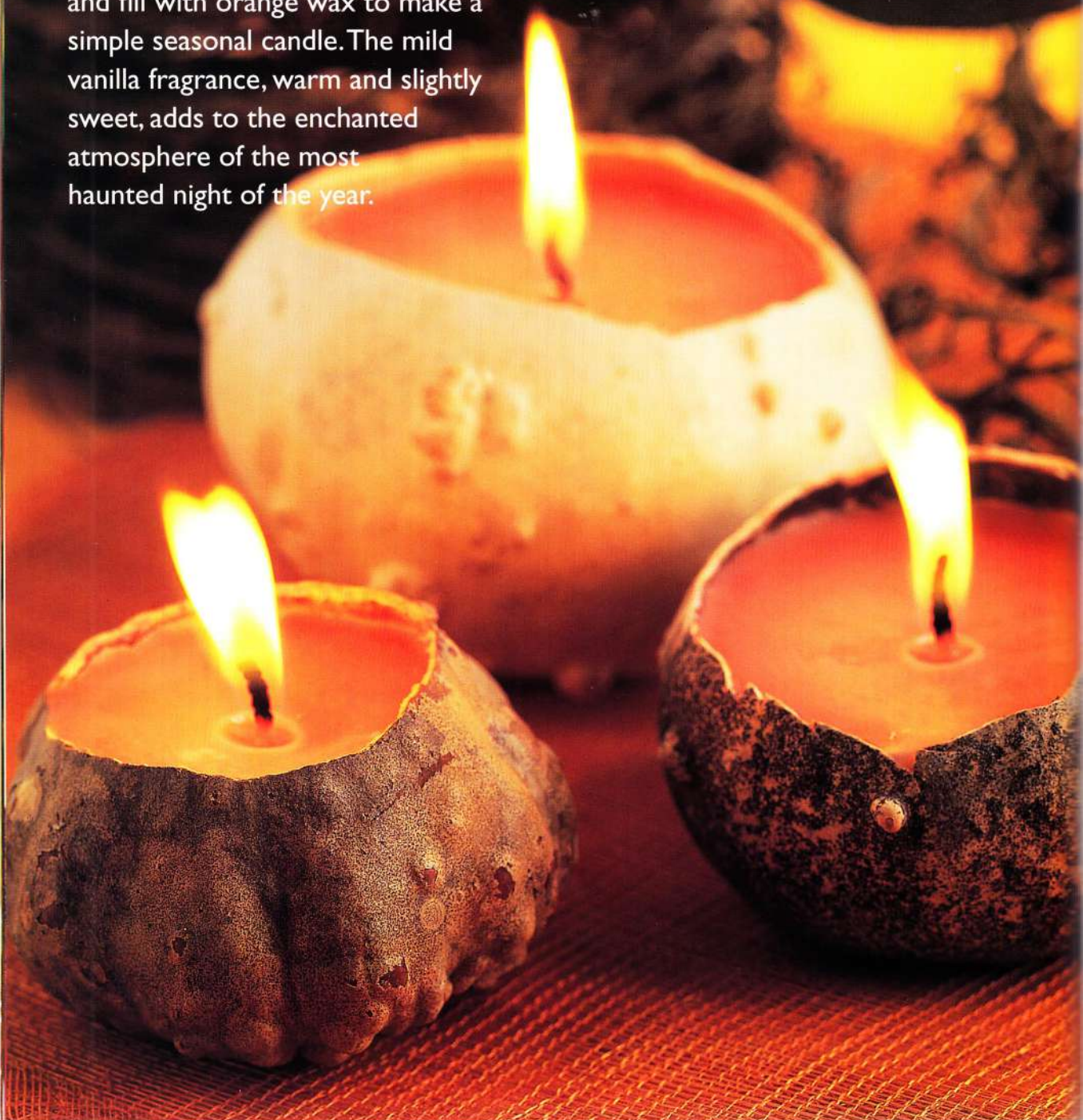
3 Gently pour the wax into the coconut shell until it is approximately 1/2 inch from the top.



4 Before the wax is completely hardened, make a hole in its center with a needle and insert the waxed wick. Let cool.

Halloween Candle

Celebrate Halloween by putting these candles on your windowsill or alongside your jack-o'-lantern. Empty the gourds and fill with orange wax to make a simple seasonal candle. The mild vanilla fragrance, warm and slightly sweet, adds to the enchanted atmosphere of the most haunted night of the year.





An Alternative

Make your gourds even more eerie by turning them into little witches. With a black felt-tipped marker, draw eyes on a gourd, then add a witch's hat made of green tissue paper shaped into a cone with a circle of construction paper as a base. Decorate the hat using gold ribbon.

How, When, Where

Use these luminous gourds at a Halloween party, arranged on a tray as a centerpiece. Or use them as placeholders by writing each guest's name on a candle with a felt-tipped marker.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Small gourd
- 3 ½ oz opaque white wax
- Red candle coloring
- Vanilla-scented oil
- Waxed wick

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Needle
- Spoon



1 With the knife, cut off the top of the gourd and remove all pulp and seeds from inside using a spoon and knife.



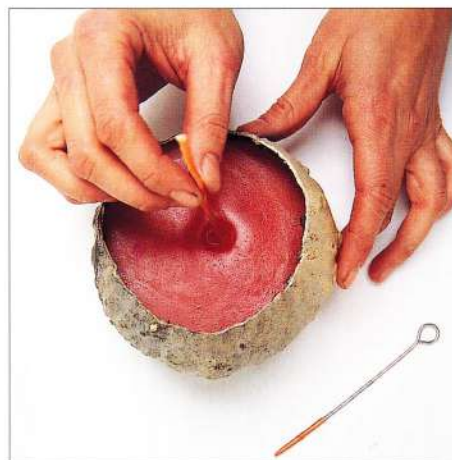
2 Melt the wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 4 drops of red coloring and 5 drops of vanilla-scented oil. Stir until color and scent are dispersed.

HINT

Be careful to remove all the pulp from the gourd; if a piece remains attached to the rind, it will rot the candle. Turn the emptied gourd upside down to dry completely before filling it with wax.



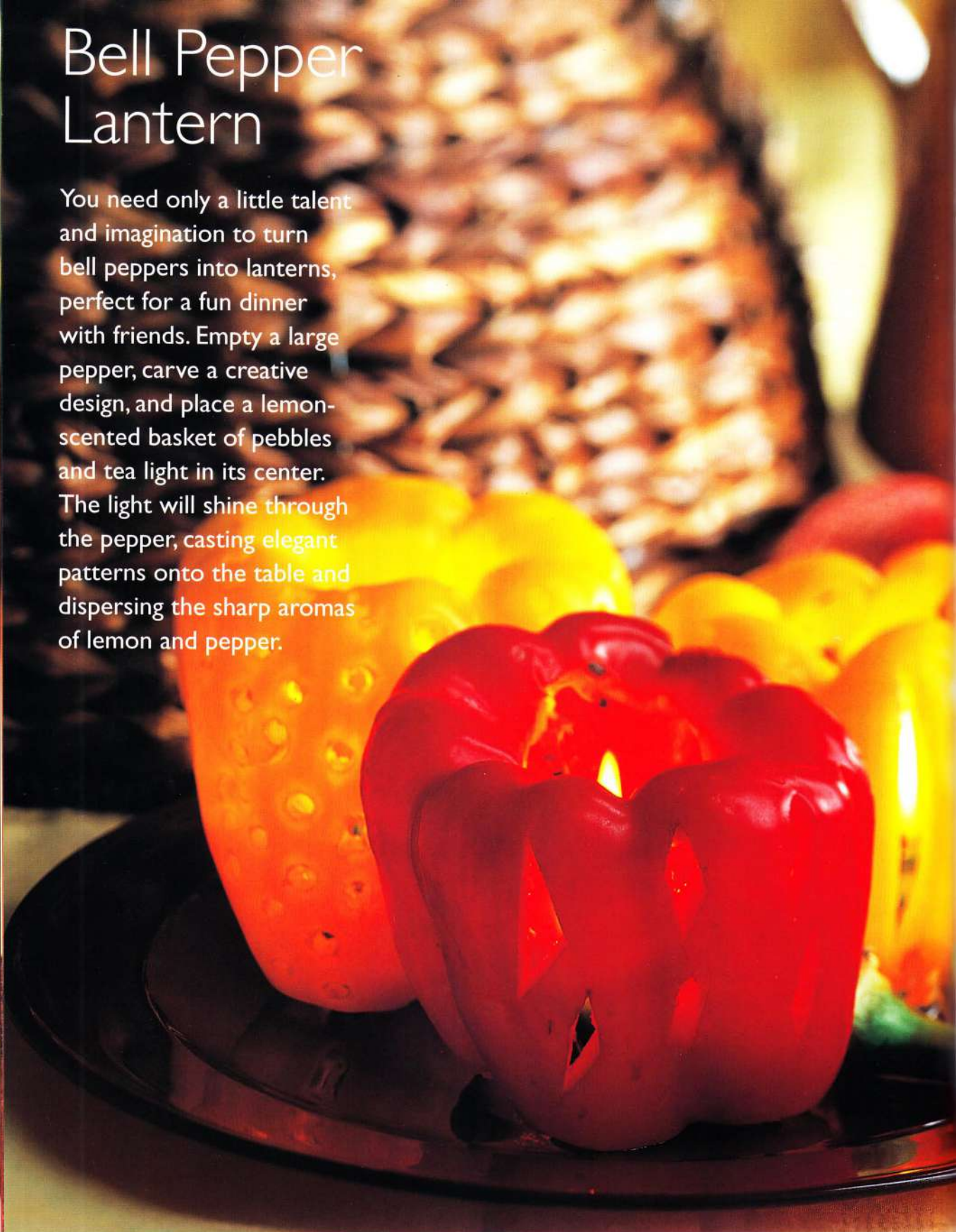
3 Carefully pour the wax into the empty gourd, filling it until the wax is about ½ inch from the top. Let cool until partially solid.



4 Pierce a hole in the center of the candle with a needle and insert the waxed wick. Cool until hardened.

Bell Pepper Lantern

You need only a little talent and imagination to turn bell peppers into lanterns, perfect for a fun dinner with friends. Empty a large pepper, carve a creative design, and place a lemon-scented basket of pebbles and tea light in its center. The light will shine through the pepper, casting elegant patterns onto the table and dispersing the sharp aromas of lemon and pepper.





An Alternative

A new way to interpret the classic jack-o'-lantern is to use a carved bell pepper in its place. Create a glowing centerpiece or intersperse red and yellow peppers as place-holders to grin at each of your guests.

How, When, Where

Arrange these lanterns on a tray covered with green leaves to contrast with the red and yellow of the peppers. Decorate with other vegetables of your choice to create a stunning centerpiece perfect for a vegetarian dinner.

To Make the Lanterns

Materials

- 1 large, firm red pepper
- 2 large, firm yellow peppers
- 3 tea lights
- 3 baskets to fit inside the peppers
- Small pebbles
- Lemon-scented oil

Equipment

- Large, flat plate
- Craft knife
- Spoon



1 With the knife blade held at an angle, cut around the stem of a pepper and remove the top.



2 Use a spoon to remove the pepper's seeds, and scrape the inside to remove any dangling threads.

HINT

Be careful when emptying the pepper to be sure you don't scrape too much skin from the inside. If it loses too much of its skin, the pepper will wilt from the candle's flame.



3 With the knife, carve designs into the skin, being sure to leave enough space so you can remove the shapes with your fingers. Use regular or irregular shapes to give the candle a distinctive appearance.



4 Fill the basket with small pebbles, then add a few drops of lemon-scented oil.

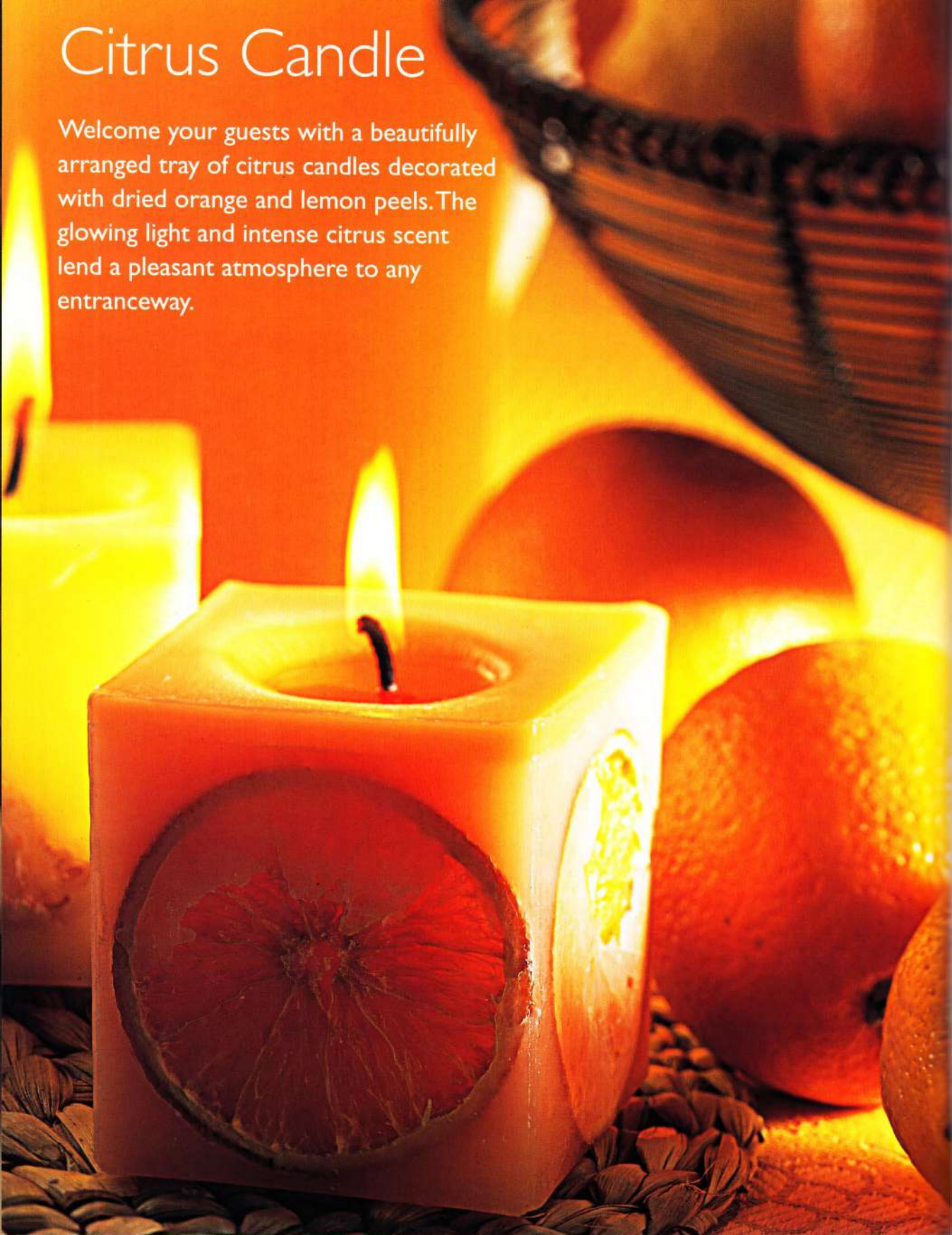


5 Place the basket inside the pepper and place a tea light on top of the pebbles. Repeat the process for the remaining peppers. Arrange the peppers on a flat plate to create a brilliant visual and aromatic display.



Citrus Candle

Welcome your guests with a beautifully arranged tray of citrus candles decorated with dried orange and lemon peels. The glowing light and intense citrus scent lend a pleasant atmosphere to any entranceway.





As Gifts

Make an elegant gift by wrapping a strip of textured paper scented with orange oil around one of these candles. Add a dried orange slice to one side and tie the package with naturally colored cord. To create a lemon-themed candle, use yellow textured paper and lemon-scented oil. You can also add a small sack of orange or lemon candies to the gift as an extra treat.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 2 milk cartons with square bases
- 2 waxed wicks
- Orange and lemon-scented oils
- Paraffin wax flakes: 20 teaspoonfuls per candle
- Stearin for candles: 2 teaspoonfuls per candle
- Dried orange and lemon slices
- Orange and yellow wax crayons

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Craft knife
- Spoon
- Needle



1 Melt the paraffin wax and stearin in a double boiler; after the mixture is completely melted, add one crumbled orange wax crayon. Stir the mixture until the color is consistent throughout. Add 8 drops of orange-scented oil.



2 Cut the top from a milk carton to make a mold approximately 4 inches high. Use a spoon to cover the inner sides of the carton with a thin layer of melted wax. Wait a few moments until the wax starts to solidify, then gently press a dried orange slice onto each side of the candle.

HINT

Citrus fruits can easily be dried in a ventilated oven. Cut the fruit into slices and place on a tray in the oven for 8 to 10 hours at a temperature of approximately 105°F.



3 Fill the mold with melted wax until it is approximately 1 inch from the top, being careful not to detach the dried orange slices. Let the wax solidify for about 20 minutes.



4 Use a needle to make a hole through the center of the still-soft candle. Thread the wick into the hole. Allow the candle to dry at room temperature for about 12 hours.



5 Place the candle in the freezer for approximately 10 minutes, then gently tear the milk carton off the candle. Make the lemon-scented candle using the same process.

Mauve Flower Candle

Give yourself a relaxation break to enjoy the warm scent and glow of these mauve flower candles. They create an intimate atmosphere as they slowly release a sweet floral aroma—a perfect candle for those who love soft scents and relaxation.





As Gifts

Wrap the candle in burlap to emphasize its natural ingredients and allow the herbal scent to escape through the loose weave. Knot the package with a scented cord of fabric leaves to further accentuate the candle's organic essence.

How, When, Where

Mauve flowers are used by herbalists for their variety of healing properties. They are considered to be both a relaxant and a decongestant. Ancient Romans used mauve flowers to make warm compresses and in footbaths to soothe aching feet.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 3 plastic bottles
- 3 waxed wicks
- Modeling clay
- Paraffin wax:
10 teaspoonfuls per candle
- Stearin: 1 teaspoonful per candle
- Dried mauve flowers:
3 teaspoonfuls per candle

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Craft knife
- Spoon
- Glass or similar container
- Needle

HINT

As it solidifies, the wax may sink around the wick. This can compromise the stability of the candle, so you may need to add melted wax to fill in the depression when the candle is partially solid. Repeat if necessary.



1 Cut the top off a plastic soda bottle, leaving the bottom portion the desired height of your candle. Using a sharp needle or nail, make a hole directly in the center of the bottle's bottom. The hole must be large enough to thread the wick, but not so large that wax will leak out.



2 Insert the wick through the hole and make a knot outside the bottle, leaving about 4 inches of extra length. Cover the knot with a ball of modeling clay so the wax doesn't leak.



3 Prop the bottle in a glass or small bowl so it will stay upright, then pull the wick to the top and tie it around a needle or skewer supported on the rim. Evenly distribute the dried mauve flowers on the bottom of the bottle.



4 Melt the paraffin wax and stearin in a double boiler at a low temperature. Pour the melted wax into the bottle and let it harden completely. Before removing the candle, place the mold in the refrigerator for a few minutes. Remove the clay and trim the bottom knot and top wick.

Vanilla Candle with Coffee Beans

Use these candles to turn your veranda into a Parisian café, or to enhance the ambiance of a Sunday morning as you curl up with a cup of coffee. The vanilla essence, a warm and intense scent, complements the sharp aroma of the coffee beans.





As Gifts

Take a piece of white tulle or burlap and glue coffee beans to it randomly or in a pattern. Let the glue dry for about a half hour, then wrap the candle inside the fabric and tie it with a raffia ribbon.

An Alternative

An inexpensive way to create these candles is to use plastic bottles, cut about 6 inches from the bottom, for molds. You can choose high, narrow bottles, or use short, square cartons to create a variety of shapes.

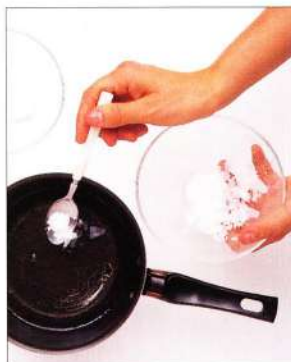
To Make the Candle

Materials

- 17 oz white paraffin flakes
- 1 1/2 oz stearin
- Waxed wick
- A few handfuls of whole coffee beans
- Vanilla-scented oil

Equipment

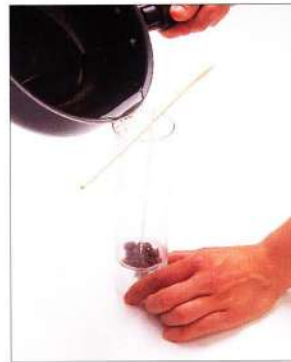
- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Skewer
- Cylindrical plastic candle mold



1 Prepare the wax mixture by combining the paraffin flakes with the stearin. In a double boiler, melt the mixture, then add 8 drops of vanilla-scented oil and stir.



2 Insert the wick through the base of the cylindrical mold and knot it at the bottom so the wax doesn't leak out. To ensure the wick remains in the center, wrap the other end around a skewer balanced on the mold's rim.



3 Pour a handful of coffee beans on the bottom of the mold, then cover them with the melted wax until it reaches one-third the height of the cylinder. Allow the wax to cool for about 10 minutes.

HINT

Serve your guests coffee on a tray decorated with these candles, adding a vanilla bean to the sugar bowl to flavor the sugar. This ancient custom comes from Polynesia.



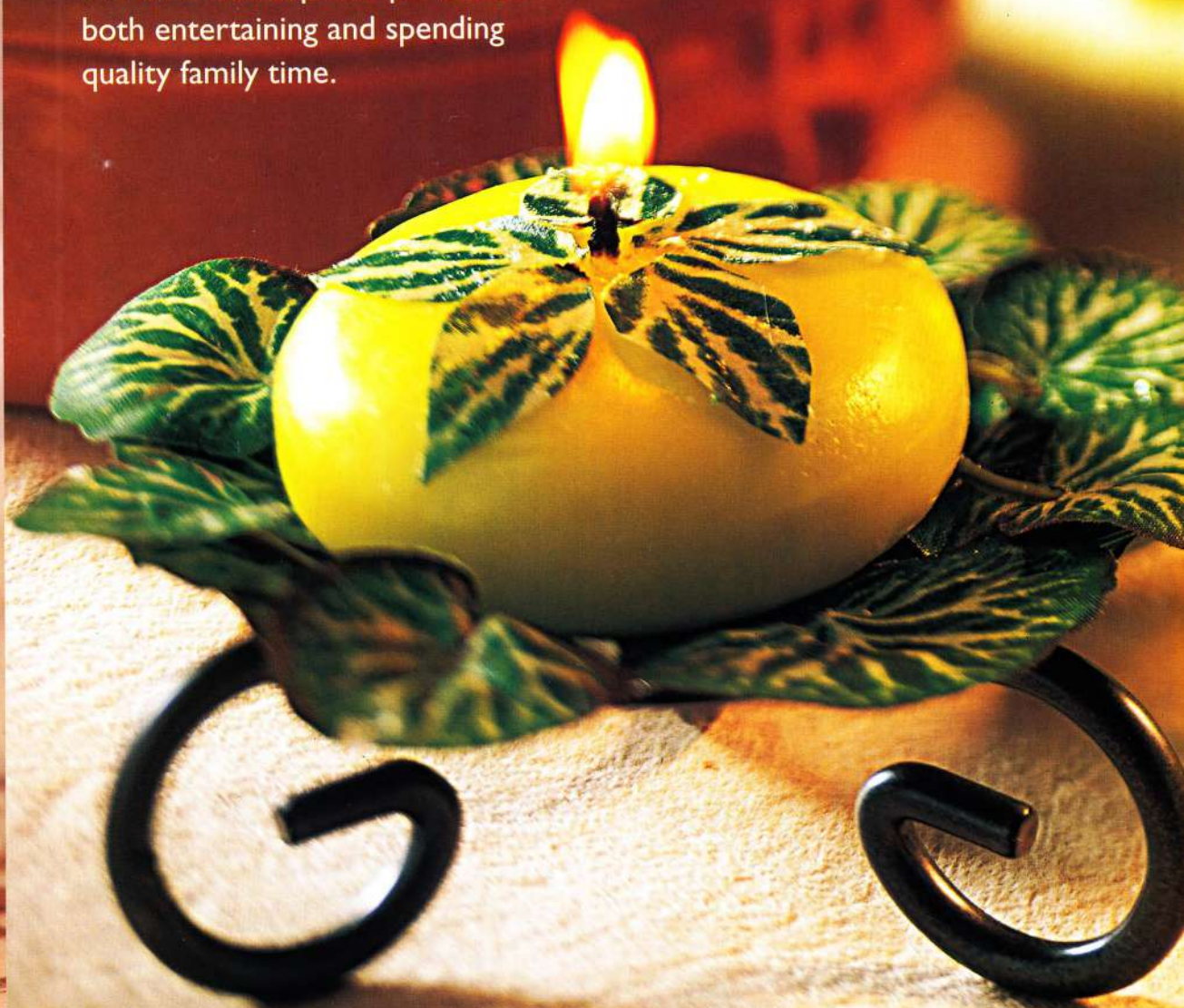
4 Add another handful of coffee beans and fill another one-third of the mold with melted wax. Allow to cool for 10 minutes, then repeat the process once more until you have filled the entire mold.



5 Let the candle cool for approximately 12 hours at room temperature. Then place the mold in the freezer for 10 minutes, after which you can remove the finished candle from the mold.

Green Apple Candle

Create a stylish and aromatic decoration with a green apple candle covered with fabric leaves and perched on a chic wrought-iron candleholder. The candle burns slowly, releasing a pleasantly fresh scent. The energizing properties will create an atmosphere perfect for both entertaining and spending quality family time.





As Gifts

Play off the brilliant shade of the green apple to create a simple yet lovely gift. Take a green cardboard box of a suitable size to hold the candle and cover the bottom with a handful of green sand. Then carefully place the candle on top. Decorate the inside and outside of the box by gluing fabric leaves to the cardboard.

Another Idea

The green apple scent can be complemented with chamomile; the term *chamomile*, in fact, is derived from the Greek word meaning "similar to the apple" because the two scents are so alike. You can therefore create a candle of whatever shape and color you choose and add a few drops of chamomile-scented oil. These two candles, when lighted together, will produce a signature scent that could not be achieved with just one.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Strand of fabric leaves
- Wrought-iron candleholder
- Candle glue
- Green apple candle

Equipment

- Scissors
- Cotton cloth
- Hot glue gun
- Small paintbrush



1 Using scissors, cut the fabric leaves off at their bases, eliminating the plastic vine.



2 Clean the candleholder with a cotton cloth, then line its inner edge with glue drops using a hot glue gun, removing any remaining glue threads.

HINT

There is a simple way to remove residual wax from candle holders without resorting to messy cleaning products or trying to melt the wax off. Place the candle holder in the freezer for a few minutes; the wax can then be removed with a spatula or a knife.



3 Before the glue hardens, position the leaves in a circle along the edge so that their tips are slightly protruding and their edges overlap. Secure the leaves by pressing down lightly with your fingertips.



4 Take five additional leaves and, using your scissors, cut a small leaf shape from the center of each fabric leaf.

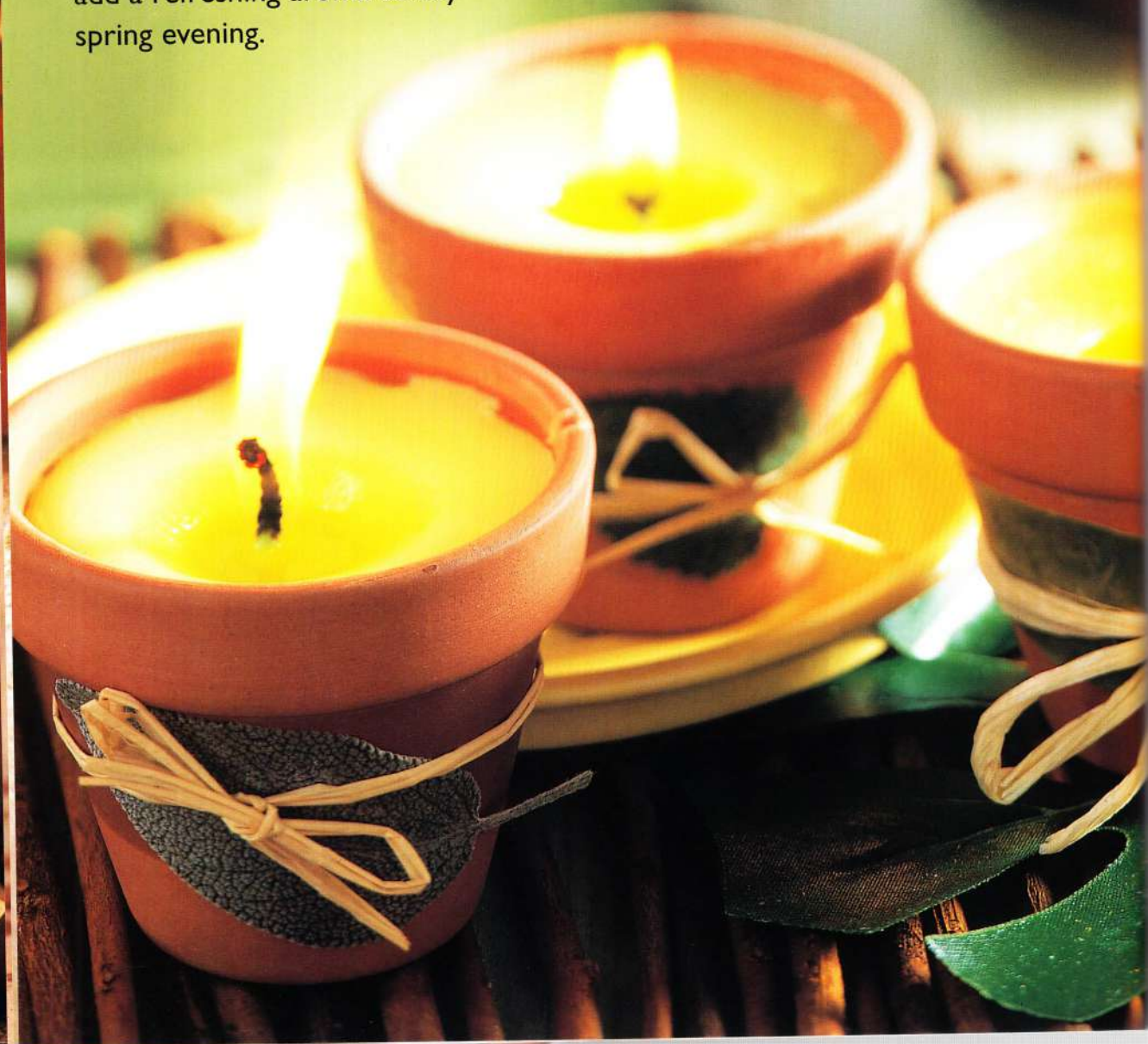


5 With a small paintbrush, spread a thin layer of candle glue on the back of each of these leaves, and position them on top of the candle, encircling the wick in the shape of a flower. Brush another thin layer of glue on top of the five leaves, being careful not to cover the wick.



Herb Pot Candle

Create a warm and soothing atmosphere on your patio with these candles made entirely of natural materials. The terra-cotta pots are wrapped with raffia ribbon, which secures the leaves. Scented with lemon, sage, and bay, these candles add a refreshing aroma to any spring evening.





As Gifts

The way these candles are made allows for easy gift giving. From a sheet of sturdy paper, cut three rectangles approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and neatly write one candle scent on each. Glue the tags to small wooden sticks. Cut each stick until it is the correct height to be used as a flag in the terra-cotta pot. To insert the stick, it's important that the wax is not completely hardened, so you should create your flags ahead of time.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 3 small terra-cotta pots
- 3 waxed wicks
- Lemon, sage, and bay-scented oils
- 5 oz prepared green wax (enough to make all 3 candles)
- Lemon, sage, and bay leaves
- Raffia ribbon
- Modeling clay

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Scissors
- Needle



1 Melt $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of wax in a double boiler over low heat, stirring often. The wax should not get so hot that it forms bubbles. Add 5 drops of bay-scented oil and stir to disperse.



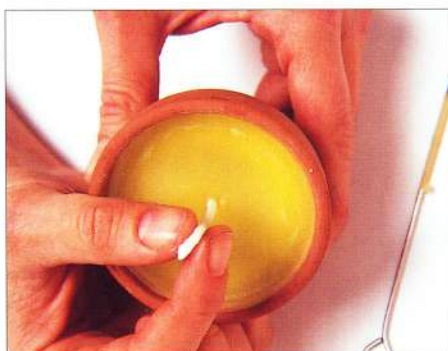
2 Cover the hole on the bottom of the terra-cotta pot with a ball of modeling clay to prevent the wax from leaking.



3 Pour a few drops of melted wax in the bottom of the pot and wait until it solidifies. This creates a strong layer upon which to pour the remaining wax. Fill the pot with the rest of the melted wax until it's approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the top.

HINT

Create a place to arrange your aromatic grass candles using other natural materials. Take a rattan or bamboo placemat, lay down a few tropical leaves, and you have a clever display.



4 When the wax is partially solid and has formed a dull patina on top, insert a needle to the bottom of the vase and insert the waxed wick. Allow to harden for several hours, then trim the wick to the desired height.



5 Place a bay leaf on the side of the vase and spray it with glue, then tie a raffia ribbon around the vase, making a bow over the leaf. Repeat this process for the lemon and sage candles.



Multicolored Cinnamon Candle

Many different layers and colors make up these classic candles, and they can be adapted to brighten any room of your house, from the kitchen to the office. Cinnamon saturates the room with its characteristically intense and warm fragrance.





As Gifts

Continue the layering theme to create the gift wrap for this candle. Wrap the candle in white tissue paper, then cover the package with a variety of brightly colored materials and colors, securing them in the center with orange string. Or cover the candle with tissue paper and tie varying lengths and colors of wool thread from the base to the top.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 1 oz turquoise wax
- 1 oz maroon wax
- 1 oz yellow wax
- 1 oz olive wax
- 1 oz army green wax
- 1 oz bottle green wax
- 1 oz brown wax
- 2 waxed wicks
- Cinnamon-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Scissors
- Needle
- Rigid plastic cup
- Shorter plastic mold



1 Melt turquoise wax in a double boiler over low heat, then add 3 or 4 drops of cinnamon-scented oil.



2 Make a hole in the bottom of the plastic cup and thread the wick through the bottom, making a knot to prevent the wax from leaking out. Hold the wick vertical by wrapping the other end around a needle supported on the cup's rim.



3 Pour the turquoise wax into the cup, creating a layer about 1 inch high. Allow to cool completely.



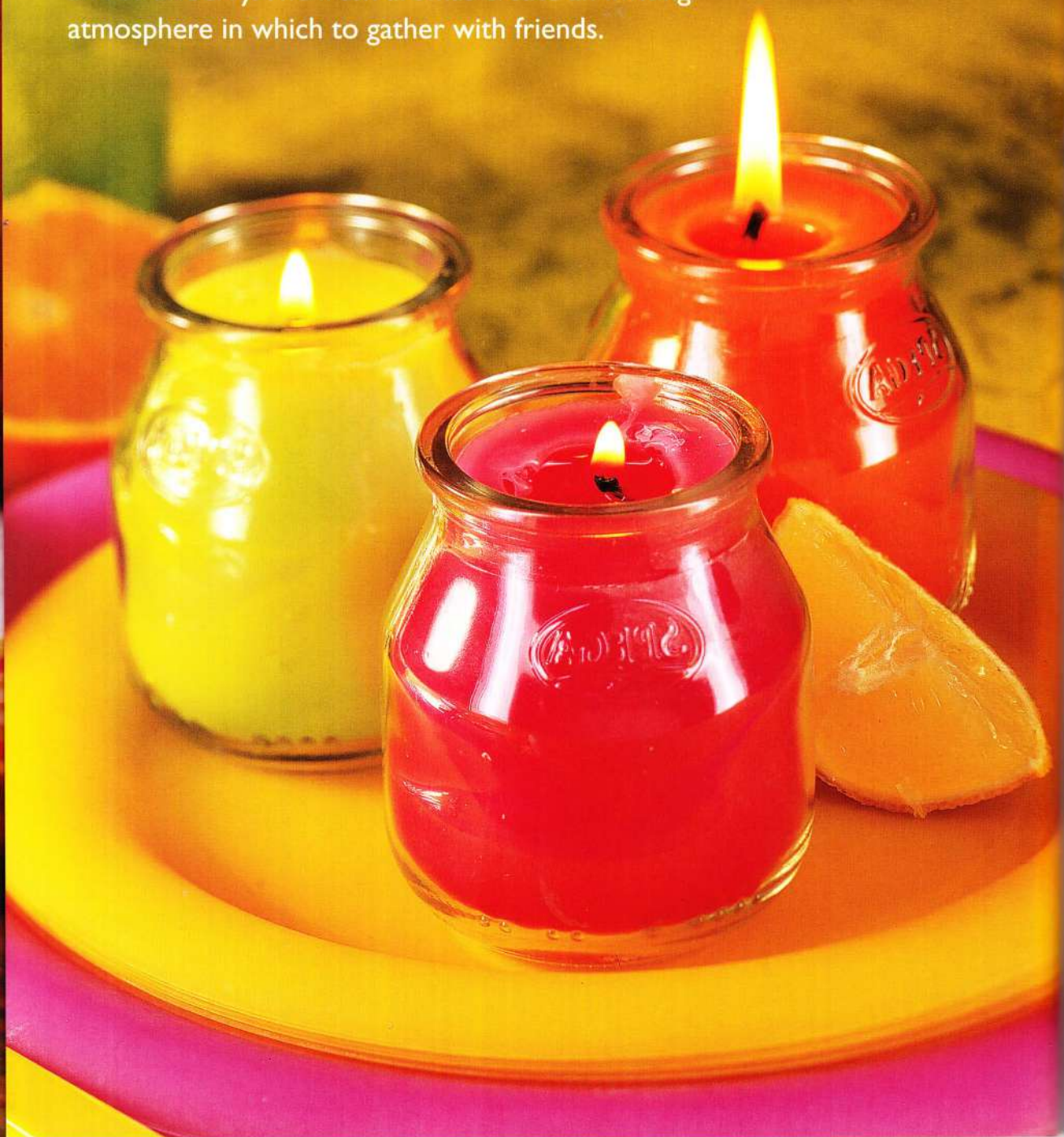
4 Repeat steps 1 and 3 for the remaining layers, pouring first the melted and scented yellow wax, then olive, army green, bottle green, brown, and, finally, maroon. Before pouring each layer, make sure the previous layer has cooled completely or the colors will run together.



5 When all the layers have cooled, trim the wick to the desired height. Gently press on the sides and bottom of the cup to remove the candle. To make the other candle, use a shorter mold and vary the colors to your liking.

Fruit Jar Candle

For a bright and modern kitchen, decorate with these fruity candles. The clear jars reveal the intensely colored wax, scented with orange, lemon, and strawberry. The fresh aromas create an inviting atmosphere in which to gather with friends.





An Alternative

For a child's birthday party, decorate these fruity candles with multicolored soft pompoms—you need to add only a drop of glue to each pom-pom to secure them to the jar. You can also use the candles as place-holders and party favors. (Be sure to tell each child's parents that you are sending them home with a candle to avoid glass breakage or a fire hazard.)

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 3 small glass jars
- 3 waxed wicks
- Strawberry, lemon, and orange-scented oils
- Prepared candle wax, 2 oz per candle
- Pink, yellow, and orange wax crayons

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Needle



1 Melt 2 ounces of wax in a double boiler over low heat, making sure it does not reach the boiling point. When the wax is completely melted, add 3 drops of strawberry-scented oil and stir carefully.



2 Add a piece of pink wax crayon to the melted wax, crumbling it with your fingers so it dissolves easily. Stir the wax until the pink crayon is melted and the color is consistent throughout.

HINT

If the wax begins to sink as it hardens, add more melted wax to the jar, repeating the process if necessary.



3 Pour the wax into a clear jar until it reaches the top; let cool for approximately 1 hour.



4 When the wax is partially solid, use a needle to pierce a hole to the bottom of the jar and insert the waxed wick. Allow to cool completely, then trim the wick to the desired height. Make the other candles by using yellow and orange wax crayons and adding lemon and orange-scented oils.



Cocoa Candle

The strong and sweet scent of this candle enhances a warm evening shared with friends. The vintage tin gives the candle a particularly appealing look, perfect for chocolate gourmets or anyone who loves a delicious fragrance.





An Alternative

You can also make this candle by filling the tin with "chocolate" squares. Pour brown wax into a plastic or metal tray about 1 to 1½ inches high and, once completely hardened, cut the wax into small squares. Fill the jar with the squares and insert a waxed wick through the center.

Another Idea

For white-chocolate lovers, create the candle using white or ivory-colored wax and then add a few drops of vanilla-scented oil.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Cocoa tin
- Brown candle wax
- Waxed wick
- Cocoa-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Scissors
- Needle



1 Melt the wax in a double boiler over low heat, stirring carefully to dissolve all the lumps. When the wax is completely melted, remove the pot from the heat and continue to stir.



2 Add 8 drops of cocoa-scented oil to the wax and stir to diffuse the scent throughout the pot.



3 Slowly pour the melted wax into the cocoa jar until it is approximately ½ inch from the top. Let it cool.



HINT

You can create the cocoa candle using uncolored wax and real chocolate bars: Melt the wax in a double boiler and slowly add small pieces of the chocolate. Add cocoa-scented oil to intensify the fragrance.



4 When the wax is partially solid and has formed a patina on its surface, pierce through its center with a needle until you reach the bottom of the jar.



5 Insert a waxed wick through the hole, pushing until it touches the bottom, making sure it is straight. Allow to cool completely and cut the wick to the desired height.

Soup Can Candle

Perfect for the modern kitchen, these soup can candles are inspired by the pop art of Andy Warhol. The paprika-scented oil adds a unique touch, creating a warm and slightly spicy atmosphere.





An Alternative

Create a variety of canned candles for every room of your home. Warm up snack time with a chocolate candle inside a cookie tin. With a little imagination, you can recycle a variety of aluminum tins to use for scented candles—even old coffee cans and sardine tins can prove useful.

How, When, Where

These candles are ideal for decorating a home with modern style, and pop-art lovers especially appreciate them. With their spicy scent, they are perfect for lighting a dinner party with friends.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Soup can
- Red waxed wick
- 7 oz yellow wax
- Liquid red coloring
- Paprika-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Small glass bowl
- Dishcloth
- Spoon
- 2 skewers
- Scissors
- Needle



HINT

If the wick folds over after it has been inserted in the hole, it means the wax is still too warm. Remove the wick and bend it until it is completely straight. Place the candle in the freezer for a few seconds until it solidifies further.



1 Using a dishcloth and warm water, carefully remove any food residue from the inside of the emptied can. Be careful not to get the label wet, as it can tear and possibly come off the can. Turn the can upside down to dry.



2 Melt yellow wax in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly, then add a few drops of red food coloring and 3 drops of paprika-scented oil.



3 Pour the melted wax into the soup can, filling it until it is 1½ inches from the top. When the wax is partially solid, use a needle to pierce through its center.



4 Insert the wick through the hole, and cross two skewers on top of the can, with the wick's vertical position supported by the sticks' center angle. Fill the can with wax until it reaches the rim. Let cool completely, then trim the wick to the desired height.

Seashell Can Candle

Playing off the sea's natural colors, these blue candles contrast beautifully with the silver can in which they are contained.

A blue cord is wrapped around the can, and a mother-of-pearl shell attached, giving the candle an elegant touch. Scented with the essence of maritime pine, this candle is a clean and refreshing addition to any room.





As Gifts

Use a piece of slightly crumpled tissue paper or rice paper to package this candle: Wrap the can inside the paper, tying the top with a piece of blue ribbon. Thread a couple of seashells on the ribbon for a finishing touch.

How, When, Where

The blue color, inviting meditation and physical regeneration, makes this the perfect bathroom candle. Place the candle on the edge of the bathtub to give your bath a pleasant glow. Bath salts with a sea-inspired scent complete the atmosphere.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 10 oz opaque blue wax
- Cylindrical can with silver finish
- Maritime pine oil
- Approximately 25 inches blue cord
- Mother-of-pearl shell

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Skewer
- Glue



1 Melt the blue wax in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly, and add a few drops of maritime pine oil.



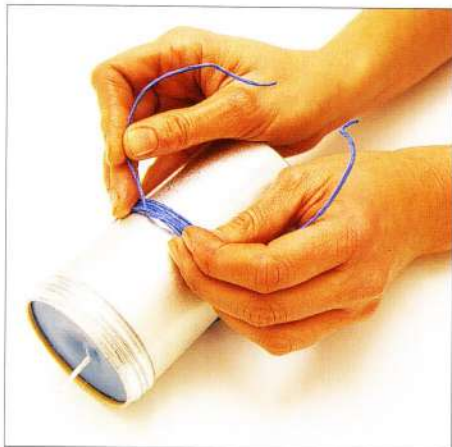
2 Insert a waxed wick into the center of the can, fastening its tip around a skewer balanced on the can's rim.



3 Pour the melted wax into the can, being careful not to bump the wick from the center. Let cool completely.

HINT

Cylindrical silver cans can be found in craft centers. You can also use any silver tins you find around your home, such as those that sometimes hold elegant bath products. Simply wash out any leftover residue and remove the labels.



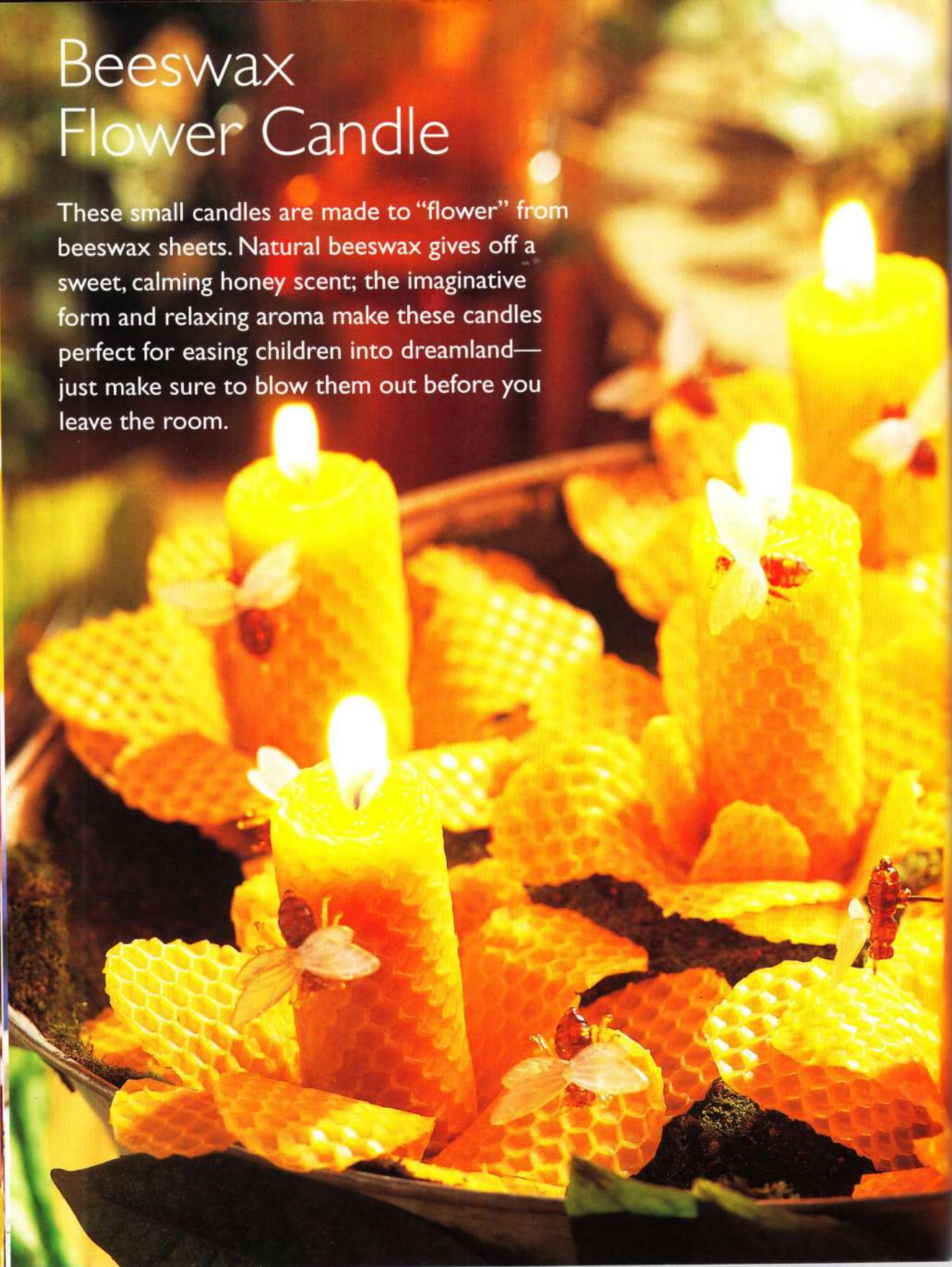
4 Wrap the blue cord around the can several times, keeping the cord in the middle, then tie the loose ends in a knot.



5 Glue the mother-of-pearl shell to the cord's knot, pressing down for a few seconds to secure it.

Beeswax Flower Candle

These small candles are made to “flower” from beeswax sheets. Natural beeswax gives off a sweet, calming honey scent; the imaginative form and relaxing aroma make these candles perfect for easing children into dreamland—just make sure to blow them out before you leave the room.





An Alternative

Arrange six small beeswax votives in a wicker basket with a flat base and attach a few resin bees to the candles and around the edge of the basket. You will then have a wonderful arrangement to place on a family room table where everyone can enjoy its pleasant scent.

How, When, Where

Liven up a dinner party by making a small candle for each guest. Write each guest's name on parchment paper, glue the tag to the candle's stalk, and place one at each setting.

To Make the Candles

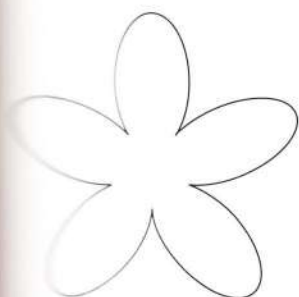
Materials

- 7 natural beeswax sheets
- Waxed wicks
- 1 bag of resin bees with pins

Equipment

- Craft knife
- Pen or pencil
- Sheet of drawing paper
- Scissors

You can usually find these at craft centers in the candle or flower section.



Pattern for flower

HINT

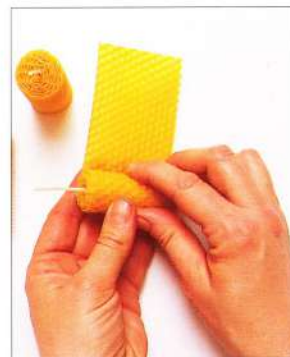
Beeswax candles can attract insects so it's best not to use them while dining out on your patio or near your garden.



1 Take three sheets of beeswax, place them on top of one another, and use a knife to cut them in half lengthwise. You will then have six equal-sized wax strips.



2 Place a wax strip on a clean work area and lay a wick along one edge, leaving 1 to 1½ inches of the wick's tip overhanging. Slowly begin to roll the wax around the wick.



3 Roll the strip until you reach the other side and fasten the edge by applying slight pressure with your fingertips. Prepare six more candles using these steps.



4 Draw a five-petaled flower outline on a piece of paper to use as a stencil. You will need twelve flowers total, so your outline should be sized to cut three flowers from each of the four remaining beeswax sheets.



5 Take two beeswax flowers and lay one on top of the other, staggering the petals so there are no spaces between. Lightly press them together in the center. Gently fasten the flowers to the candle's base.



6 Mold the petals with your fingers so they are slightly raised around the base. Decorate each of the candles with the resin bees.

Beeswax Sunflower Candle

These glass "sunflowers" are lovely accompaniments to a centerpiece of real sunflowers. The clear gel allows a glimpse into the beeswax base, while bees buzz atop the petals. The sweet beeswax fragrance is further enhanced by the clean, citrus scent of ginestra.





An Alternative

You can also make several small candles with bees enclosed in the gel. Fill a small round glass with clear gel wax, then insert the wick and the bees. Add another bee and a small piece of beeswax to the edge of the glass for decoration.

As Gifts

To wrap one of these sunflowers, lay down a sheet of clear cellophane and cover with a circle of yellow tissue paper. Place a wineglass on top of the circle, and lift the paper up around the glass. Tie with a piece of yellow ribbon, and glue a bee to the package as an extra touch.

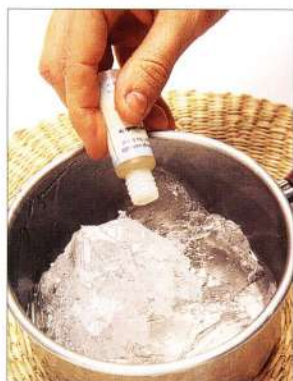
To Make the Candles

Materials

- Wineglass
- Cognac glass
- 7 oz clear gel wax
- Ginestra-scented oil
- Beeswax sheet
- 2 craft beehives
- 4 craft bees
- 2 waxed wicks

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Skewer
- Craft knife
- Sheet of drawing paper
- Scissors
- Pen or pencil



1 Cube the gel wax and add a few drops of ginestra-scented oil, then melt in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly.



2 Pour 1 to 1½ inches of melted wax into the wineglass, then insert the beehive base, pushing it toward the bottom of the glass with a skewer. Fill the glass with melted wax.



3 Before the wax hardens completely, insert the wick, centering it above the beehive base. Allow it to solidify.



Pattern for sunflower petals

HINT

After cutting the petals, do not handle them too much as your body heat can soften and deform the wax. If this happens, place the beeswax in the refrigerator for a few minutes.



4 Using the pattern, cut out two differently sized paper stencils. Then place the outlines on the beeswax sheets and cut out twenty petals: ten of each size.



5 Press the wax petals against the glass, slightly overlapping them, alternating the two sizes, then shape the petals with your fingers.



6 Trim the wire on each of the bees to approximately 1 inch, then place two of the bees on different petals. Create the cognac glass sunflower in the same way.

Beeswax Calla Lily Candle

Beeswax sheets are magically transformed into a bouquet of calla lily candles. The warm honey fragrance makes these the perfect candles to light a romantic dinner or sweeten a Sunday breakfast.





As Gifts

For an elegant and heart-felt gift, wrap one of these candles in florist's paper, just as you would a real flower. Wrap red raffia around the stem and add a red bow to the corner for the final touch.

How, When, Where

Invite your friends to an afternoon tea. The relaxing honey fragrance from the calla lily bouquet will create a relaxing ambiance for long conversation while you serve honey-flavored scones to delight the tastebuds.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 3 beeswax sheets
- 4 wooden dowels approximately 12 inches long
- Waxed wicks
- Green florist's tape

Equipment

- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Sheet of drawing paper
- Pen or pencil



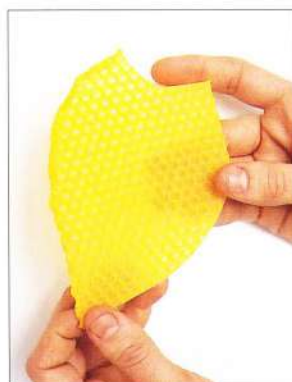
1 Cut a strip of beeswax, approximately 5×2 inches, from one of the sheets, then lay a 3-inch wick along one edge, leaving 1 inch of the wick overhanging.



2 Lay a wooden dowel alongside the wick, and then tightly roll the beeswax to fully enclose the dowel and the wick.



3 Use the patterns, and cut four calla lily petals from the beeswax sheets.



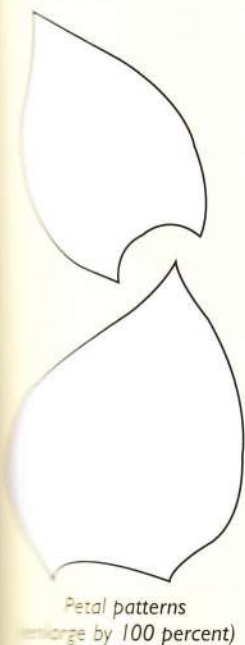
4 Choose one, and soften the wax with your fingers, gently pressing just inside the edge of the petal to create a slight thickness around the border.



5 Wrap the petal's base around the beeswax rod you made in step 2, applying pressure with your fingers to attach it.

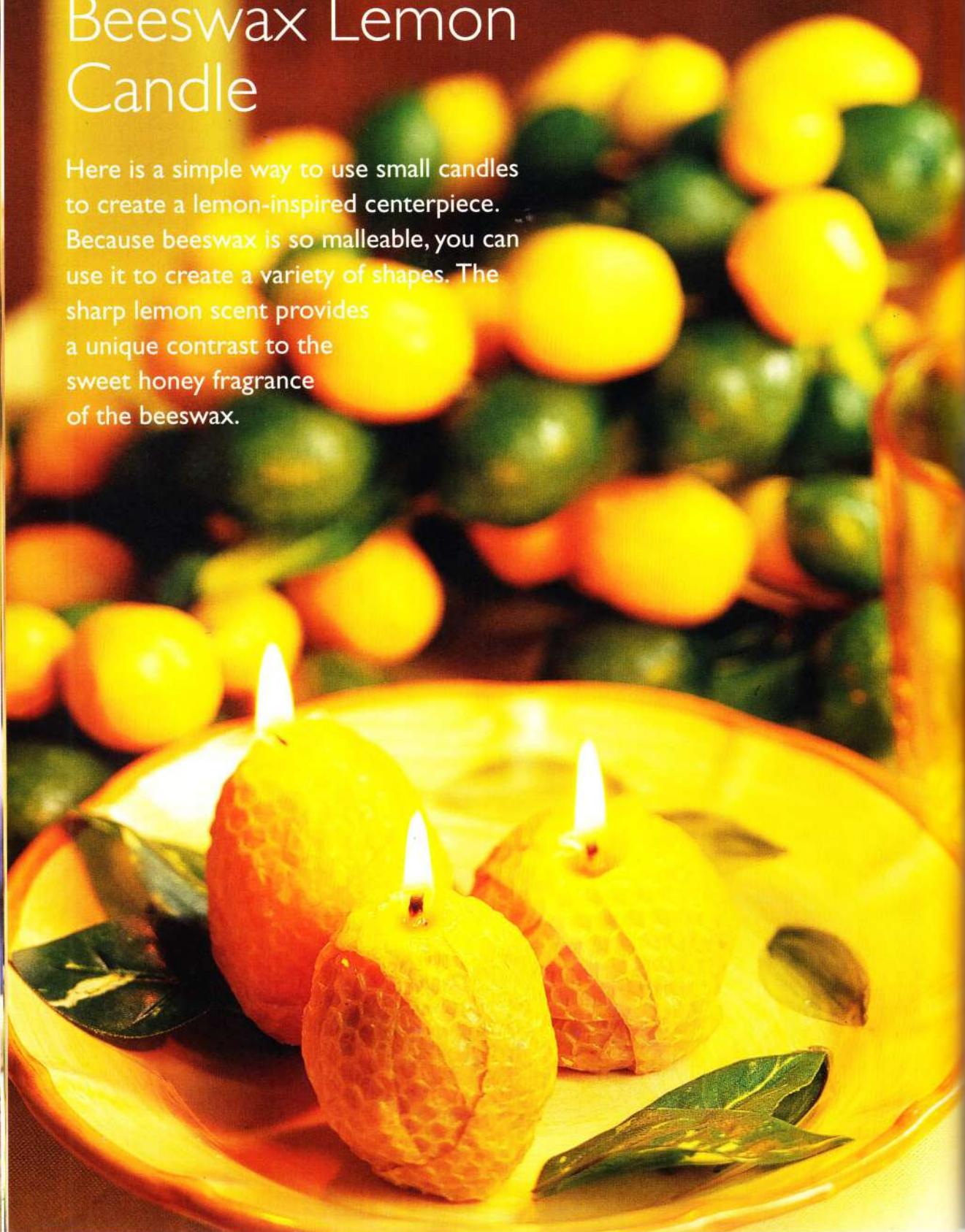


6 Wrap green florist's tape around the base of the wax pistil and petal and down the entire stem; lightly moisten at the base to fasten. Repeat this process to make three more candles.



Beeswax Lemon Candle

Here is a simple way to use small candles to create a lemon-inspired centerpiece. Because beeswax is so malleable, you can use it to create a variety of shapes. The sharp lemon scent provides a unique contrast to the sweet honey fragrance of the beeswax.



5 Attach additional slightly heated strips to the form until you achieve the size and shape of a lemon. Repeat the process to create two more lemons. Garnish your centerpiece with artificial leaves.



3 Cut several wax strips a little wider than 1 inch each. Wrap the strips around the wick in irregular patterns until you have created an oval shape.



2 Lay a waxed wick along the long edge of the sheet and roll the wax until the wick is completely enclosed.



1 Using the knife, cut a strip of beeswax from the sheet approximately 2 inches long.



To Make the Candles

An Alternative

Create any kind of fruit you like using beeswax. You can make a pear by first molding the beeswax into an oval shape, then covering it with additional strips so it is thicker at the bottom and narrows to a "stem" at the top. Use a similar process to create an apple, adding a beeswax leaf at the top.



Add a beeswax fruit plate to a dinner with friends: Create several small beeswax fruit candles and place them on a decorative plate to use as a centerpiece. The warm candle glow and sweet honey fragrance create an inviting atmosphere.

How, When, Where

HINT

To make wrapping the wax strips easier, use your fingers to slightly heat the wax until it is soft and flexible.

- Materials**
- Beeswax sheets
 - 3 waxed wicks
 - Artificial leaves
- Equipment**
- Scissors
 - Matches or lighter

Tea Time Candle

Unique conversation pieces, these candles will brighten the 5 o'clock hour, traditional tea time. A clear glass is turned into a cup of tea with a tea bag, a dried orange slice, and honey-scented wax. The wafers are made with beeswax and yellow and brown wax sheets, layered to create a gourmet delicacy for the eyes and nose.





An Alternative

Make several small dessert candles using a base of clear gel wax. Use red and orange coloring for strawberry and apricot sweets, and green to create a pistachio tart. You can use wax crayons or liquid colors depending on the desired effect. Place them in waxed paper holders for an even more realistic effect.

Another Idea

Color the clear gel wax depending on your preferred flavor of tea. For example, if you like mint, color the wax green and add mint-scented oil, then garnish with a mint tea bag and dried lemon slice. For hibiscus tea, color the wax red and garnish with cloves.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Glass tea cup
- Tea bag
- 7 oz clear gel wax
- Orange coloring
- 2 white waxed wicks
- Honey-scented oil
- Dried orange slice
- Beeswax sheet
- Yellow and brown wax sheets

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Cotton cloth
- Cotton ball
- Rubbing alcohol
- Spoon
- Craft knife
- Needle



1 Wash the inside of the glass cup using warm water and a damp cloth, then wipe the outside with a cotton ball dipped in rubbing alcohol. Insert a tea bag, making sure the tag hangs outside the cup.



2 Break the gel wax into small cubes and place them in a small pot. Add a few drops of honey-scented oil and orange coloring, then melt the wax in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly.



3 Slowly pour the wax into the clean glass without disturbing the tea bag. Let cool until it is semisolid.



4 Before the wax is completely solid, add the dried orange slice to the top. Make a hole with a needle through the center of the orange to the bottom of the glass and insert the waxed wick. Trim the wick to the desired height. Let the wax harden completely.



5 For the wafers, use a knife to cut a few strips of beeswax approximately $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1$ inches.



6 Cut identical strips of wax from the brown and yellow sheets. Layer the three kinds of wax, alternating colors. Pierce a small hole at each end of the wafer and insert a short wick in each.

HINT

To blend the wafer's colors together and create a more realistic look, hold a heated knife blade along the edges to melt the wax.

Frozen Treat Candle

These candles, inspired by 1950s ice cream parlors, are made with a variety of colorful waxes. Thanks to the strawberry and chocolate-scented oils, these candles give off a sweet and intense fragrance. The ice cream is decorated with details like a plastic spoon and a beeswax biscotti cookie.





An Alternative

Don't limit yourself to only ice cream desserts; why not make a decorative Italian ice? Break the wax gel into small pieces, then color it green and add mint-scented oil. Carefully place the gel in a shallow dish and add a straw and a couple of mint leaves to complete the look.

How, When, Where

Perfect for decorating a summer table while relaxing with friends, these frozen candles are sure to delight both adults and children. They can release a fun strawberry and chocolate scent during playtime or during an indoor picnic or ice cream party.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Glass ice cream dish
- White candle with red surface
- 2 oz paraffin wax granules
- Yellow coloring tablet
- White waxed wick
- Beeswax sheet
- Strawberry, vanilla, and chocolate-scented oils
- Paper doilies for display
- Plastic spoon

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Craft knife
- Fork
- Needle

HINT

To make chocolate ice cream, begin with white wax and create varying shades of brown scented with chocolate oil; for the cream, add a small dollop of white wax.

For fruit sherbet, begin with white wax, then make green and fuchsia-colored "ice." Add a biscotti straw made from beeswax.



1 Use the knife to cut the red and white candle into thin disks and scatter a few pieces in the bottom of an ice cream dish.



2 In a double boiler, melt the paraffin wax granules over low heat and add one-fourth of the yellow coloring tablet. Stirring constantly, add a few drops of strawberry-scented oil.



3 Pour the yellow wax into the ice cream dish, on top of the red and white disks, until you are about 1/2 inch from the top.



4 Next, melt the rest of the red and white disks over low heat and add a few drops of strawberry-scented oil. When the wax is partially solid, mash it with a fork to create a foamy texture.



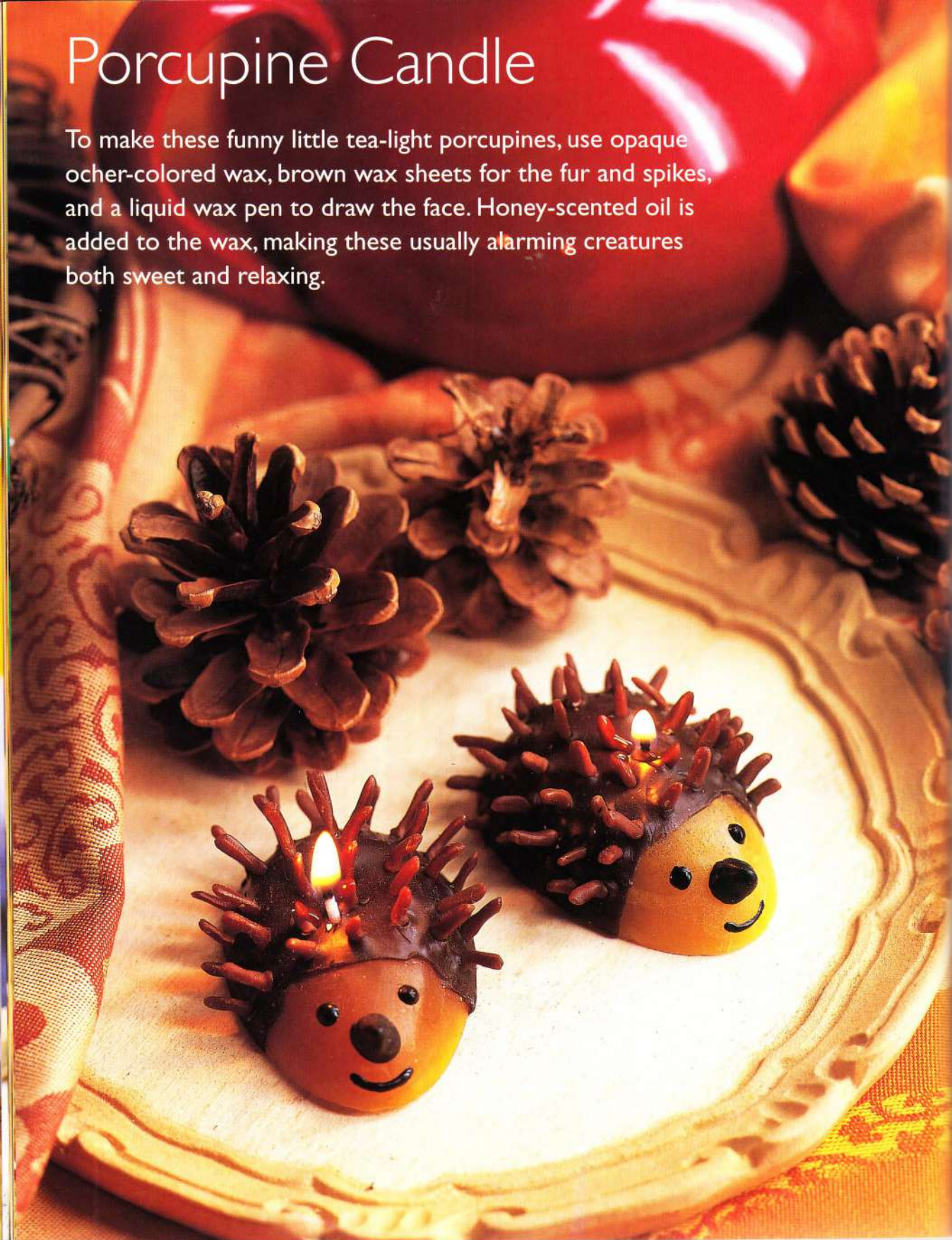
5 With the fork, carefully lay some of the pink wax on top to create the first "ice" layer. Allow it to harden, then add two more ice layers: one rose and one white. For the rose layer, melt four more red and white disks into the pink wax, and mash again with a fork when partially solid. Repeat step 4 using white wax for the third ice layer.



6 Use a needle to pierce through the center of the candle and insert the wick. Make a biscotti cookie by cutting a triangle of beeswax and affixing it to the candle. Add other decorations as desired.

Porcupine Candle

To make these funny little tea-light porcupines, use opaque ocher-colored wax, brown wax sheets for the fur and spikes, and a liquid wax pen to draw the face. Honey-scented oil is added to the wax, making these usually alarming creatures both sweet and relaxing.





As Gifts

Present these little porcupines in a package decorated with the warm tones of autumn. Cover the bottom of a wicker basket with a square of unbleached linen, then place two of the porcupine tea lights side by side. Wrap the basket in a square of florist's paper and tie it with a raffia ribbon threaded through a small pinecone.

Another Idea

Create a variety of small candles in animal forms for your children's rooms, scented with vanilla, honey, chocolate, or any other delectable flavor. Create a ladybug using opaque red wax and black and red wax sheets. Or, for a bumblebee, use yellow and black wax strips.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Opaque white wax, 2 oz per candle
- Waxed wicks
- Other coloring
- Honey-scented oil
- Brown wax sheet
- Dark brown liquid wax pen

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Needle
- Egg-shaped plastic molds
- Scissors



1 Place the wax in a small pot and add 5 drops of honey-scented oil and a few fragments of other coloring. Melt in a double boiler over low heat, stirring often.



2 Pour the wax into egg-shaped molds, and allow it to cool completely.



3 When the wax is hard, remove it by lightly pressing on the back of the mold.

HINT

To perfectly form the brown wax sheet around the other candle, heat the wax with a hair dryer and mold it with your hands until it fits the curves of the oval.



4 Cover two-thirds of the candle with a brown wax sheet, leaving the narrow end uncovered, as shown. Attach the sheet by pressing firmly over the oval, then trim the excess brown wax.



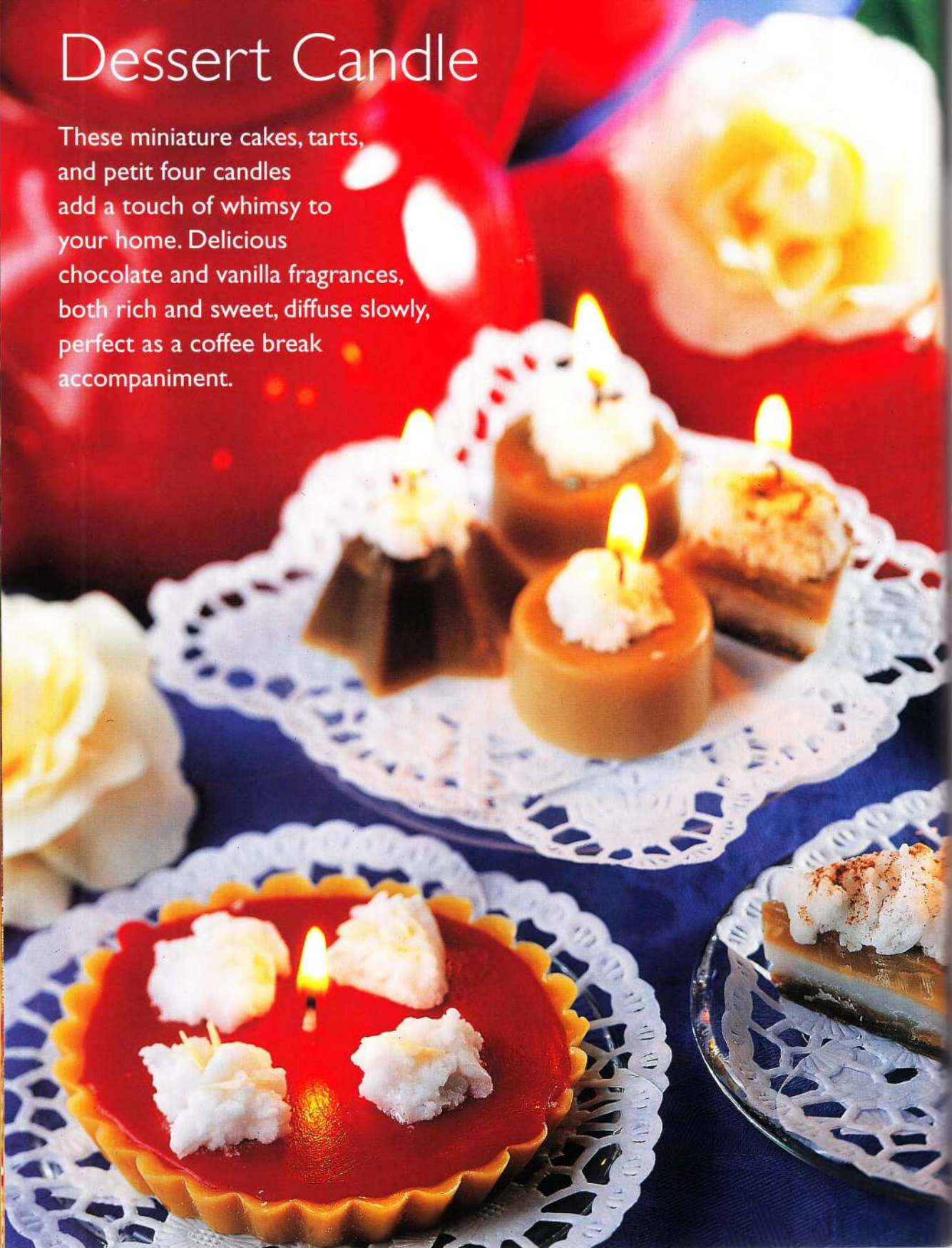
5 From the brown wax scraps, make a nose and spikes for the porcupine, attaching the pieces by softening and shaping the wax with your fingers. Use the liquid wax pen to draw eyes and a mouth for the face.



6 Once the wax has completely hardened, pierce the center of the back with a needle and insert a short wick.

Dessert Candle

These miniature cakes, tarts, and petit four candles add a touch of whimsy to your home. Delicious chocolate and vanilla fragrances, both rich and sweet, diffuse slowly, perfect as a coffee break accompaniment.





An Alternative

For those who love the rich aroma of coffee, create a cafe-au-lait-inspired candle. Pour caramel-colored wax blended with coffee-scented oil in a mug and insert a wick. For a realistic effect, add a dollop of white wax "cream." To present the candle as a gift, wrap it in florist's paper with a few coffee beans scattered inside. Wrap the cup in the paper, tie with a raffia ribbon, and add a small sack of coffee beans.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 10 1/2 oz white wax
- Red and brown wax crayons
- Yellow liquid coloring
- Waxed wicks
- Chocolate and vanilla-scented oils
- Paper doilies
- Cocoa powder
- Sugar

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Craft knife
- Tea-light candle molds
- Flat dish
- Needle
- Fork
- Small pie tin



1 Melt the white wax in a double boiler over low heat, then separate it into six roughly equal parts. Color the first part with a red wax crayon, another two with brown, and a third part yellow. Leave the last two parts white. Add 3 or 4 drops of vanilla-scented oil to the yellow and white waxes. Use chocolate-scented oil for the red and brown waxes.



2 Pour 1/8 inch of brown wax into a flat dish and allow it to cool, and then add a layer of white wax, again allowing it to cool completely. For the third layer, use beige wax, made by mixing the brown and white waxes. When this layer is partially solid, score the surface where you want to cut the slices, and pierce each slice's center with a needle. Insert wicks. When the wax is solid, remove the "cake" from the plate and cut into slices.

HINT

To easily remove the candle from the pie tin, add a few drops of oil to the tin and swab it with a cotton ball before pouring the wax. After the wax has hardened, you will have no trouble removing the candle.



3 Make the petit fours using the brown and beige waxes, layering them in tea-light candle molds. Before the wax hardens, pierce the centers with a needle and insert the wicks. Remove the candles from the molds after they have hardened.



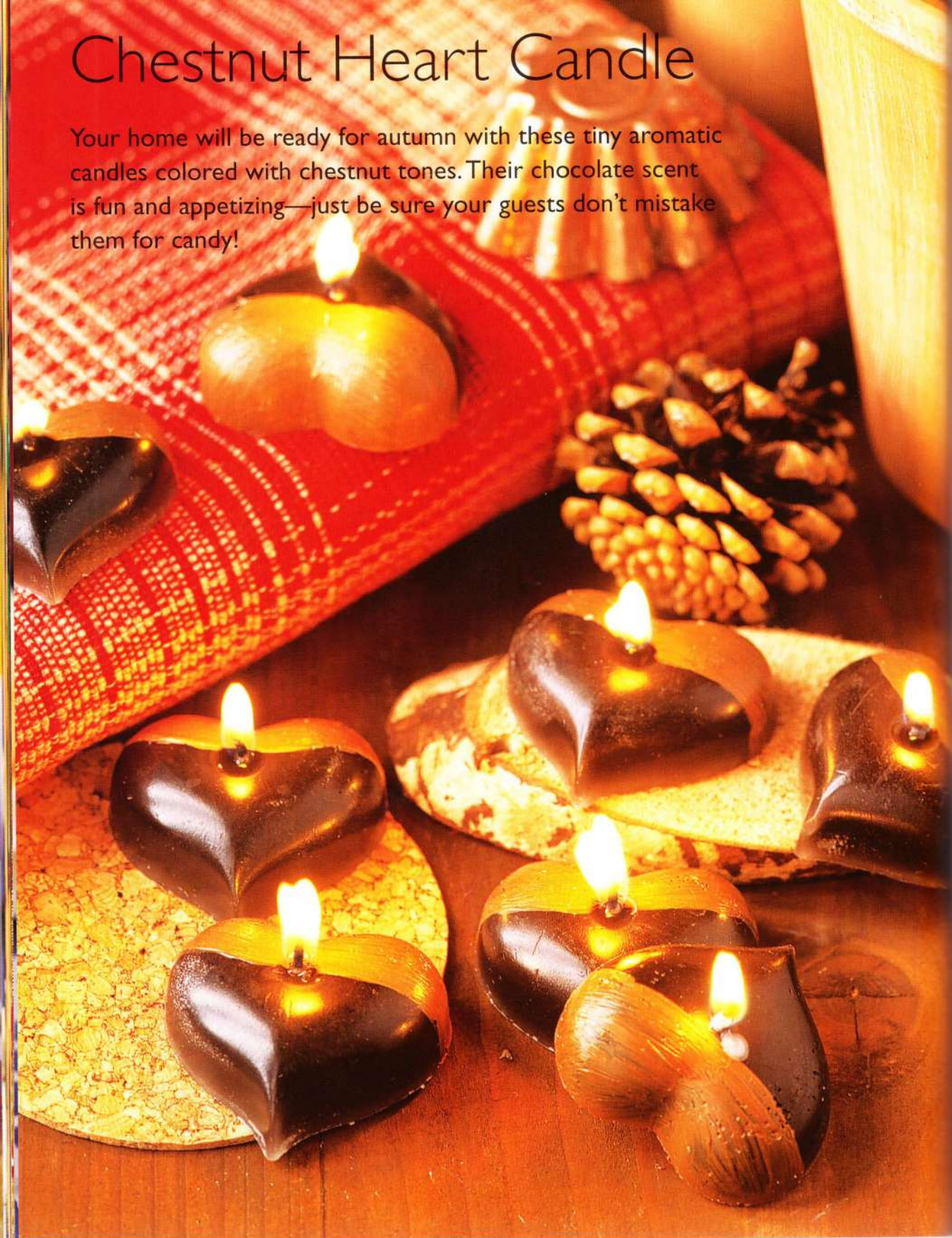
4 To make the tart, pour a thin layer of yellow wax into a small pie tin until it is just below the top. Let it cool, then add another thin layer of red wax on top of the yellow. Insert a wick and remove from the mold when hardened.



5 Heat the white wax in a double boiler. Before it has completely melted, mash it with a fork to create a foamy texture. Add dollops of white wax to each of the desserts. Sprinkle with real cocoa powder and sugar to garnish.

Chestnut Heart Candle

Your home will be ready for autumn with these tiny aromatic candles colored with chestnut tones. Their chocolate scent is fun and appetizing—just be sure your guests don't mistake them for candy!





As Gifts

Here is a simple but charming way to present these unique tea lights. Fill a wicker basket with fresh moss and arrange the chestnut hearts on top. Add a few small acorns or pinecones to continue the autumn theme.

How, When, Where

These candles make a beautiful centerpiece for an autumn dinner party. Fill a wide, clear bowl with water and float five of the chestnut heart candles on the water. Add a few red and yellow fabric leaves to drift among the candles.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- White wax, 1 oz per candle
- Dark brown liquid coloring
- Waxed wicks
- Chocolate-scented oil
- Light brown liquid wax pen

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Plastic heart molds
- Needle
- Scissors
- Flat paintbrush
- Matches



1 Melt the white wax in a double boiler over low heat, then add 5 drops of brown coloring and 3 drops of chocolate-scented oil.



2 Pour the wax into plastic heart molds and let cool.



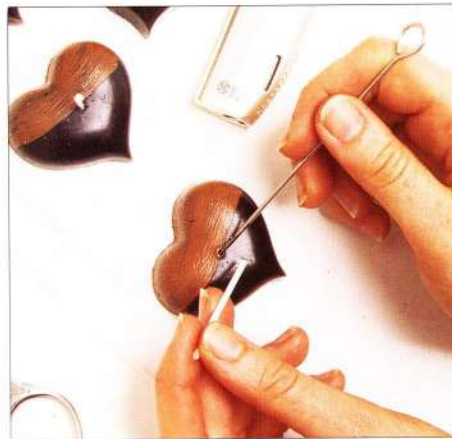
3 When the wax is completely solid, remove the candles by applying light pressure to the molds.

HINT

To fix a smeared paint job, wait until the top half of the candle is dry. Put a few drops of liquid wax onto a piece of plastic wrap and dip the paintbrush into the wax. Carefully paint over the smeared portion, repeating if necessary after it dries.



4 With a light brown liquid wax pen, add a few drops of wax to the top half of each heart. Use a flat paintbrush to spread the wax with long, smooth strokes. Let dry.



5 Heat the tip of a needle with a match, then pierce the candle through its center and insert the waxed wick. Trim to desired height.

Cannoli Candle

Why not warm up a friendly gathering with these unique candles shaped like cannolis? These delectable desserts are made with colorful yellow wax and decorated with cream and candy sprinkles, also made of wax. Burning slowly, these candles release a warm and sweet vanilla scent.



Ladybug Candle

Ladybugs are thought to bring happiness and fortune wherever they alight—why not light your house with several of these red and black candles to bring good luck? The strawberry-scented wax provides a sweet way to add fragrance to your children's playroom, even if the candles aren't lit.





As Gifts

Place six cannoli candles on a doily and wrap in a pastry box as if they came straight from the bakery. What a surprise to find these sweet candles inside. Doilies can also be used in your home as candleholders. For an extra touch, add a few drops of vanilla-scented oil to the paper.

Another Idea

Create a variety of tiny dessert candles. To create layered pastries, for example, use several small squares of beeswax. Between each square, add a dollop of white wax "cream" and continue the layers until you reach the desired height. Use this same technique to make cookie candles and other treats.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 1 1/4 oz wax flakes
- Vanilla-scented oil
- Waxed wicks
- Thin cardboard
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic film canister or other holder
- Red, green, yellow, and brown wax
- Yellow coloring

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Fork
- Scissors
- Knife
- Heat-resistant adhesive tape
- Needle



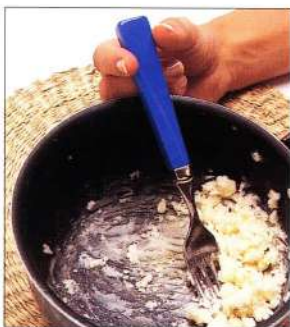
1 Take two-thirds of the wax and add 5 drops of vanilla-scented oil and 4 drops of yellow coloring, then melt in a double boiler over low heat.



2 Make a rolled-up cardboard tube that's about 2 1/2 inches long and hold it closed with heat-resistant adhesive tape. Cover the inside and one end with a strip of aluminum foil, then insert the tube partially into a plastic film canister or other suitable holder.



3 Pour the yellow wax into the tube, filling it until it is about 1/2 inch from the top. Let partially solidify, then remove the candle from the mold.



4 Melt the remaining wax, adding a few drops of vanilla-scented oil and 1 drop of yellow coloring. Let the wax cool slightly and mash it with a fork to create a creamy texture.



5 Using the fork, add "cream" to each end of the cannoli, pressing lightly to attach. Let cool completely.



6 Use a needle to pierce the center of the cannoli and insert the waxed wick. Decorate with candy sprinkles made from bits of red, green, yellow, and brown wax rolled into tiny balls.

HINT

Another way to make the cannoli body, instead of using melted wax, is to use beeswax sheets. Cut a strip from the beeswax about 3 1/2 x 2 1/2 inches, then roll it in the same way as if you were making a real cannoli.



As Gifts

A ladybug candle makes a novel and delightful gift. Place the ladybug on a large fabric leaf and wrap it in a piece of transparent cellophane. Tie the package with a thin red ribbon, knotting a twig with fabric leaves in the bow.

How, When, Where

Why not use these simple, fun ladybugs as place-holders for your child's birthday party? Place each ladybug on a leaf of green construction paper with a guest's name on it. Float two or three ladybugs in a bowl of water as a centerpiece.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- White wax granules, 2 ½ oz per candle
- Black coloring
- Red and black wax sheets
- Waxed wicks
- Strawberry-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Round mold
- Scissors



1 Melt the white wax granules in a double boiler over low heat. Add a few drops of black coloring and 5 drops of strawberry-scented oil.



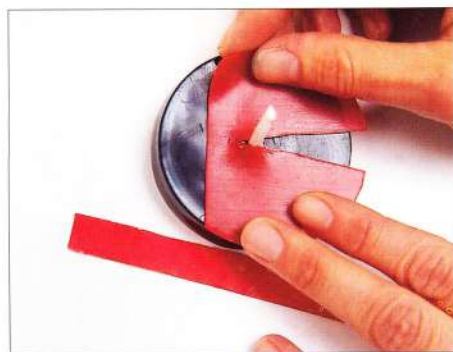
2 Pour the melted black wax into a round mold, forming a layer about 1 to 1 ½ inches high. Let cool until the wax has partially hardened.



3 Before the wax solidifies, insert a measured waxed wick. Allow to cool completely, then remove the candle from the mold.

HINT

To attach the small circles and antennae to the ladybug, heat them slightly between your hands and affix them by applying light pressure with your fingers. To complete the project, heat the finished candle with a hair dryer held at least 8 inches away.



4 From the red wax sheet, cut a circle slightly larger than the diameter of the black candle. Remove a section from the edge about ½ inch wide and, on the opposite side, cut out a triangular wedge, the point of which will be about ½ inch from the first cut. Place the red "wings" on the body, fitting the point of the triangle around the wick, and folding the sides down over the candle.



5 From the black wax sheet, cut a few small circles and 2-inch-long strips to use as antennae. Place these wax decorations on the ladybug by applying light pressure with your fingers. Once attached, curl the ends of the antennae slightly.

Friendly Animal Candle

These mouse, chick, cat, and elephant candles can all be made using a simple flat mold and orange and blue shades of wax. Using thin wax pieces, you can easily create the face and body details, making festive decorations for a child's party. When lit, the candles release sweet orange and peach scents.



An Alternative

Use shades of pastel blue, white, and yellow to create this daisy candle scented with chamomile. Create thin films of white and yellow wax and carve out petals and flower centers from the wax. Attach the petals to a pastel blue cylindrical candle for a simple way to enhance any room.

How, When, Where

You can use essential oils to help your child relax at the end of a long day. For an energetic child, scent the candle with chamomile and diffuse a bowl of water scented with one drop each of chamomile, lavender, and lemon into the air. If your child has a stomachache, add dill-scented oil to either the candle or the water.

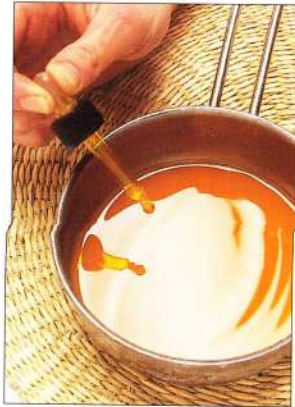
To Make the Candles

Materials

- 1 3/4 oz white wax granules
- Orange, blue, and red coloring
- 2 orange and 2 pastel blue cylindrical candles
- Orange and peach-scented oils

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Shallow tin mold
- Lighter
- Black felt-tipped marker
- Knife



1 Melt the wax granules in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly. Add 5 drops of orange-scented oil and a few drops of orange coloring.



2 Pour the melted wax into a shallow tin, creating a thin layer of wax. Allow to cool completely.



3 With a knife, carve out the ears and tail for the cat. Make separate layers of red and white waxes from which to cut the nose and mouth.

HINT

Create a blue chick with a yellow beak and feet. For the elephant, make a blue trunk and ears and white tusks. For the mouse, make orange ears and a blue nose.



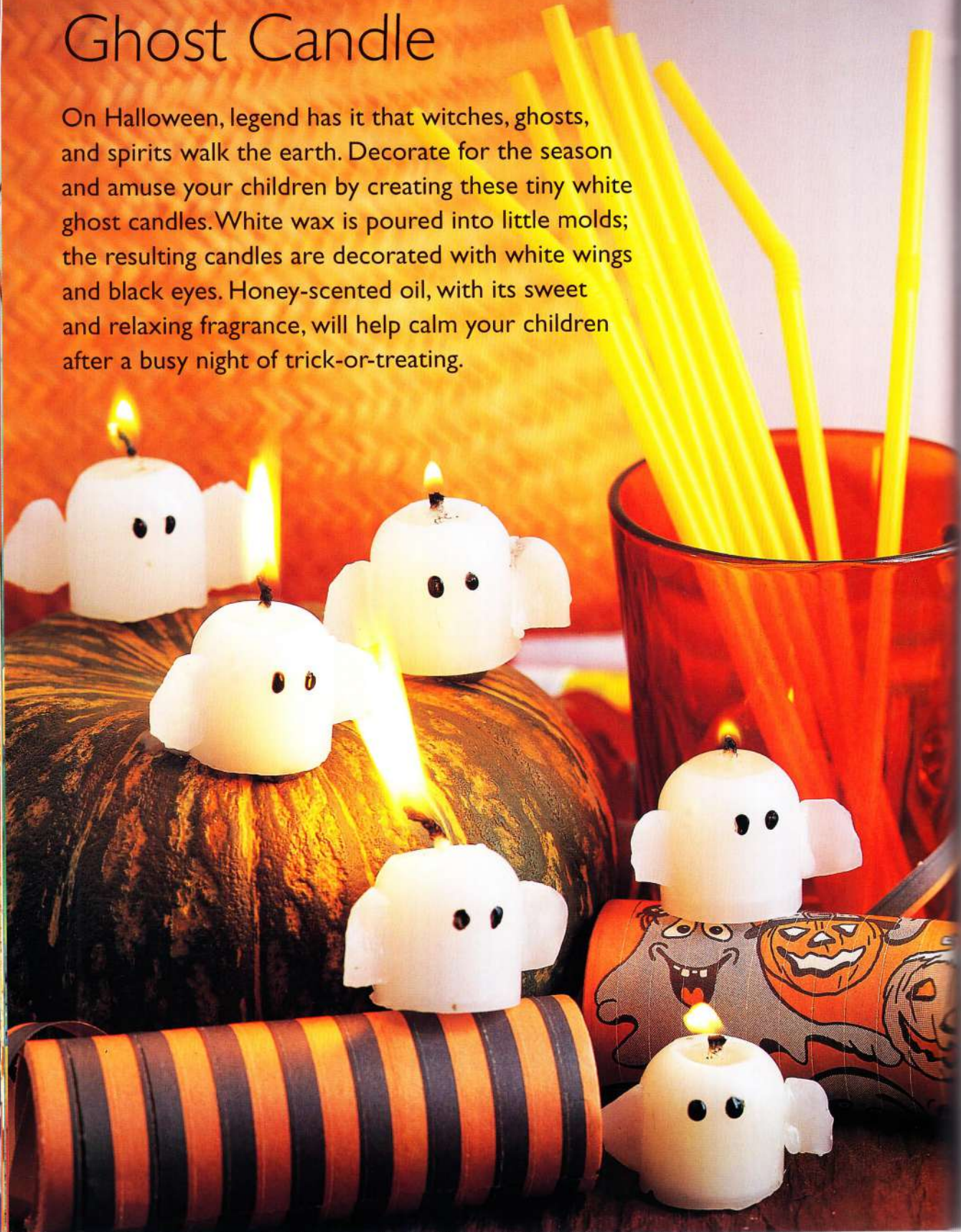
4 Use a lighter to slightly heat the edge of the wax ears and tails. Attach by applying light pressure with your fingertips. Add the mouth and nose in the same way.



5 Draw the eyes and whiskers of the cat on the candle using a black felt-tipped marker. Follow the same process to create an orange mouse and a blue peach-scented chick and elephant.

Ghost Candle

On Halloween, legend has it that witches, ghosts, and spirits walk the earth. Decorate for the season and amuse your children by creating these tiny white ghost candles. White wax is poured into little molds; the resulting candles are decorated with white wings and black eyes. Honey-scented oil, with its sweet and relaxing fragrance, will help calm your children after a busy night of trick-or-treating.





As Gifts

Wrap two or three ghost candles in a lightly crumpled sheet of orange tissue paper. Loosely wrap the candles in the paper, allowing the paper to billow out in a rounded shape. Tie with a piece of natural cord. Draw a triangular nose and eyes and a mischievous grin to resemble a jack-o'-lantern.

An Alternative

Color the wax in several different shades to make unique place-holders for a Halloween party. Attach a square of white rice paper under each candle and write the name of each guest with ink the same shade as the candle.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Opaque white wax, 1 oz per candle
- Waxed wicks
- Honey-scented oil
- Black liquid wax pen

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Small domed mold
- Needle
- Modeling clay
- Scissors
- Wax paper
- Craft knife



1 Pierce the top of a small domed mold with a needle.



2 Insert a waxed wick through the hole and fix it in place with a piece of modeling clay to avoid wax leakage. Melt the wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 3 drops of honey-scented oil.



3 Prop the mold between two jar lids so the wick isn't pressed against the table, then fill it almost to the top with the melted wax. Allow it to cool completely and remove the candle.

HINT

Another way to make the wings is to pour a 1/8-inch-thick layer of wax into an aluminum tray. Remove the wax layer, then cut out the wings and attach them by melting their edges on the bottom of a warm pot for a few seconds.



4 Carefully pour a 1/8-inch-thick layer of wax onto a sheet of wax paper. Let cool. Use a knife to cut out two small wings for each ghost. Attach with a little melted wax.



5 Trim the wick, then add two small eyes using a black liquid wax pen. Let dry for several hours.

Flower Bouquet Candle

This cheerful bouquet is made by using brightly colored wax to create miniature tulips: The petals and leaves are made from wax sheets and attached to a tall, green tapered candle. Place the tulips in a clear vase filled with sand for a unique centerpiece. Ylang-ylang oil, rubbed on the flowers, releases a smooth, refreshing scent.





An Alternative

Make brightly colored taper centerpieces to brighten your next garden party. Cut a long thin strip from a sheet of red wax and spiral it around a green taper. Complete the candle by adding a few small strips of green wax, attached at the tip of the taper, slightly below the wick.

Special Scents

These candles are a fast and simple way to scent a room. Many store-bought candles are made with synthetic scents, which create an artificial fragrance that can be unpleasant or overpowering. It's usually better to buy unscented candles and add your own scented oil. To do this, put 8 to 10 drops of oil on a cotton ball and rub it on the candle's surface to disperse the fragrance.

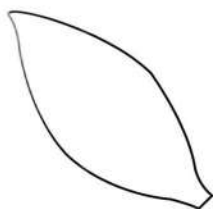
To Make the Candles

Materials

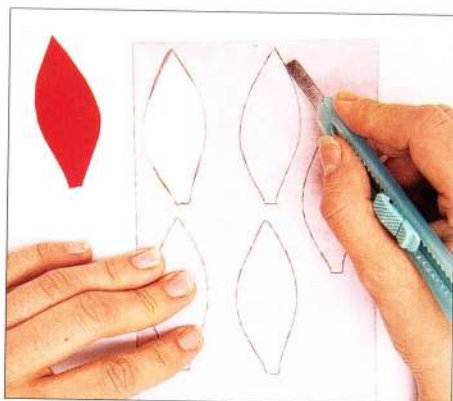
- Red, blue, pink, yellow, and green wax sheets
- Bright green tapered candles
- Ylang-ylang oil

Equipment

- Pen or pencil
- Craft knife
- Cotton ball
- Drawing paper



Pattern for petal



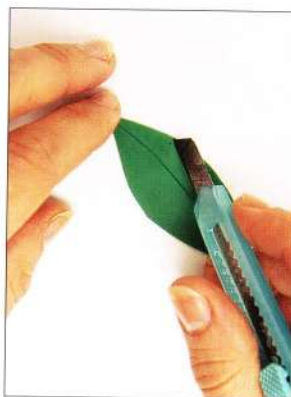
1 Using the pattern, draw five petals on a piece of paper. Place the paper on the red wax sheet and use a knife to cut out each petal. Apply light pressure to the back of the wax sheet to carefully remove each petal.



2 Add a few drops of ylang-ylang oil to a cotton ball and rub it over the entire length of a taper. Let it dry completely.



3 Use your fingers to attach the petals to the taper, with each of their bases about 1 1/2 inches below the wick. Slightly overlap the bases and shape the petals so they curve outward.



4 Cut a leaf from a green wax sheet and score veins on it with a knife, being careful not to cut completely through.



5 With a light pressure, attach the leaf to the candle at the desired height. Repeat these steps to create blue, pink, and yellow tulips.

HINT

When you shape the petals on the taper, be sure the wax is warm to prevent them from falling off. If the petals or the leaves fall off the taper, the wax is too cold. Slightly warm the wax in your hand or with a match, then reattach to the candle.

Autumn Leaf Candle

In autumn, leaves fall . . . onto ivory wax, creating lovely candles with luminous colors. The opaque wax, holding the autumn leaves, is scented with white musk oil. It releases a delicate scent, creating a relaxing, balanced atmosphere.





As Gifts

Decorate the candle package in an autumn theme: Twist a few cords of orange, red, and brown raffia ribbons together, then tear a square from a piece of handmade paper and glue a colorful leaf in its center. Tie the raffia ribbon and tag around the candle.

How, When, Where

You can use autumn leaves to create a variety of interesting patterns. Arrange the leaves by slightly overlapping them or by spreading several small leaves around the candle. You can also use this method to cover the candle with pressed dried flowers for a completely different look.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Large ivory pillar candle
- 1 3/4 oz opaque white wax
- Musk-scented oil
- Dried autumn leaves

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Wooden spoon



1 Melt the opaque white wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 10 drops of musk-scented oil.



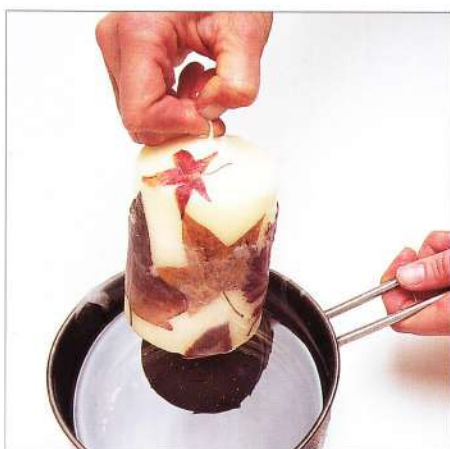
2 Gently dip the leaves, one at a time, into the melted wax. Attach the leaves to the pillar candle's surface, smoothing them with your hands.

HINT

Before attaching the leaves to the candle, lightly rub the candle's surface with a cotton ball dipped in rubbing alcohol, then let it dry. To avoid burning yourself, use a pair of tweezers to dip the leaves into the melted wax.



3 Slightly overlap all the leaves until you achieve the desired look.



4 When the wax layer over the leaves has hardened, carefully dip the entire candle into the still-melted wax, holding it by the wick. Let it cool completely.

Floating Candle

A colorful and aromatic way to welcome spring—tea-light candles that release an intense jasmine fragrance, full of energizing properties. Float the tea lights in a bowl of water with fresh flowers drifting among the candles. It's a simple and beautiful centerpiece that imitates the sweet scent of the season.





An Alternative

Decorate the floating candles by drawing simple flower outlines on their surfaces with a silver liquid wax pen. Let the wax dry for about 12 hours, then place each tea light in an individual glass of water and use them as place-holders.

As Gifts

Create scented favors to give your guests at Easter: Wrap each tea light in a sheet of pastel tissue paper to match the color of the wax, then add curled ribbons so the packages resemble little Easter eggs.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Jar lids approximately 2 inches wide
- 17 oz wax flakes
- Waxed wicks
- Jasmine-scented oil
- Light green, pink, yellow and purple wax crayons

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Scissors
- Needle



1 Melt 4 ½ ounces of wax in a double boiler over low heat, stirring often. Crumble a small piece of pink crayon into the wax and allow it to melt completely. The wax should be a consistent color and free of lumps.



2 Add 5 drops of jasmine-scented oil to the wax and stir carefully. If you want a stronger scent, add more oil (10 or so drops is probably too much, however).



3 Slowly pour the wax into a jar lid, making sure that it doesn't leak over the edge. If this happens, quickly clean it with a cloth before the wax hardens. Let cool approximately 15 minutes.

HINT

Before pouring the wax in the lids, clean them thoroughly with hot water and dry them with a paper towel. To make it easy to remove the candles from the molds, grease the lids with a few drops of oil on a cotton ball, swabbing the insides before adding the wax. Or you can put the molds in the freezer for a few minutes after the wax has cooled.



4 When the wax is partially solid and has formed a patina, pierce a hole through its center with a needle. Gently insert a waxed wick about ½ inch high. Allow the wax to harden completely.



5 Remove the candle from the mold by turning it upside down and applying light pressure. Repeat the process to make candles in a variety of colors.

Floating Heart Candle

Impress friends with this beautiful centerpiece made of floating heart candles and red sand. The candlelight is reflected upon the water's surface—a beautiful effect—while the sweet rose scent is gently released.





An Alternative

For a formal dinner party or to grace a buffet table, decorate the bases of short, clear glasses with elegant red ribbon. Fill the glasses with water and place a floating heart in each one. Or, for a place-holder, attach the candle to a red construction paper heart, cut slightly larger than the candle.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Rose-scented red heart tea lights (if you can't find scented tea lights, add a few drops of rose-scented oil to a cotton ball and swab unscented candles).
- Sheet of red corrugated cardboard
- Modeling clay
- Green thread or ribbon
- Mixed green and yellow sand
- Red sand
- 3 long wooden sticks
- 3 colorful cups
- Glass saucer and bowl

Equipment

- Scissors
- Pen or pencil
- Sheet of drawing paper
- Skewer or needle



1 Use the pattern to draw a flower outline on paper and three flowers on the back of a piece of red corrugated cardboard. Cut out the flowers.



2 Mold three small balls of modeling clay with your hands, making each about the size of a grape, then place each on the tip of a wooden stick. Shape with your fingers to flatten the tops.



3 Use a skewer to pierce a hole in the centers of the cardboard flowers. Place a candle over the center of the flower, corrugated side up, and pierce a hole through the cardboard and bottom of the candle with the skewer, or with a sharp needle or nail.



4 Place the heart and flower on the clay, then push the stick through the clay and into the previously made hole. Use your fingers to fasten the clay to the cardboard. Wrap green thread or ribbon around the clay to conceal it.



5 Pour green and yellow sand in a cup until it's about 2 inches from the top. Insert the wooden candlestick into the cup, embedding it in the sand. Make two more "plants" using the same method.



6 Complete the arrangement by adding red sand to a glass bowl until it's about 2 inches from the top. Cover with an inch of water, and add a few floating hearts to the surface, making sure not to wet the wicks.



Pattern for flowers

Blue Glass Floating Candle

Create a small mountain lake for the middle of your living room. This centerpiece, embossed with blue patterns and filled with water, will transport you to a relaxing retreat as you gaze at the deep blue floating candles drifting inside the clear glass bowl.





An Alternative

Another way to use sea glass and floating candles is by making individual place-holders. All you need are a few small round drinking glasses, transparent gel wax, and waxed wicks. Carefully remove the original wick from the floating candle and insert one suitable to the height of the glass. Place a blue glass pebble at the bottom of the drinking glass and pour in about 1 inch of gel wax (after melting it in a double boiler). Let the wax solidify, then place the floating candle and wick on top of the first layer. Cover it with more gel wax until you reach the top of the glass, being careful not to cover the wick. Let it cool completely before lighting the candle.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 3 blue floating candles
- 15 blue glass pebbles
- Blue paint for glass
- Clear glass bowl
- Glue

Equipment

- Rubbing alcohol
- Cotton cloth



HINT

You might want to add a layer of blue sand to the bottom of the bowl before placing the pebbles. Pour the sand about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch high on the bottom of the bowl, position the glass pebbles, and fill with water. If the pebbles move while you're pouring the water, reposition them before adding the candles.



1 Carefully clean the glass bowl using a cotton cloth soaked with rubbing alcohol. This will ensure that the paint and glue stick to the glass.



2 Glue eight blue glass pebbles to the outside of the bowl, positioning four on opposite sides of the bowl about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the upper edge. Glue the next four pebbles in between the first ones but placed lower on the bowl.



3 Before you paint the bowl, make a few practice patterns of dots and stripes on a piece of paper until you determine the pattern you like best. Then decorate the bowl around the blue glass pebbles.



4 Let the bowl dry for at least 6 hours. Arrange seven blue glass pebbles on the bottom of the bowl and fill three-fourths full with water. Carefully lay three floating candles on the surface, making sure not to wet the wicks.

Floating Leaf Candle

A wooden twig keeps these leaves floating together in a bowl with fresh flowers. This delicate springtime centerpiece is reminiscent of a Japanese garden. The musk oil released from the candles penetrates the room with its relaxing scent.





As Gifts

Make a giant yellow candy wrapper to enclose the floating leaves. Take a sheet of yellow tissue paper, crumple it slightly with your fingers, then wrap the candles in a row. Tie the ends with a couple loops of leafy green wire.

How, When, Where

Create individual placeholders by filling small glass cups with yellow-colored water and placing a floating leaf on the surface. If you like, add a fresh flower. Decorate the table in shades of green and yellow as a final touch.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 3 floating green leaf candles scented with musk (if you can't find scented leaf candles, add a few drops of oil to a cotton ball and swab unscented ones)
- 2 skewers
- Wooden twig
- Green raffia ribbon
- Fresh flowers
- Glass bowl

Equipment

- Straight-tipped cuticle scissors



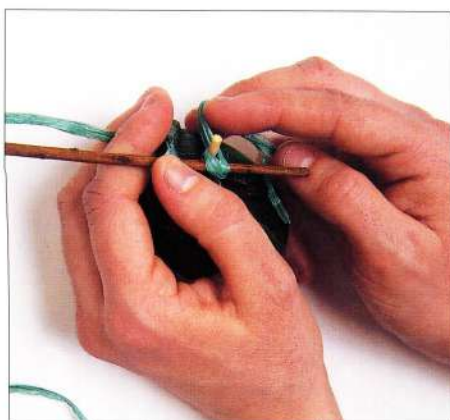
1 With the tip of the scissors, puncture a hole about 1 to 1½ inches deep about 1 inch from the base of the leaf candle. Be careful not to break or otherwise ruin the wax.



2 Take two skewers and cut them into three or four parts, each about 1½ to 2 inches long; discard the pointed tips. Insert a skewer segment into the hole of the leaf, sinking it deeply into the wax.

HINT

Before completing the centerpiece, make sure all the leaves are straight and secure on the branch. If the arrangement is unbalanced when it's floating, one of the leaves could dip underwater, wetting the wick.



3 Tie the leaf to the wooden branch by wrapping a piece of green raffia ribbon around one end of the twig and then knotting the ribbon to the stick inserted in the candle.



4 Repeat the process, tying the other two leaves about 3 or 4 inches apart from each other. Fill a small bowl with water and add the floating branch and leaves. Add some fresh flowers for an elegant touch.

Pastel Straw Candle

Make an unusual candle using drinking straws in translucent pastel shades. The wax wraps around the straws, creating a veiled effect, while the sweet and intense vanilla essence makes it perfect for an evening of relaxation.



As Gifts

Wrap the candle in a sheet of clear cellophane and knot it with a wide red ribbon. Tie a pastel straw in the ribbon for the finishing touch.



How, When, Where

Create candles with a variety of different-colored straws for your child's birthday party. Personalize the candles by writing the name of each child directly on the straws with a brightly colored pen.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 14 oz opaque wax
- Vanilla-scented oil
- Waxed wick
- Translucent pastel drinking straws

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Plastic mold with round base
- Craft knife
- Scissors
- Needle



1 Melt the opaque wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 5 drops of vanilla-scented oil.



2 With a knife, cut the pastel straws into equal lengths the same height as a cylindrical mold.



3 Pour a layer of wax about 1 inch deep on the bottom of the mold, then tip and turn the mold to cover the inside walls with wax.

HINT

Lightly spray the walls of the mold with water before adding the wax, but be careful to wipe up water from the mold's bottom. This will make removing the candle easier after it has hardened.



4 Cover the inner wall of the mold with a ring of straws, alternating the colors and applying light pressure to fasten them to the wax. Do not leave any open spaces between the straws.



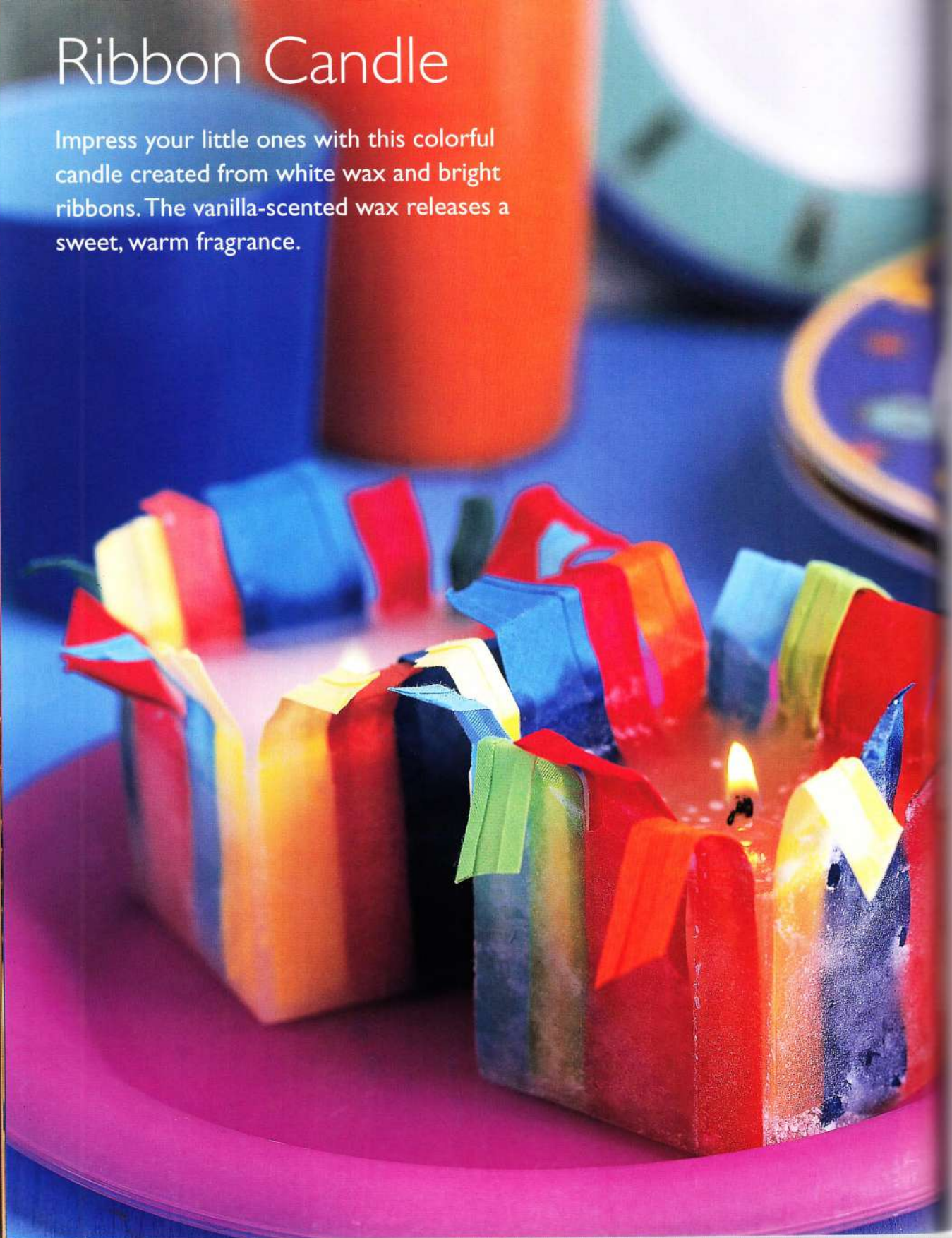
5 Fill the mold with wax and let cool until it's partially solid.



6 Pierce the center of the candle with a needle and insert a waxed wick. Let the candle harden completely, then remove it from the mold.

Ribbon Candle

Impress your little ones with this colorful candle created from white wax and bright ribbons. The vanilla-scented wax releases a sweet, warm fragrance.





As Gifts

Continue the colorful ribbon theme with the candle's packaging. Wrap the candle in a sheet of orange rice paper and tie with several brightly colored ribbons. Let the ends drape for a fun and festive gift.

Another Idea

Use a variety of colors and materials to make candles: Choose curling ribbon, toile, linen, netting, even wool. For a pleasing effect, blend warm colors like red, yellow, and orange, or opt for cooler shades like blue, green, and violet.

To Make the Candle

Materials

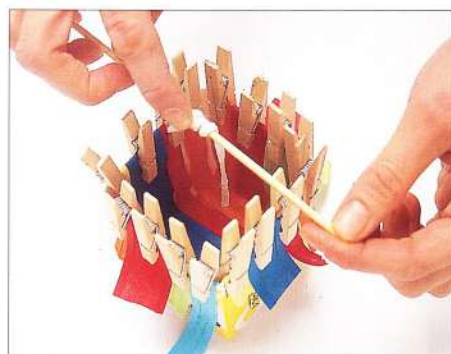
- 10 1/2 oz opaque wax
- Vanilla-scented oil
- Waxed wick
- Brightly colored ribbon, 16 inches of each color
- Milk carton

Equipment

- Double boiler
- 16 springy clothespins
- Scissors
- Skewer



1 Cut the bottom off a milk carton to create a square mold. Drape a row of ribbons over two opposite sides of the mold as shown, letting the ribbon lie along the mold's bottom. Add another row in the opposite direction. Use clothespins to fasten the ends of the ribbons to the edge of the carton. Be sure to leave excess ribbon draping from the sides.



2 Wrap the tip of the wick around a skewer and set it on the mold's rim between the clothespins so the wick remains centered.

HINT

To keep wax from leaking out of the mold, wrap it tightly in plastic wrap or place a small piece of plastic wrap inside the mold before adding the ribbons.



3 Melt the opaque wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 5 drops of vanilla-scented oil.



4 Carefully pour the melted wax into the mold, filling it to the top. Let cool completely.



5 When the candle has hardened, untie the wick from the stick and cut it to the desired length. Remove the clothespins and extract the candle by carefully tearing away the carton.

Leaves of Grass Candle

Transform a white candle into a brightly colored centerpiece to decorate your patio. The blades of grass, made from preprinted wax sheets, are nicely contrasted with the white candle; the curling blades are molded from green wax thread. Eucalyptus oil, swabbed on the candle, provides a fresh, energizing scent.





An Alternative

Update all sorts of candles around the house by decorating them with printed wax sheets. Tapered candles, for example, can be decorated by wrapping thin ribbons of the printed wax around the candle, as if they are climbing vines. For a final touch, decorate the candleholder with fabric ivy.

How, When, Where

To attain your desired scent, use scented candles or swab unscented candles with your chosen fragrance. Once you light the candles, the heat will quickly diffuse the scent throughout the room. Remember to never use oils that contain alcohol because they are flammable.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Tall white candle with a squared base
- Printed green wax sheets
- Green wax thread
- Eucalyptus-scented oil
- Thin cardboard

Equipment

- Cotton ball
- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Pen or pencil



1 Moisten a cotton ball with a few drops of eucalyptus-scented oil and wipe it over the entire surface of the candle. Let dry for a few minutes.



2 Draw your leaves of grass on a sheet of thin cardboard and then cut out the shapes.



3 Place the cutouts on the back of a printed wax sheet. Trace the outlines with a pen, then use a knife to cut out the shapes.

HINT

After decorating the candle, heat it with a hair dryer. The wax sheets and thread will then be malleable, and you will be able to touch up any problems and securely fasten the wax to the candle.



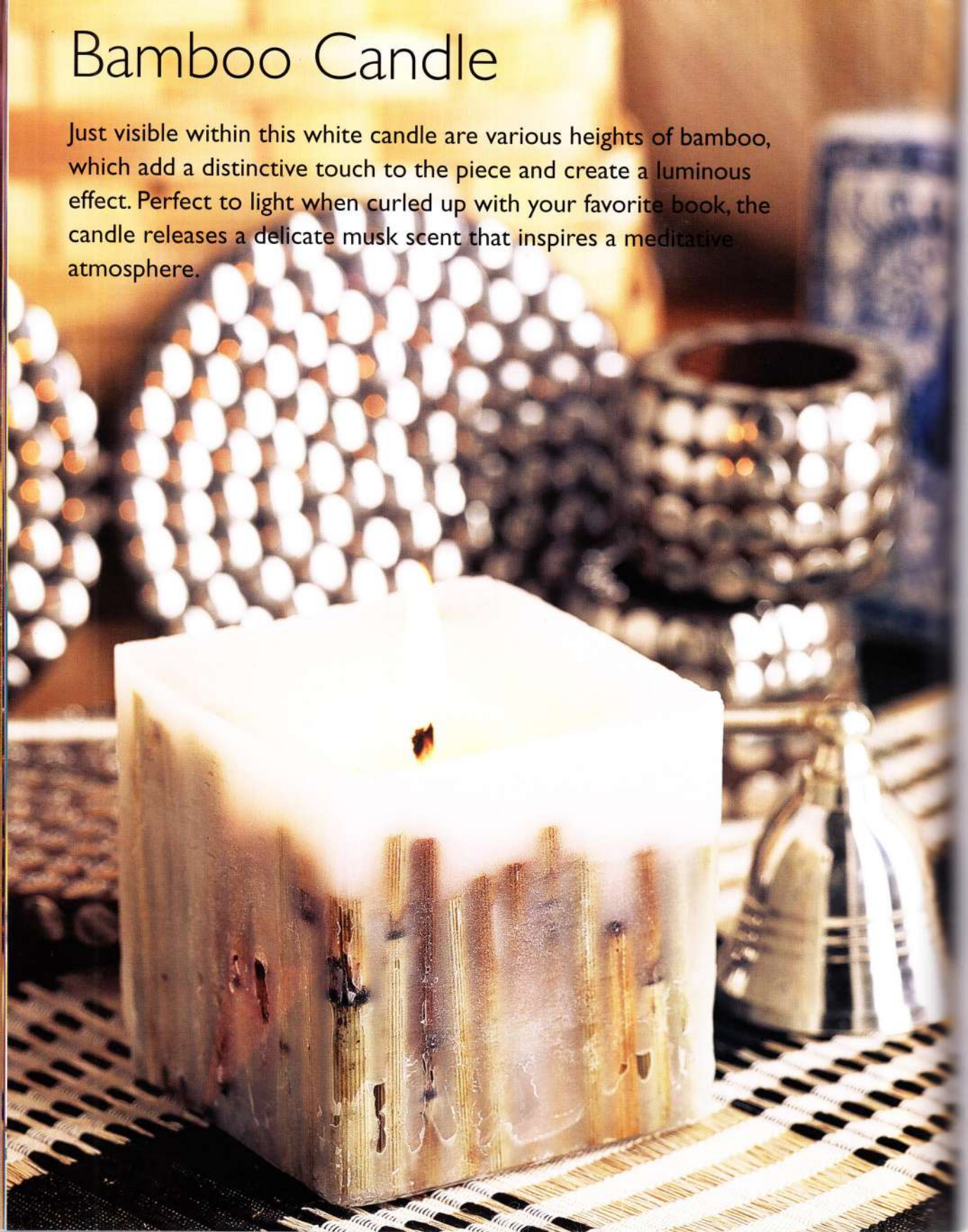
4 Warm the wax cutouts by holding them in your hands for a few moments. Carefully remove the protective film from the wax and attach each blade to the candle, applying light pressure with your fingers.



5 Cut a few different lengths from the green wax thread and fasten them to the candle by applying light pressure. Curl the tips.

Bamboo Candle

Just visible within this white candle are various heights of bamboo, which add a distinctive touch to the piece and create a luminous effect. Perfect to light when curled up with your favorite book, the candle releases a delicate musk scent that inspires a meditative atmosphere.





As Gifts

Present the bamboo candle wrapped in shades of bright yellow and pale green. Wrap the candle in a sheet of slightly crumpled yellow tissue and tie the ends with a green organza ribbon knotted in a bow. Glue a few bamboo rods on the outside of the package and tie some in the ribbon to give this unique candle a natural feel.

Another Idea

Vary the placement of the bamboo pieces within the candle to create different visual effects. For example, pour a thin layer of wax in the mold and lay a few rods lengthwise across the bottom. Cover with another layer of wax and continue layering rods and wax until you reach the top. Then, when the candle is lit, you will see the ends of the bamboo illuminated through the wax instead of the sides.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 10 1/2 oz white wax
- Waxed wick
- Musk-scented oil
- Milk carton
- Bamboo rods

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Craft knife
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt the wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 6 drops of musk-scented oil.



2 With the knife, cut the end off a milk carton to create a square mold. Cut the bamboo rods into various lengths no longer than the height of the mold. Dip each rod into the melted wax and fasten it onto the inside of the carton, covering all four sides with bamboo.

HINT

Be careful when dipping the bamboo into the melted wax; to avoid burning yourself, you might want to use tweezers. When placing the pieces in the mold, work quickly so the wax doesn't harden before you have a chance to position the bamboo the way you want it.



3 Wrap the tip of the wick around the needle and support it on the rim of the carton so the wick remains in the center. Pour melted wax into the mold until you reach the top.



4 When the wax has completely hardened, unwrap the wick from the needle and cut it to the desired height. Remove the candle from the mold, carefully tearing off the carton if necessary.

French Provincial Candle

Create a touch of provincial France in your home by decorating candles of various shapes and heights with imaginatively patterned wax sheets. Easy to apply, these wax sheets will fasten to any type of candle simply by heating. The lily scent releases a sweet, embracing fragrance.





An Alternative

Try alternating printed wax sheets with solid colors. A square-based candle can be covered on each side with differently colored wax sheets, then enhanced by wrapping a strip of printed wax vertically over the candle and covering the top with another square of printed wax.

How, When, Where

If you'd like to put these provincial candles in your bedroom, scent them with relaxing jasmine, rose, ylang-ylang, or bergamot. Use lavender to help induce sleep.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Cylindrical candles
- Printed wax sheets with provincial designs
- Lily-scented oil

Equipment

- Cotton ball
- Nail scissors



1 Moisten a cotton ball with a few drops of lily-scented oil and swab the candle over its entire surface. Let dry.



2 Heat the wax sheet by gently pressing it between your hands, then carefully separate the wax from its protective film.



3 Wrap the wax sheet around the candle, leaving extra wax at the top and base. Press to secure the wax.

HINT

The wax sheets will mold perfectly to the candle if they are heated in your hands before attaching. You should also wrap your hands around the candle after attaching the wax sheets so the heat will help the candle and the wax meld. If you try to separate the wax sheet from its protective film and it does not easily come apart, carefully warm it with a match.



4 Cut several slits in the printed wax at the top and base of the candle. This will allow you to fold the wax down onto the top and bottom of the candle.



5 Press the wax down at the base of the candle, overlapping the wax slightly at the slits so it lies flat. Do the same at the top of the candle, leaving the area around the wick open.

Toile Candle

The French elegance of woven toile is featured on this decorative candle. The wax used to fasten the toile to the candle is scented with vanilla, releasing a warm and relaxing scent as it melts.





As Gifts

It's not necessary to cover this candle in paper as its patterns are already so beautiful. Instead, wrap the candle in a sheet of clear cellophane and tie it with an elegant ivory ribbon.

Another Idea

Use a variety of materials to create these "covered" candles. Use flower-patterned cloth to create a cheerful design, or use strips of brightly colored cloth. Red and yellow strips covering the four sides of the candle create a shaded effect if you start with darker reds at the base and move up to sunny yellows.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Square white candle
- Opaque wax
- Vanilla-scented oil
- Woven toile

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Cotton ball
- Ruler
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors
- Tweezers



1 Moisten a cotton ball with a few drops of vanilla-scented oil and swab it all over the surface of the candle.



2 Measure four squares of fabric to cover the sides of the candle, leaving enough space along the edges to wrap around the candle's corners. Cut out with scissors

HINT

Use a cloth to wipe away the wax drops that form when the toile is applied to the candle.



3 Melt the wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 5 drops of vanilla-scented oil. Then use tweezers to immerse the squares of fabric in the melted wax one at a time.



4 Use the tweezers to place each square of fabric on the candle. When cooled, but before the wax has hardened completely, smooth the fabric with your hands to make sure the edges are joined together well and to eliminate any bubbles.

Seashell-covered Candle

Stripes of brightly colored seashell fragments decorate this white candle. The shells, in shades of blue, yellow, rose, beige, and gray, are scented with jasmine, an exotic and sensual fragrance that creates an intoxicating atmosphere.





An Alternative

Create a candle inspired by the sea: Start with a blue cylindrical candle and decorate the base with six turns of pale blue cord, glued to the candle. Use your imagination to design waves breaking along the shore, covering the candle with shell fragments in shades of blue and gray. Scent with jasmine.

How, When, Where

Use essential oil scents like geranium or ylang-ylang to energize yourself for a busy day ahead. When work is done, relax with a candle scented with rose, cypress, or lavender.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Square white candle
- Transparent glue
- Seashell fragments in blue, yellow, rose, beige, and gray
- Jasmine-scented oil

Equipment

- Bowl
- Craft knife
- Ruler



1 Use a ruler to divide the height of the candle into five equal horizontal bands, then use the knife to lightly score these bands on each side—they should be visible but not too deep.



2 Place the blue seashell fragments in a bowl and add 5 drops of jasmine-scented oil. Let the shells absorb the fragrance for several minutes.

HINT

To carefully create the bands of shell fragments, spread a thin layer of glue over the candle with the help of a spatula, then pour the shell fragments over top, pressing them down with your fingers.



3 Create a blue band around the candle's base. Cover all four sides with a thin layer of glue and arrange the blue shell fragments around the candle, pressing down gently with your fingers.



4 Complete the candle by creating four more colored bands: After the blue, use yellow, rose, beige, and then gray, all perfumed with jasmine-scented oil.

Snow Candle

These clear glasses appear to be filled with ice; in reality, this effect is achieved using palm oil flakes, which increase the luminosity of the candles. The jasmine scent releases an exotic, enveloping fragrance.





As Gifts

Wrap a piece of colorful raffia ribbon around the white candle, making a bow on top. For a special touch, add a small bottle of jasmine-scented oil to the gift, which can be used almost anywhere to create a relaxing atmosphere.

Another Idea

Create several luminous place-holders for an elegant dinner: Make small tea-light candles in heart or star-shaped containers, using palm oil flakes instead of regular wax. Place each candle on a silver saucer paired with a lily or rosebud for an arrangement sure to impress.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 7 oz palm oil flakes
- 3 votive glasses
- Jasmine-scented oil
- 3 wicks

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Skewer
- Masking tape
- Scissors



1 Melt the palm oil flakes in a double boiler over low heat and add 10 drops of jasmine-scented oil.



2 Wrap the tip of the wick around a skewer and lay the stick across the rim of the glass, securing it with a small piece of masking tape on each end.

HINT

If the wick seems to pull away from the center when you pour the wax it means the temperature is too hot. Reposition the wick and wait a few minutes before pouring.



3 Pour the melted wax into the glass until it's about 1 inch from the top. Let it cool completely.



4 When the candle has hardened, unwrap the wick from the stick and trim to the desired height.

Beaded Bottle Candleholder

Covered with multiple strands of rainbow-colored beads, these glass bottles are transformed into unique and colorful candleholders. Turn after turn, a long “necklace” of beads climbs up each bottle until it reaches the green or indigo candle, scented with warm amber.





An Alternative

Light up happy hour with friends with these fun candles in rainbow-beaded cocktail glasses. Melt opaque white wax, color it a fiery shade of red, and add strawberry-scented oil. Pour the wax into a cocktail glass and insert the wick. Decorate the glass by wrapping a thread of colorful beads from the base up the stem.

How, When, Where

Choose the right candle for every occasion. For a romantic evening, pick a red candle and scent it with passionate patchouli. For your reading corner, choose a green mint-scented candle as a soothing balm. For your office desk, use a yellow candle scented with energizing lemon. And to relax before bedtime, light a blue chamomile-scented candle.

To Make the Holders

Materials

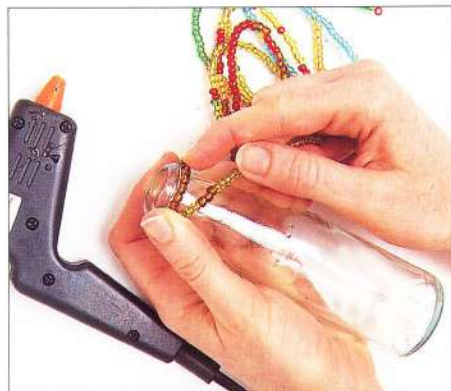
- Small beads in yellow, red, green, turquoise, and amber
- Thin wire thread
- 2 glass bottles
- 2 tapered candles, green and blue
- Amber-scented oil

Equipment

- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Cotton ball



1 Make a long necklace by threading tiny beads onto a thin wire, making sure to alternate colors. To avoid the beads slipping off the thread, wrap the wire around the first bead a couple times so it's secure.



2 Starting at the neck of the bottle, fasten the tip of the beaded necklace with a drop of hot glue. Wrap the necklace around the neck a few turns, attaching it to the bottle with hot glue.

HINT

If the candle is too narrow to fit snugly into the opening of the bottle, cut a short strip of aluminum foil and wrap it around the candle's base until it fits into the bottle properly.



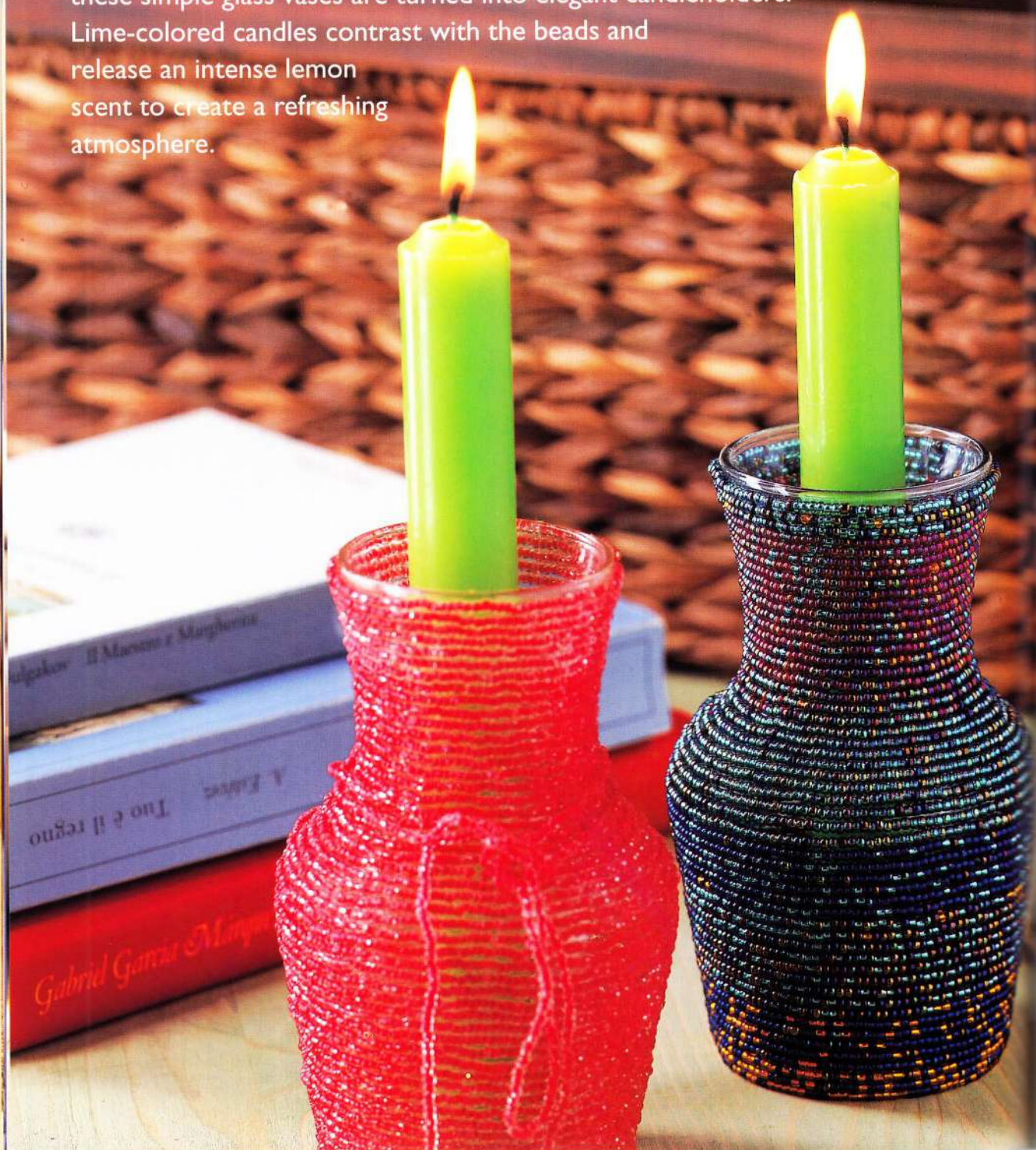
3 Stretch the thread around every turn, covering the bottle with the beaded necklace, fastening the beads with hot glue in spots as you go.



4 Finish the beading by gluing the tip of the necklace to the base of the bottle with a drop of hot glue. Moisten a cotton ball with a few drops of amber-scented oil, and swab the entire surface of a tapered candle. Let it dry, then insert the candle into the bottle so it's held securely.

Beaded Vase Candleholder

Embellished with tiny iridescent pearl pink and blue beads, these simple glass vases are turned into elegant candleholders. Lime-colored candles contrast with the beads and release an intense lemon scent to create a refreshing atmosphere.



An Alternative

Use a short drinking glass to create a tea-light holder. Wrap the glass with a necklace of iridescent red beads in widening turns. You can place a tea light inside the glass or fill it with water and float a candle on top. Candlelight shining through the beads creates a colorful effect. Make place-holders by decorating glasses with multicolored beads.

How, When, Where

Entertain your guests by giving them each a candle scented to their liking. For the hopeless romantic, choose delicate scents such as rose and geranium. For a vibrant personality, use citrus scents: orange, bergamot, lemon, or mandarin. Calm your energetic friends with essences like eucalyptus, mint, myrtle, pine, and ginger.



To Make the Holders

Materials

- Small iridescent beads in pink and blue shades
- Thin wire thread
- 2 glass vases
- 2 lime green tapered candles
- Lemon-scented oil

Equipment

- Cotton ball
- Scissors
- Double-sided tape



1 Moisten a cotton ball with a few drops of lemon-scented oil and wipe it over the entire surface of the candle.



2 Swab the inside and outside of the vase with the moistened cotton ball.

HINT

Before wiping the lemon oil on the vase, it's necessary to thoroughly clean the glass. Moisten a paper towel with rubbing alcohol and wipe both the inside and outside of the vase. Let it dry completely before decorating.



3 Fasten a strip of double-sided tape around the base of the vase, making sure it is stuck securely to the glass before you remove the protective paper. Then work up the vase, wrapping a new strip of tape around the vase above the first. Cover the entire vase the same way.



4 Thread the beads on a wire thread and wrap the strand tightly around the vase, starting at the bottom. Once the vase is covered in beads, cut the candle to the desired height and insert it into the vase.

Felt Candle

Simple glass vases are transformed into unique candles by decorating them with felt. Petal and leaf designs cut from the felt allow the candlelight to show through, creating fun patterns on the table or walls. The spicy cinnamon scent creates a warm and inviting atmosphere for gathering with friends.



As Gifts

Make a simple package that offers a glimpse of the colorful candle. Wrap the candle in a square of cellophane, gathering it at the top. Tie the package with a large bow the same color as the felt. To create a holiday look, spray the package with glitter.

How, When, Where

These colorful candles can be used to brighten any room in your home, or to decorate your table at a friendly dinner. Use various colors and designs, or cut out the name of each guest to create place-holders.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Small glass vase
- 7 oz opaque white wax
- Waxed wick with metal base
- Sheet of red felt, 4 x 12 inches
- Glitter spray
- Cinnamon-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Skewer
- Scissors
- Spray adhesive



1 Support the wick in the center of the vase by wrapping one end around a skewer and balancing the stick on the rim of the vase so the wick remains vertical.



2 Melt the wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 5 drops of cinnamon-scented oil.



3 Pour the melted wax into the vase until it's about 1/2 inch from the top, being careful not to move the wick. Let cool completely.

HINT

Before cutting designs out of the felt, first make a stencil from a piece of cardboard. Place the stencil on the felt and outline the shapes with a white colored pencil, then cut out the patterns.



4 Measure and cut out a rectangle of felt that will fit the height and circumference of the vase. Use scissors to cut petal and leaf designs in the felt.



5 Spray the back of the felt with adhesive, holding the can at least 12 inches from the surface. Fasten the felt to the vase, making sure its edges join together along the side.



6 Spray the vase with glitter to create a sparkling effect.

Perfumed Paper and Leaf Candle

The decoupage technique is used to create these beautiful tea-light holders decorated with natural paper and small leaves. When the candles are lit, the light will shine through the paper, adding a decorative touch to any table.





An Alternative

Design an elegant rosy place-holder by covering a glass candleholder with rice paper printed with small flowers. Perfume the wax with geranium-scented oil, which has a delicate scent similar to that of rose.

How, When, Where

If you have a patio, you can create a stunning centerpiece for your first spring dinner. Use a high cylindrical glass vase to shield the flame from the wind. Cover it with rice paper of any color you choose, then decoupage it with small dried flowers. Insert a colored candle that matches the rice paper as a finishing touch.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Fuchsia rice paper
- Small dried and pressed leaves
- 3 1/2 oz opaque wax
- Rose-scented oil
- Green coloring
- Tea-light mold
- Waxed wick
- Glass candleholder
- Decoupage glue

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Bowl
- Small paintbrush
- Scissors
- Ruler



1 Measure and cut a piece of rice paper to cover the glass candleholder. Spritz the paper with rose-scented oil and let dry.



2 Dilute the glue with water according to the glue's instructions. Spread a thin layer on the back of the paper and attach it to the glass. Let it dry completely. Use the same method to attach the leaves to the paper, then paint over the leaves with the decoupage glue.



3 Melt the wax in a double boiler over low heat and color it with 4 drops of green coloring. Add 8 drops of rose-scented oil.

HINT

The usual ratio for decoupage glue is three parts water and one part glue. To attach the pressed leaves on the paper more securely, use a slightly denser solution made of two parts water and one part glue.



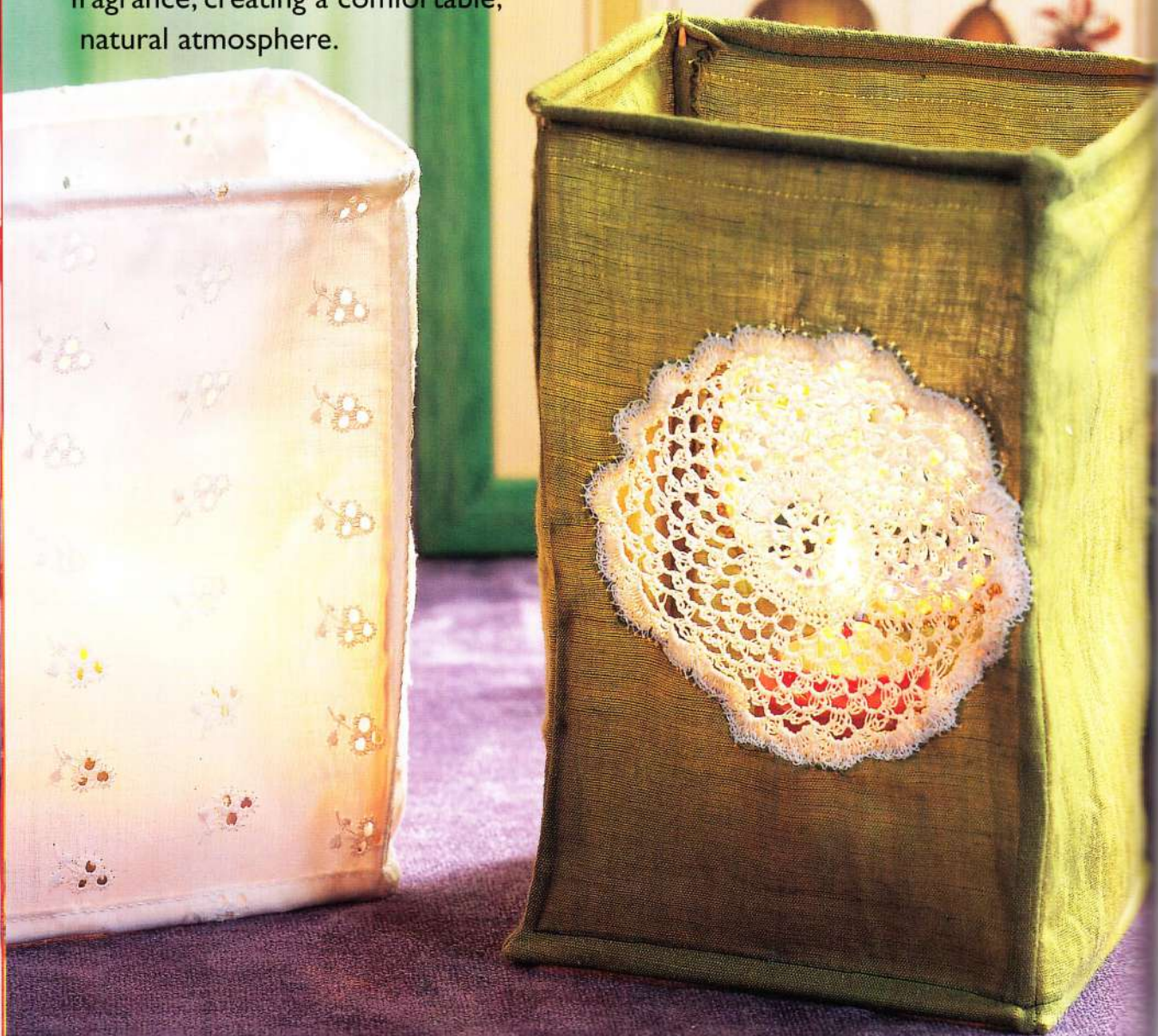
4 Pour the wax into the tea-light mold until you reach the top. Let it cool until partially solid.



5 When the wax is partially solid, insert a wick and cut it to the desired height. Let the candle harden completely, then place it into the decorated glass.

Scented Lantern

Create these elegant embroidered lanterns by making a rigid structure of wooden dowels and placing a tea light in the center. The weave of the material allows light to shine through and create intricate patterns. Lemongrass oil perfumes the wax with its mossy fragrance, creating a comfortable, natural atmosphere.





As Gifts

Fold up the woven candleholder and attach a small matching votive, tying the package with a ribbon in a contrasting color. To complete the gift, include a bottle of the essential oil you used to scent the candle.

How, When, Where

Vary the color and texture of the material you use for the lantern to match the décor of the room you want to fragrance. For the kitchen, use woven tartan and scent the candle with lemon, verbena, or orange. For a child's playroom, use colorful printed material and a candle scented with chamomile or vanilla oil. For your bedroom, scent the candle with rose, lavender, or geranium.

To Make the Lantern

Materials

- Woven green linen, approximately 12 × 20 inches and stiff enough to stand upright
- Round ivory doily
- 8 wooden dowels, 1/4-inch diameter, each about 4 inches long
- Small green candle
- Lemongrass-scented oil

Equipment

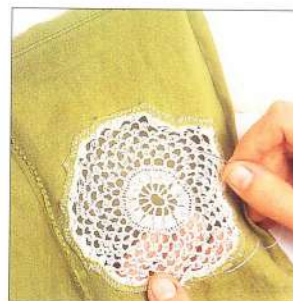
- Sewing needle
- Thread
- Scissors
- Cotton ball



1 Cut four rectangles from a square of green linen, each about 11 1/2 × 4 1/2 inches. Sew them together in a row along their long edges, keeping the good side of the material on the outside.



2 Fold over the top edge of the rectangle and sew along the edge, leaving a sleeve about 1 inch wide so you can insert a dowel. Repeat with the bottom edge. Sew the two short edges of the rectangle together to close the lantern, leaving space at the top and bottom edges to insert the dowels. Do not seal the opening.



3 Fold the front face of the linen in the center and cut out a circular shape slightly smaller than the doily. Place the doily on the outside of the lantern, covering the hole, and sew around its edge from the inside using small stitches.

HINT

When attaching the doily to the lantern, make the seam on the back of the linen using thin thread. Insert the needle through the center of the doily's edge, then pass it back through the linen. Do not pull on the stitches.



4 Insert four dowels in both the top and bottom of the lantern.



5 Moisten a cotton ball with a few drops of lemongrass-scented oil and rub it over the entire surface of the candle. Position the candle inside the lantern in the center. Make a similar candleholder using the same method, but use ivory eyelet material instead of linen.

Threaded Wax Egg Candle

These egg-shaped candles are covered with wax threads in warm shades of red and yellow. Unique in appearance and fragrance, the eggs are rubbed with clover-scented oil, which releases a slow, sweet fragrance perfect for your kitchen.





An Alternative

Use bright colors to make cheerful alternatives to one-toned candles; alternate between red, green, and blue wax threads to create a layered effect. Place the candles on wooden egg cups as modern candlesticks. Or carefully position the egg candles on a bed of fake moss or grass. Enhance the arrangement by adding a few fresh flowers.

How, When, Where

Set aside a few moments for relaxation. Immerse yourself in a warm bath perfumed with jasmine-scented oil and place these eggs on candleholders near the bathtub. Scent the candles with the same floral essence.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 3 egg-shaped white candles
- Colorful wax thread
- Clover-scented oil
- Small straight pin

Equipment

- Cotton ball
- Cotton cloth
- Scissors



1 Wipe the egg candle with a clean cloth, then polish its surface using a cotton ball moistened with a few drops of clover-scented oil.



2 Unroll a string of colored wax thread and heat it with your fingers until it becomes soft and malleable.

HINT

If the wax thread stretches and detaches from the egg, it's probably because both are too cold. Wrap the egg in a warm cloth for several minutes to soften the wax without deforming it, then slowly wrap the wax string around the egg as you heat it with your fingers.



3 Starting near the wick, wrap the wax string around the egg, applying light pressure with your fingers to fasten it. Keep the turns very straight so you don't leave white space.



4 Cover the egg in this fashion, maintaining tight turns and molding the string to the egg's curved surface. To secure the tip of the thread to the bottom indentation of the egg, insert a small straight pin through the string into the base.

Confetti Candle

Create a cheerful environment with these two-toned candles topped with wax "confetti." Use blue and violet for the base and a rose-colored shade for the top. The unmelted wax flakes look like confetti that fell from the sky. Rose-scented oil releases its delicate fragrance, perfuming the entire room.





An Alternative

Take a lilac-colored satin glass bowl, fill it with wax flakes in shades of pastel blue, lilac, and rose, then insert a wick through the center. Once lit, the wax scales will slowly melt together, creating pleasant gradations of color.

How, When, Where

Make brightly colored place-holders for a carnival-themed party. Take several colorful ceramic bowls and fill them with contrasting shades of wax flakes, then add a scent of your choice. For a finishing touch, scatter real confetti over the tables to create a fun and festive mood.

To Make the Candle

Materials

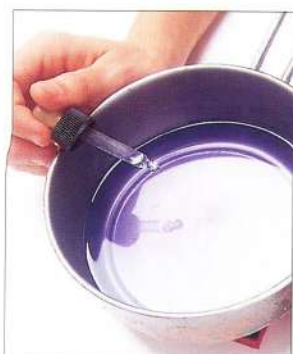
- Wax flakes in shades of blue, violet, and rose
- Rose-scented oil
- Waxed wick

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Rubbing alcohol
- Clean cloth
- Cylindrical glass vase
- Needle



1 Clean the inside and outside of the vase with a cotton cloth dipped in rubbing alcohol, then lightly spray the inside of the vase with water to make removing the finished candle easier. Wipe up water that drips to the bottom.



2 Melt the blue and violet wax flakes in a double boiler over low heat and add 7 drops of rose-scented oil, stirring constantly to disperse the fragrance.



3 Pour the melted wax one-third of the way up the vase. Let it partially solidify.

HINT

To pierce the hardened wax with the needle, heat its tip with the flame from a lit match, but be sure to hold the needle with pliers as the metal will heat very quickly.



4 Add a handful of rose-colored wax flakes to the top of the wax layer. When the flakes touch the still-warm wax, the bottom flakes will melt.



5 After the wax has completely hardened, remove the candle from the vase by pressing lightly on the sides.



6 Carefully pierce the center of the candle with a needle and insert a waxed wick.

Pastel Flake Candle

The transparent body of this elegant candle reveals delicate pastel shades of pink, lilac, and blue. The soft shades create a tranquil effect, perfect when paired with a calming lavender scent. This peaceful candle is ideal for your bedroom.





An Alternative

For those who love modern design, create a transparent gel candle mixed with pastel wax flakes. Use a round, shallow bowl—fill it first with wax flakes and then add gel wax scented with lavender.

Another Idea

Wax flakes can be purchased from your local craft center. You can create your own flakes, however, by grating pieces from candles you have around the house. Placed in a glass vase or bowl with a wick, the flakes will melt just as a regular candle would when lit.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 7 oz transparent gel wax
- Waxed wick with metal base
- Lavender-scented oil
- Wax flakes in shades of pastel pink, lilac, and blue
- Cylindrical glass

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Skewer
- Scissors
- Masking tape

HINT

To create a layer of wax flakes on top of the candle, add these after the first flakes and surrounding gel wax have cooled slightly but are still warm.



1 Crumble gel wax into small cubes with your hands and place it in the small pot of the double boiler. Melt over low heat, stirring often. Add 5 drops of lavender-scented oil and stir carefully to disperse the fragrance.



2 Place the metal base of the wick on the bottom of the glass and wrap the wick's other end around a skewer. Support the skewer on the rim of the glass and tape each side to ensure the wick stays in the center.



3 Pour the melted gel wax into the glass until it is about 1 1/2 inches from the top.



4 When the gel wax has cooled slightly, add the pastel-colored wax flakes, making sure the different colors are randomly mixed. Let the candle cool completely, then unwrap the wick from the wooden stick and trim to the desired height.

Wax Bowl Candle

Create this stunning centerpiece by melting wax flakes in two different-sized bowls used as molds. The outer white wax produces a satiny effect while the interior colored wax shades the center. Tea lights scented with musk float in a small pool of water.





An Alternative

Here's a quick way to decorate for a formal dinner: Fill a few glasses with orange sand and sprinkle some yellow wax flakes on top. Insert a wick, and the candles will light up the table in a simple and stylish fashion.

How, When, Where

Accompany this centerpiece with similar place-holders: Create wax bowl candles from small glass fingerbowls and float a tea light in the center of each. Use different shades to create a tonal effect.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 7 oz white wax granules
- Varying shades of yellow wax flakes
- Floating tea lights
- Musk-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- 2 different-sized round glass bowls, one smaller than the other



1 Place the white wax flakes or granules in the small pot of a double boiler and melt them over low heat, stirring often. Add 5 drops of musk-scented oil and stir to disperse.



2 Pour the melted wax into a large glass bowl and tilt and rotate the bowl so the wax covers the bottom and sides completely. Let this layer cool, and then add another layer of the same wax to increase the thickness. Let this layer cool.



3 Scatter colored wax flakes in the waxed bowl so the bottom is completely covered.

HINT

Before you pour the melted white wax over the wax flakes, let it cool slightly so that it doesn't completely melt the inner portion. Leaving the flakes slightly intact adds a pleasing look to the project.



4 Pour the melted white wax on top of the colored flakes to the top of the mold and let cool for several minutes. Press a smaller glass bowl into the center of the still-soft wax and press it down to create a smooth indentation. Let cool, leaving the smaller bowl positioned in the center.



5 When the wax has completely hardened, remove the small bowl from the candle center; also remove the entire candle from the larger bowl. Fill the indentation with water, add a few drops of musk-scented oil, and float tea lights in the center.

Japanese Lantern Candle

Inspired by simple Japanese elegance, these candles are made with opaque wax tiles in delicate tones of blue and pink. The ivory candle contrasts serenely with the colored wax. It's held together with three simple strands of raffia. The lemongrass scent warms the room with a pleasant woody fragrance.





An Alternative

Transform a single wax tile into a simple Japanese-inspired candle. This basic candle creates a beautiful effect when used as a place-holder for a formal dinner. The five wicks brighten the tile with several small sources of light.

Another Idea

Use various shades of wax flakes to create candles perfect for any occasion. Warm yellow and red tones can be alternated with cool colors like blue, violet, and green. Choose fragrances that are in harmony with the color—for warm tones, use spicy scents like cinnamon, ginger, or clove. For cooler tones, try scents like eucalyptus, moss, or pine.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 14 oz white wax granules
- Pink and blue wax flakes
- Cubical ivory candle, approximately 6 × 6 inches
- Raffia
- Lemongrass-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Flat square mold, 6 × 6 inches
- Scissors
- Spoon



1 Scatter enough wax flakes to cover the bottom of the flat square mold.



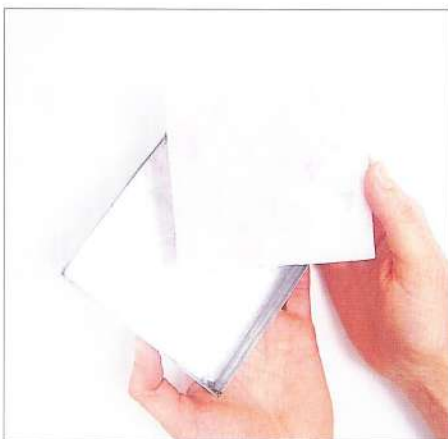
2 Melt the wax granules in a double boiler over low heat and add 6 drops of lemongrass-scented oil, stirring often.



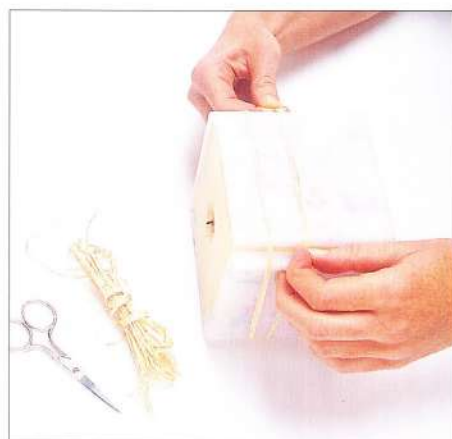
3 Pour the wax into the square mold until the tile is about ½ inch thick. Let it cool completely.

HINT

To more securely fasten the tiles onto the ivory candle, melt a little white wax in a double boiler and spread it on the back of one tile with a paintbrush. Place the tile on the candle and apply light pressure for a few seconds until the wax has cooled. Work quickly while you're positioning the tile so the wax doesn't harden. Repeat with the other tiles.



4 When the wax has hardened, remove the tile from the mold by applying light pressure to the back. Repeat steps 1 through 4 to create three more tiles.



5 Place the four wax tiles against the sides of the ivory candle, then wrap three strands of raffia around the lantern, knotting each strand at the back.

Powdered Moss Candle

These powdered wax candles, scented like moss, have a rustic flair. Every guest can have their own tea light, or arrange three or four on a colorful woven placemat and use as a centerpiece.





An Alternative

Wax powder is very versatile: Use your imagination to create colorful layered candles or combine two tonal colors to make a shaded effect. In case the colors mix, make sure you use the same base scent for each layer.

How, When, Where

When is the best time to light these moss-scented candles? In the evening as you relax on your patio, while taking a warm bath, or when dining with friends, the distinctive fragrance creates a pleasant and intimate atmosphere, no matter what the occasion.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Moss-scented powder wax
- Waxed wick
- Conical votive glass
- Masking tape
- Liquid gold paint

Equipment

- Rubbing alcohol
- Cotton cloth
- Fabric pad (or old handkerchief)
- Craft knife



1 Clean the inside and outside of the votive glass with rubbing alcohol. Apply the masking tape stencil by placing the end of a strip at the top edge of the glass and then pressing the tape straight down one side, across the bottom, and straight up the other side to the top. Add another strip of tape, about ½ inch from the first, crisscrossing at the bottom, and up the other side. Add another piece or two. The exposed parts of the glass will be decorated.



2 Dip the fabric pad (you can make one yourself from an old handkerchief) in the liquid gold paint. Shiny synthetic colors are more resistant to washing.

HINT

Once you have burned the candle, you can reuse the decorated glass by gently scraping off the wax with a small knife and cleaning the outside with a cloth and some lukewarm water.



3 Hold the glass firmly and pat the gold paint onto the exposed parts of the glass. Wait for 10 minutes and repeat. Let the paint dry for 4 or 5 hours.



4 Remove the masking tape. If there are any errant drips of paint, carefully scrape them off with a knife. Use a cloth dipped in rubbing alcohol to remove any marks left from the tape.

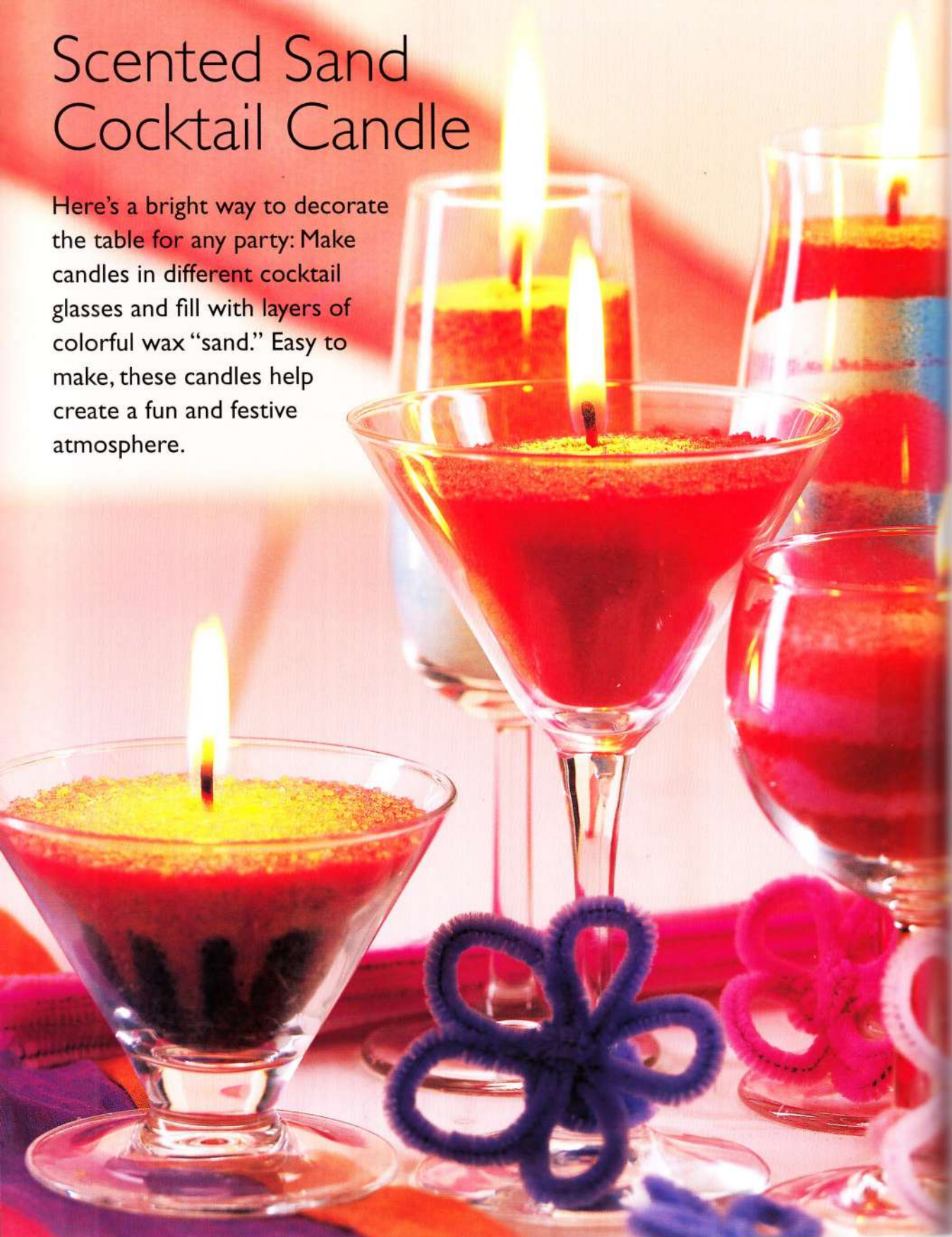


5 Pour the scented powder wax into the glass and insert a wick in the center.



Scented Sand Cocktail Candle

Here's a bright way to decorate the table for any party: Make candles in different cocktail glasses and fill with layers of colorful wax "sand." Easy to make, these candles help create a fun and festive atmosphere.





An Alternative

Instead of using cocktail glasses, you can arrange colorful wax powder in a glass bowl, making star or flower shapes with the sand. Use a wide decorative bowl and insert several wicks to create a bright and aromatic centerpiece.

Scenting the Candle

Lemongrass is not universally appreciated: Some people enjoy it, while others find it unbearable. Those who don't like the scent, however, can still appreciate its stress-relieving and stimulating properties. In Sri Lanka, this essence is known as the oil of tranquility.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Lemongrass-scented oil
- Powder wax in many colors
- Semi-rigid wax wicks
- Cocktail glasses in various shapes

Equipment

- Small paintbrush
- Skewer
- Rubbing alcohol
- Cotton cloth



1 Carefully clean the glass with a cloth dipped in rubbing alcohol, then pour a few drops of lemongrass-scented oil on the tip of a paintbrush and spread it over the entire inner surface of the glass.



2 Pour the first layer of powder wax about 1 inch deep.



3 Pour a second layer of wax of another color, making sure the two colors do not mix. Proceed in this way until you've created the layered effect you like.

HINT

Powder wax is peculiar in that only the grains that come into contact with the flame will actually melt. Once the wick has burned, therefore, you can discard it and reuse the intact grains to make another candle.



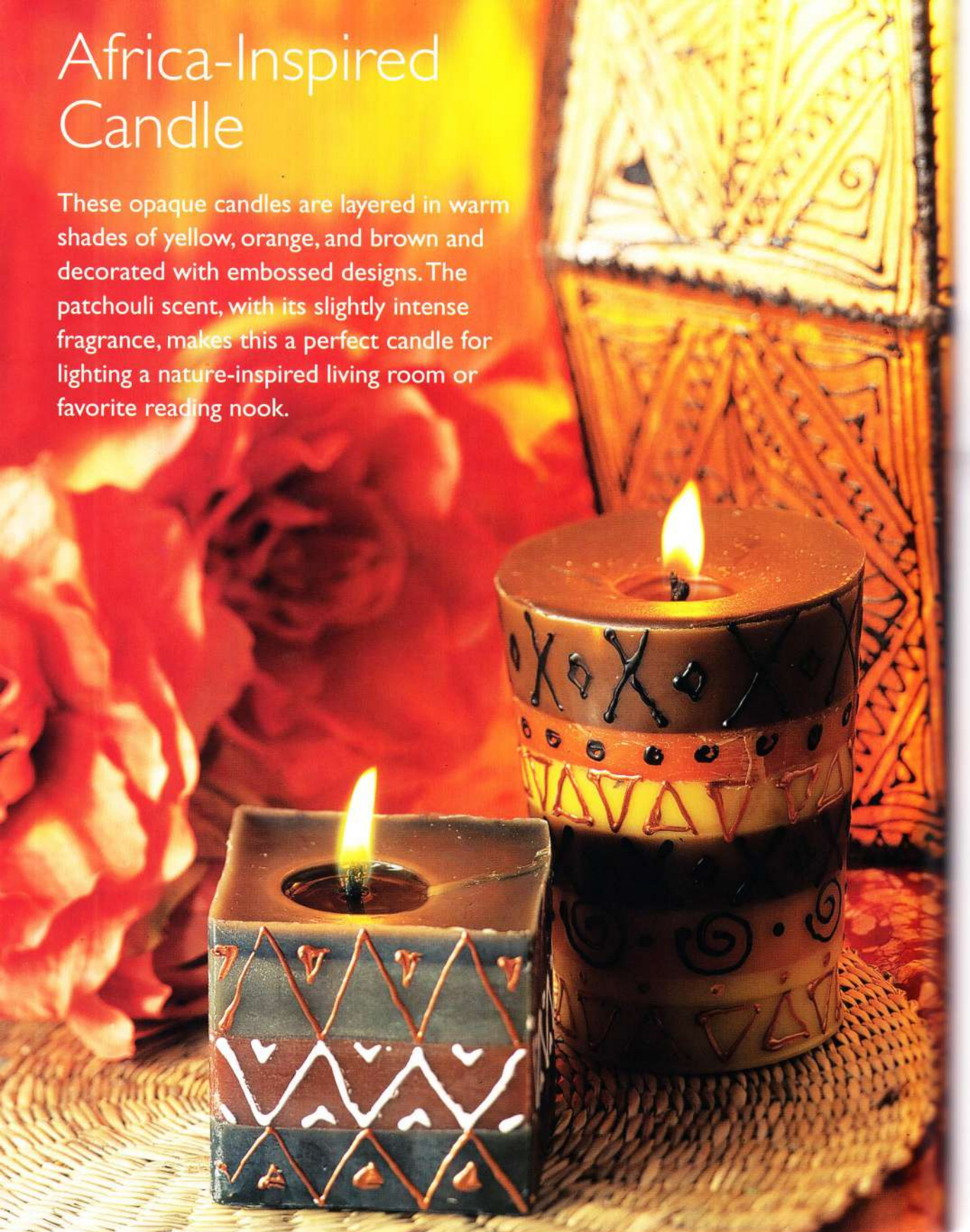
4 Insert the pointed tip of a skewer along the inner edge of the glass, and "fish" out some color from the first layer. Gently inch the stick around the glass so the first layer of wax next to the glass is slightly mixed with the second, creating a wavelike effect around the circumference of the candle.



5 Insert a waxed wick into the center of the candle, being careful not to disturb the waves you made. A good way to do this is to first insert a skewer through the center to make a hole for the wick.

Africa-Inspired Candle

These opaque candles are layered in warm shades of yellow, orange, and brown and decorated with embossed designs. The patchouli scent, with its slightly intense fragrance, makes this a perfect candle for lighting a nature-inspired living room or favorite reading nook.





As Gifts

This candle is made for wrapping in natural gift wrap. Cut a piece of rough burlap slightly larger than the size of the candle. Wrap the candle tightly in the burlap, then hold the edges closed while you wrap a couple strands of raffia around the candle.

Another Idea

A unique way to decorate this candle is to write a couple lines of your favorite poem on the side using the liquid wax pen. Personalize the phrase, making a truly heartfelt gift.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Empty milk carton
- 4 ½ oz opaque wax
- Dark green, brown, orange, and yellow coloring
- White waxed wicks
- Liquid wax pens in white, dark green, and bronze
- Patchouli-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Scissors
- Skewer
- Cylindrical mold



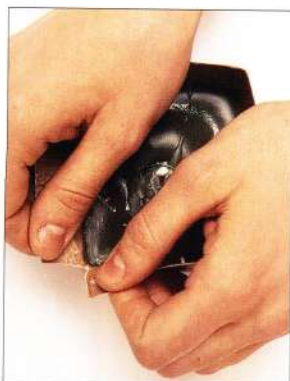
1 Melt approximately 1 ½ ounces of opaque wax in a double boiler over low heat. Color it with dark green coloring. Continue to stir and add 5 or 6 drops of patchouli-scented oil.



2 Cut the bottom from a milk carton to make a mold about 4 inches high. Pour a layer of green wax about 1 ½ inches high into the mold. Wrap the end of the wick around a skewer and lay it vertically on the mold's rim. Let the wax cool completely. Make wax for the second layer using 1 ounce of wax colored with brown coloring. Add the second layer, and then another layer of green when the second is solid.

HINT

To avoid mixing the wax colors and to make preparation easier, use two different small pots for the double boiler. After you have made the brown layer, simply reheat the green wax used for the first layer.



3 When the wax has completely hardened, trim the wick and remove the candle from the mold by carefully tearing off the carton.



4 Draw symbols and lines on the brown layer using a white liquid wax pen; use a bronze-colored pen on the green layers. Let the candle dry for at least 12 hours. To make the other candle, use a cylindrical mold and alternate wax layers of brown, orange, and yellow. Decorate using dark green and bronze-colored wax pens.

Wooden Inlaid Candle

Adorned with elegant patterns cut from brown wax sheets, these candles appear to be carved from wood. The patterns are attached to a patchouli-scented candle simply by applying light pressure. The warm, musky scent of the patchouli is slowly released in the air, dispersing its calming fragrance.





An Alternative

Use light and dark brown wax sheets to create a wooden star candle. Cover every side of the wax star, alternating between dark and light to create a shadowed effect. For a more intense fragrance, add a few drops of patchouli-scented oil to a cotton ball and swab the surface of the candle and the wax sheets.

How, When, Where

Use these “wooden” inlaid candles to add an elegant touch and calming scent to any room. If you prefer a soft, sweet scent, use sandalwood-scented oil, known for easing tension and stimulating creativity.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Dark and light brown wax sheets with wood-grain patterns
- Patchouli-scented candle

Equipment

- Scissors
- Hair dryer
- Pen or pencil
- Thin sheet of cardboard



Patterns for the designs
(enlarge 100 percent)

HINT

Before heating the wax sheets with a hair dryer, spend some time molding them to the candle with your fingers. Your body heat will cause the wax to lose some of its rigidity, making it malleable enough to attach to the candle.



1 Cut a sheet of dark brown wax that will cover the candle, remove its protective film, and wrap it around the candle. Heat the candle first with a hair dryer to ensure the wax sheet molds to the candle.



2 Place the base of the candle on a dark brown wax sheet, trace the circumference with a pen, and cut out the circle. Pierce a hole through the center.



3 Place the wax disk over the wick, making sure it covers the top of the candle, and heat it with a hair dryer until it softens.



4 Draw a few designs on a piece of thin cardboard, using the patterns. Cut out the designs and trace them on the back of a light brown wax sheet, then cut them out of the wax.



5 Attach the designs to the dark brown candle with your hands. Heat for a few seconds with a hair dryer to mold the pieces together.

Autumn Candle

Burgundy candles, with their deep wine shade, are reminiscent of autumn leaves and brisk evenings spent curled up by the fire. Yellow wax leaves adorning the sides of the candles continue the autumnal theme.





An Alternative

Another simple but beautiful way to use this method is to take an olive-colored candle, give it an antiqued effect, and add a twining vine of leaves. To “antique” the candle, rub it with a warm cloth when it’s just been removed from the mold. Decorate the candle with small yellow petals placed to look like a vine climbing from the base to the wick.

As Gifts

Continue the idea of leaves and warm autumn colors in the gift’s packaging. Wrap the candle in a sheet of yellow tissue paper and tie it with a burgundy raffia ribbon, or use burgundy paper and a yellow ribbon. For a final touch, cut a leaf-shaped tag from burgundy or yellow paper, write the receiver’s name on the tag, and tie it to the ribbon.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- White wax scales, 7 oz per candle
- White waxed wick approximately 10 inches high
- Orange and brown coloring tablets
- Yellow wax sheet
- Opium-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Skewer
- Craft knife
- Pen or pencil
- Cylindrical candle mold
- Scissors



1 Melt the white wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 3 drops of opium-scented oil, then color it with a one-fourth orange and three-fourths brown mix. Stir until the color is well blended.



2 Insert the wick through the hole at the bottom of the mold and tie a tight knot to prevent wax leakage. Stretch the wick to the top of the mold and wrap the tip around a skewer balanced on the rim of the mold.



3 Pour the wax slowly into the mold, being careful not to disturb the wick. Let dry completely and remove the candle, heating the mold with a hair dryer if necessary. Trim the wick.



4 Draw some leaves on the back of a yellow wax sheet. Cut out the leaves with a knife.



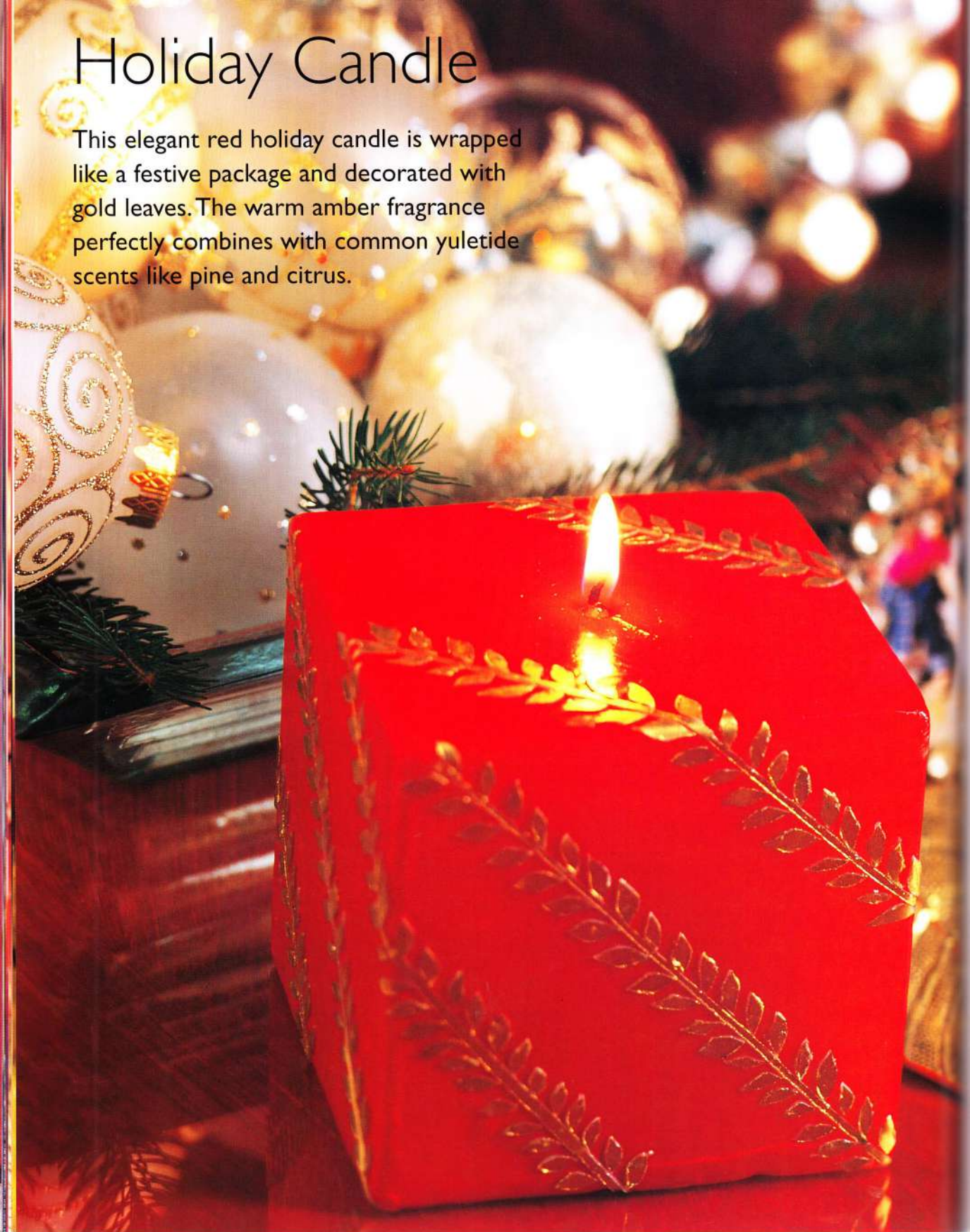
5 Remove the leaves from the wax sheet, take off the protective film, and arrange them on the burgundy candle. Use the heat of your hands to secure them.

HINT

To remove the candle from the mold, you must let it dry completely. When you are ready to extract the candle, cut the knotted wick from the bottom and heat the mold with a hair dryer or run it under a stream of warm water. This will allow the candle to slip easily from the mold.

Holiday Candle

This elegant red holiday candle is wrapped like a festive package and decorated with gold leaves. The warm amber fragrance perfectly combines with common yuletide scents like pine and citrus.





How, When, Where

Create a holiday centerpiece using a variety of shapes and colors, from a cube or a pyramid to a cone or a ball. Decorate the candles with golden leaf or other shapes and place them in the center of the table with some gold-colored holly. It's a great way to create a warm, inviting atmosphere during the holidays.

As Gifts

This decorated candle makes a perfect holiday hostess gift. Spray a burlap sack with gold paint and, once dry, insert the candle. Fold down the top of the sack and fasten it with a drop of hot glue and a red velvet bow in which you've placed a sprig of fresh pine.

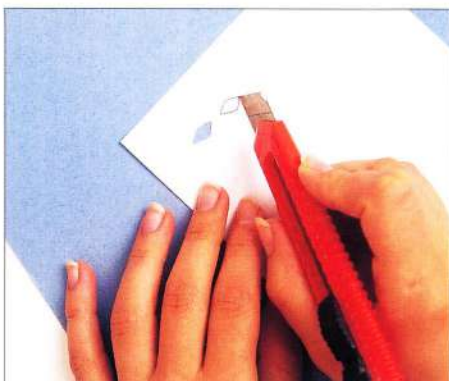
To Make the Candle

Materials

- Red amber-scented cubical candle
- Gold wax sheet

Equipment

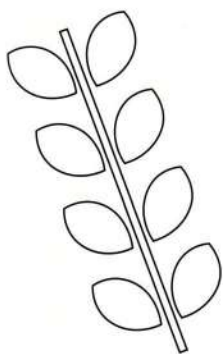
- Pen or pencil
- Craft knife
- Ruler
- Sheet of thin cardboard



1 Draw a couple tiny leaf designs on a sheet of thin cardboard and cut them out with a sharp blade. These will be used as patterns to cut the leaves from the wax sheet.



2 Place the pattern on an adhesive wax sheet, and cut the leaves' contours using the tip of the blade. The soft wax will be cut with only a minimal amount of pressure. Position the leaves close to each other so as to not waste wax. Keep $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of wax leftover for the stems.



Patterns for the leaves



3 Use a ruler to help you cut several thin strips from the excess wax sheet, and position them on the candle to create stems for the tiny leaves.



4 Remove the leaves from the wax sheet using the tip of the blade, and position them on either side of the stems, making a kind of spike, diagonal to the sides of the cube. Decorate all four sides of the cube as shown.

Gift Candle

The holidays are a time for gifts. Add a unique touch to your home by creating this gift candle and placing it under the tree. Sheet wax allows you to easily cover the cube candle; a wax cord is used as the ribbon. Pine-scented oil, swabbed on the wax, slowly releases its warm holiday fragrance.





As Gifts

Wrap the candle in two overlapping sheets of beige tissue paper, leaving extra paper at the top, and tie the package with a gold ribbon. Decorate the ribbon by attaching a small star or poinsettia to the center. Fluff the extra paper at the top of the package to create drama and volume.

How, When, Where

Add a festive touch to a holiday meal by making small gift-candle place-holders. Use wax sheets in classic holiday colors like red, green, gold, and silver to cover small square candles, then make ribbons out of contrasting wax cords.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Square candle with four wicks
- Green wax sheets
- Red wax cord
- Gold foil stars
- Pine-scented oil

Equipment

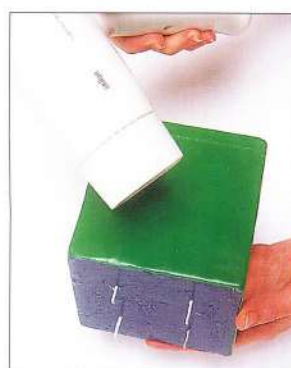
- Cotton ball
- Craft knife
- Ruler
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Hair dryer
- Needle



1 Add 2 or 3 drops of pine-scented oil to a cotton ball and gently swab it over the green wax sheets.



2 Using a ruler and knife, cut six wax sheets so they will cover the faces of the square candle, leaving an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on each side for the corners.



3 Place the wax sheets on the four sides of the candle and the bottom and secure them to the candle using your hands and the heat from a hair dryer.

HINT

Gently heat the wax sheets in your hands before removing the protective film. Secure them to the candle by applying a firm and uniform pressure with your hands.



4 Use a needle to pierce four holes for the wick in the top wax sheet, place it over the candle, and pull the wicks through the wax with the help of a pair of tweezers. Heat the wax with a hair dryer.



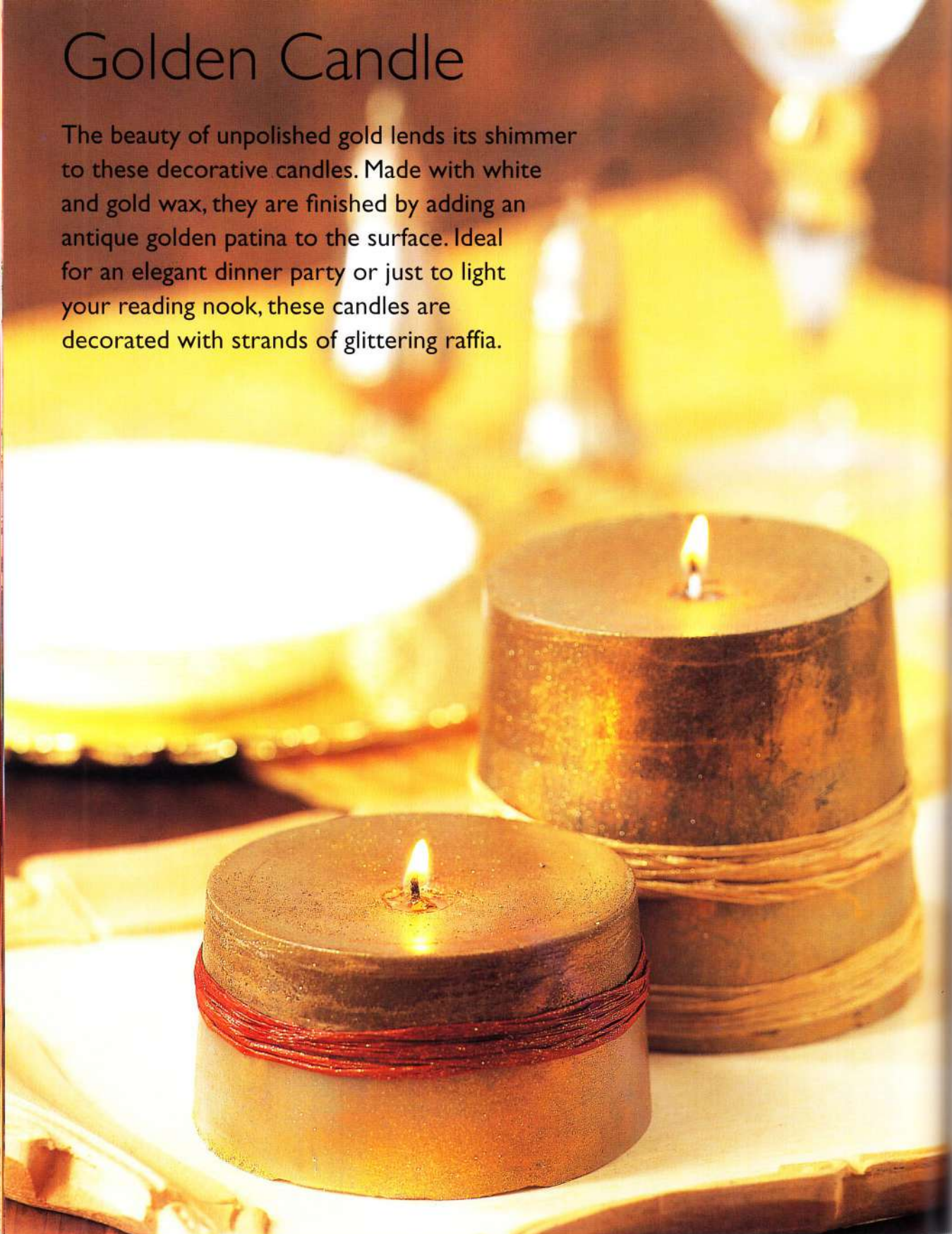
5 Decorate the candle with gold foil stars, making sure there is no space between them, to create a long border around the sides.



6 Tie wax cord around the candle and make a bow at the top.

Golden Candle

The beauty of unpolished gold lends its shimmer to these decorative candles. Made with white and gold wax, they are finished by adding an antique golden patina to the surface. Ideal for an elegant dinner party or just to light your reading nook, these candles are decorated with strands of glittering raffia.





An Alternative

Use white and gold wax flakes to make place-holders that complement your centerpiece. Fill glasses with two wax layers, first gold and then white. Add a few drops of patchouli-scented oil and insert a wick to complete the candle.

As Gifts

Make an elegant gift by placing this golden candle in a rigid organza bag, which allows a glimpse of the candle inside. Secure the bag by wrapping a few strands of red raffia around the top. To add a fragrant touch, swab the bag with a few drops of patchouli-scented oil on a cotton ball.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 7 oz white wax flakes
- 7 oz gold wax flakes
- Antique metallic gold paint
- Glitter spray
- Natural and red raffia
- Waxed wicks
- Patchouli-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Cylindrical candle mold
- Skewer
- Scissors
- Cotton ball



1 Insert the wick through the bottom of the mold and tie a knot so the wax doesn't leak. Stretch the wick to the other side and wrap the tip around a skewer laying across the rim of the mold, keeping the wick perfectly vertical.



2 Melt the white and gold wax flakes in a double boiler over low heat and add 5 drops of patchouli-scented oil. *Do not stir the wax*—you want the colors to remain unmixed.



3 Pour the melted wax into the mold until it's about 1 inch from the top. Let cool completely.

HINT

If you don't have a store-bought mold for the candle, you can recycle a plastic ice cream or yogurt container. Pierce the bottom of the container in the center and insert a wick, then tie a knot at the bottom and cover with a piece of modeling clay.



4 When the candle has hardened, remove it from the mold by applying light pressure with your fingers. Dip the cotton ball into the gold paint and rub the surface of the candle.



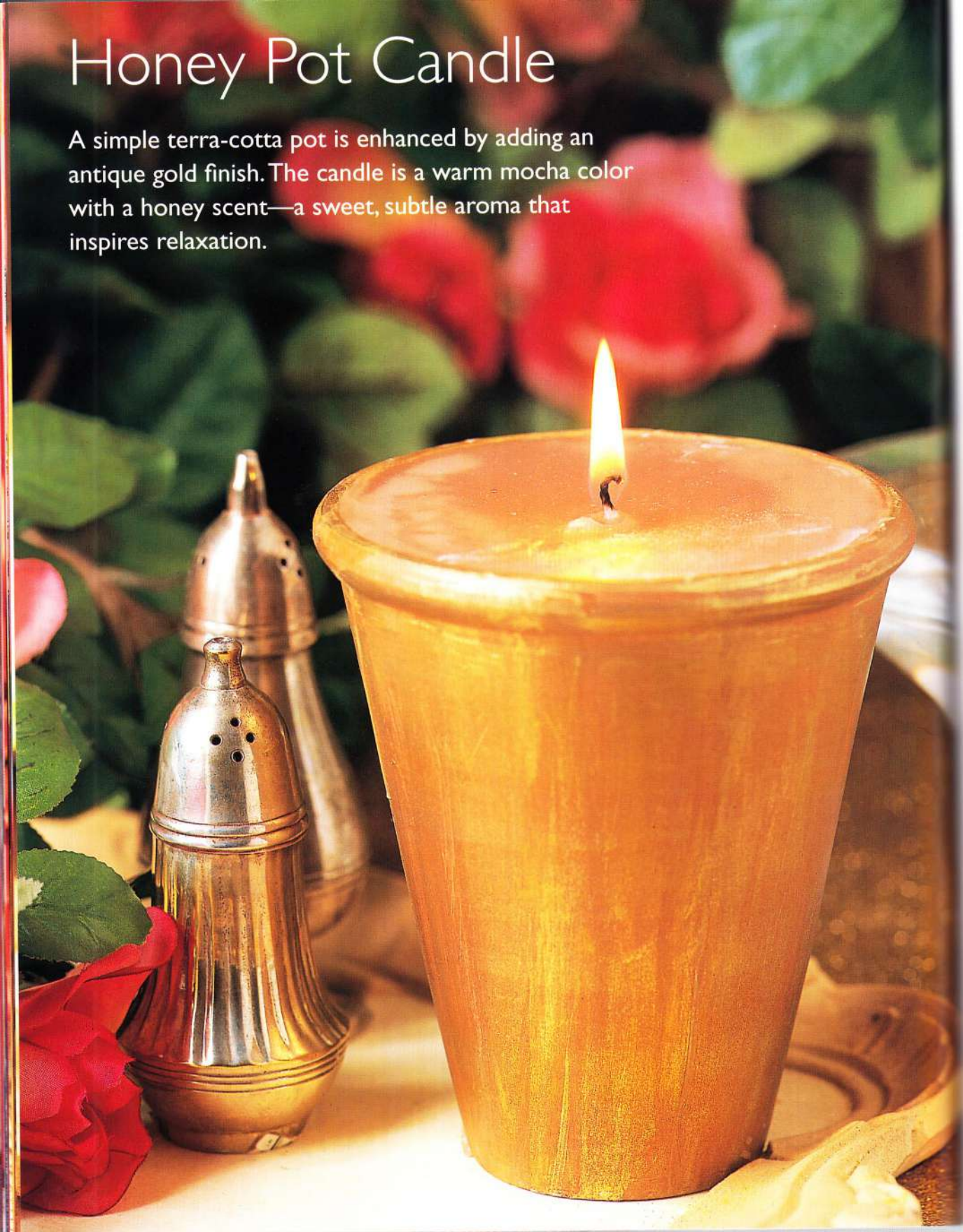
5 Decorate the base of the candle with a few turns of natural-colored raffia, making two separate bands. (Use red raffia for the second candle.)



6 Spray the candle with gold paint, then with glitter, and let it dry.

Honey Pot Candle

A simple terra-cotta pot is enhanced by adding an antique gold finish. The candle is a warm mocha color with a honey scent—a sweet, subtle aroma that inspires relaxation.



An Alternative

Decorate the terra-cotta pot with two bands of color by using slightly different shades of red acrylic paint. Attach a square of rough cotton fabric to the pot with glue. For the wax, choose a light beige color and fragrance with chocolate or coffee-scented oil.

Another Idea

Use silver or gold acrylic paint around the top edge of the vase to create an Asian feel. You can also use a stencil to create a design on the vase in burnished bronze tones.



To Make the Candle

Materials

- Small terra-cotta pot
- 10 ½ oz opaque wax
- Honey-scented oil
- Yellow coloring
- Brown wax crayon
- Gold acrylic paint
- Waxed wick

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Cotton cloth
- Fine sandpaper
- Needle
- Scissors
- Spoon



1 Lightly sand the outside of the vase with circular motions to prepare it for the paint.



2 Dip a cotton cloth into the gold acrylic paint and rub it on the vase to add a tint.



3 Melt the opaque wax in a double boiler and stir in 5 drops of honey-scented oil.

HINT

If you prefer a shiny vase, you can add a coat of water-based varnish after the acrylic paint has dried.



4 Color the melted wax with a piece of brown wax crayon and some yellow coloring until you create a light mocha shade.



5 Pour the melted wax, scented and colored, into the vase until it's about ½ inch from the top. Let cool.



6 When the wax is partially solid, pierce its center with a needle and insert a waxed wick.

Marble Candle

Add a touch of elegance to any room with these deep blue candles decorated with gold marbling. Blue wax sheets with a gold marble design are molded around the candle then enhanced by painting additional marble veins with a sparkling gold wax pen. The anise fragrance, rubbed on the wax sheets, releases a slightly spicy scent, creating a balanced atmosphere.





An Alternative

Use wax sheets to create a breakfast mug candle. Cover the inner sides of a clear glass mug with a rectangle of blue marble-patterned wax measured and cut to fit. Heat the wax with a hair dryer to mold it to the walls. Fill the mug with blue powder wax: As they melt, the wax grains will blend with the wax sheet to create a colorful effect.

As Gifts

Create a golden candleholder for these candles. Take a strip of gold-colored cardboard and glue the two ends together to make a circle slightly larger than the base of the candle. Wrap a blue cord around the cardboard, attaching it with hot glue. Glue the candle to the golden candleholder, and wrap the gift in gold-colored netting tied with a deep blue ribbon.

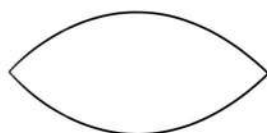
To Make the Candles

Materials

- Rounded candle approximately 4 inches in diameter
- Cubical candle
- Blue wax sheets with a marble design
- Metallic gold liquid wax pen
- Anise-scented oil

Equipment

- Cotton ball
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors



Pattern for rounded candle covering

HINT

To make the wax segments mold to the curves of the candle, gently press them with your hands until they are soft and more malleable. When you have finished covering the candle, hold a hair dryer about 12 inches from the candle and heat the wax segments until they mold together.



1 To make the oval candle, add a few drops of anise-scented oil to a cotton ball and swab it over the wax sheets. Let dry for several minutes.



2 Enlarge the pattern, then trace it on the back of a marbled wax sheet four times.



3 Cut out the four segments with a pair of scissors, being careful not to damage the wax.



4 Hold a wax segment between your hands to heat it, then remove the protective film and place it on the candle. Make sure the tips of the segment are at the wick and the base. Mold it to the surface of the candle by gently smoothing it with your hands. Repeat with the other three segments to cover the candle.



5 With the gold liquid wax pen, paint additional veins of marble. Let the wax dry for at least 2 hours. Make the cubical candles using the same method, measuring and cutting six wax sheets for the sides of each candle.

Flowered Sphere Candle

A stylish spherical candle can easily be embossed using adhesive wax sheets. The colors and designs mimic the traditional style of *azulejos*, Portuguese tin-glazed ceramic tile work. These candles are ideal for decorating a blue and white dinner table, or one that is simply all white.





An Alternative

Even if you think you lack creative skills, you can still make a beautiful candle. Follow the same method used to make the flowered candle, only using this pattern, and you can mimic an intricate ceramic design. Put this candle in your foyer beside two ceramic vases, one white and one blue, for an impressive display.



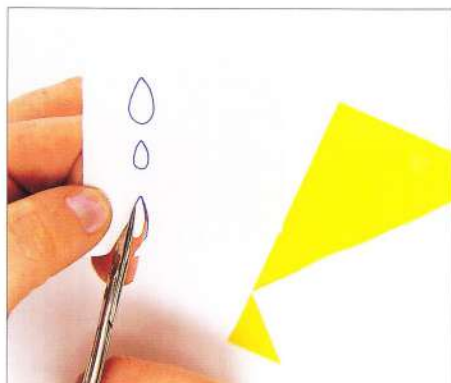
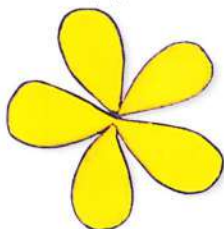
To Make the Candle

Materials

- Blue spherical candle
- 2 adhesive wax sheets, 1 white and 1 yellow

Equipment

- Pen or pencil
- Small scissors
- Craft knife
- Sheet of paper



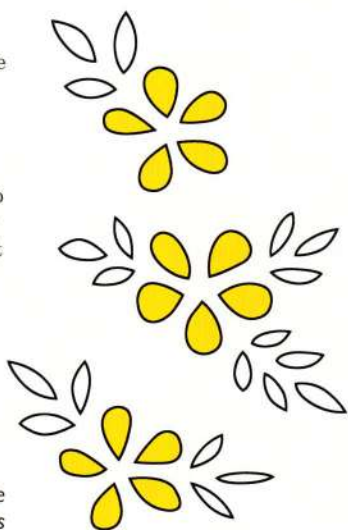
1 On a sheet of paper, trace the flower and leaf designs from the pattern. Cut them out with scissors so you can use them as templates.



2 Put the paper patterns on the adhesive wax sheets; on the yellow sheet, use the petals, on the white sheet, use the leaves. Cut out approximately fifteen full flowers with leaves, arranging them neatly to conserve space.

HINT

This candle is made with adhesive wax sheets, which are easy to outline but delicate to handle. When using paper patterns, cut out all of the designs from the smallest portion of wax you can so that you can save unused wax for future projects. To store the uncut portions, carefully wrap them in plastic and store in a cool, clean place.



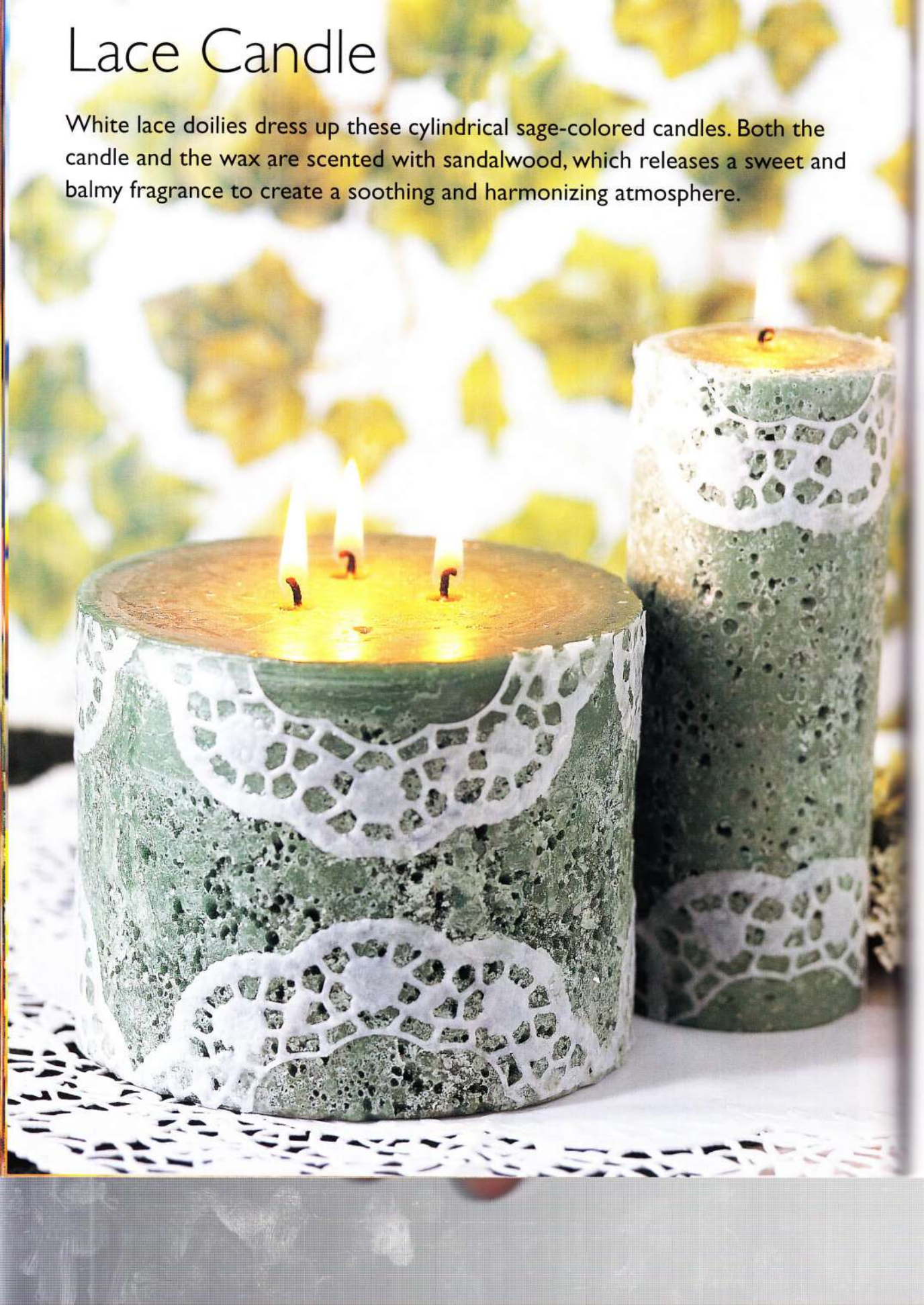
Pattern for the flowers and leaves



3 Carefully position the wax pieces on the spherical candle. Create a five-petaled flower surrounded by small groups of white leaves. Repeat this process until the candle is covered in tiny flowers. Press lightly on the designs so they attach securely to the candle.

Lace Candle

White lace doilies dress up these cylindrical sage-colored candles. Both the candle and the wax are scented with sandalwood, which releases a sweet and balmy fragrance to create a soothing and harmonizing atmosphere.





An Alternative

Instead of using just the outside curves of the doily, you can instead wrap the sage candle from side to side with a full doily to create a country-kitchen effect. Wrap the candle in a piece of clear cellophane and tie the package with a dark green ribbon to create a simple but charming package.

Another Idea

Use gold or silver-colored doilies to make lace candles. For the candle itself, choose a transparent shade like white, yellow, or even a pastel for a refined and elegant effect.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Cylindrical sage-colored candle
- 7 oz opaque white wax
- Circular paper doilies (available in grocery stores or bakeries)
- Sandalwood-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Cotton ball
- Small scissors
- Tweezers
- Small paintbrush



1 Add a few drops of sandalwood-scented oil to a cotton ball and rub the surface of the candle.



2 Melt the white wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 5 drops of sandalwood oil.



3 Based on the dimensions of the candle, cut the contours of the paper doily into equal-sized pieces.

HINT

To make sure the doilies attach securely, first paint a thin layer of melted wax onto the candle with a paintbrush, then quickly apply the cut doily piece. Use the paintbrush to smooth the paper to the candle; repeat for the other pieces.



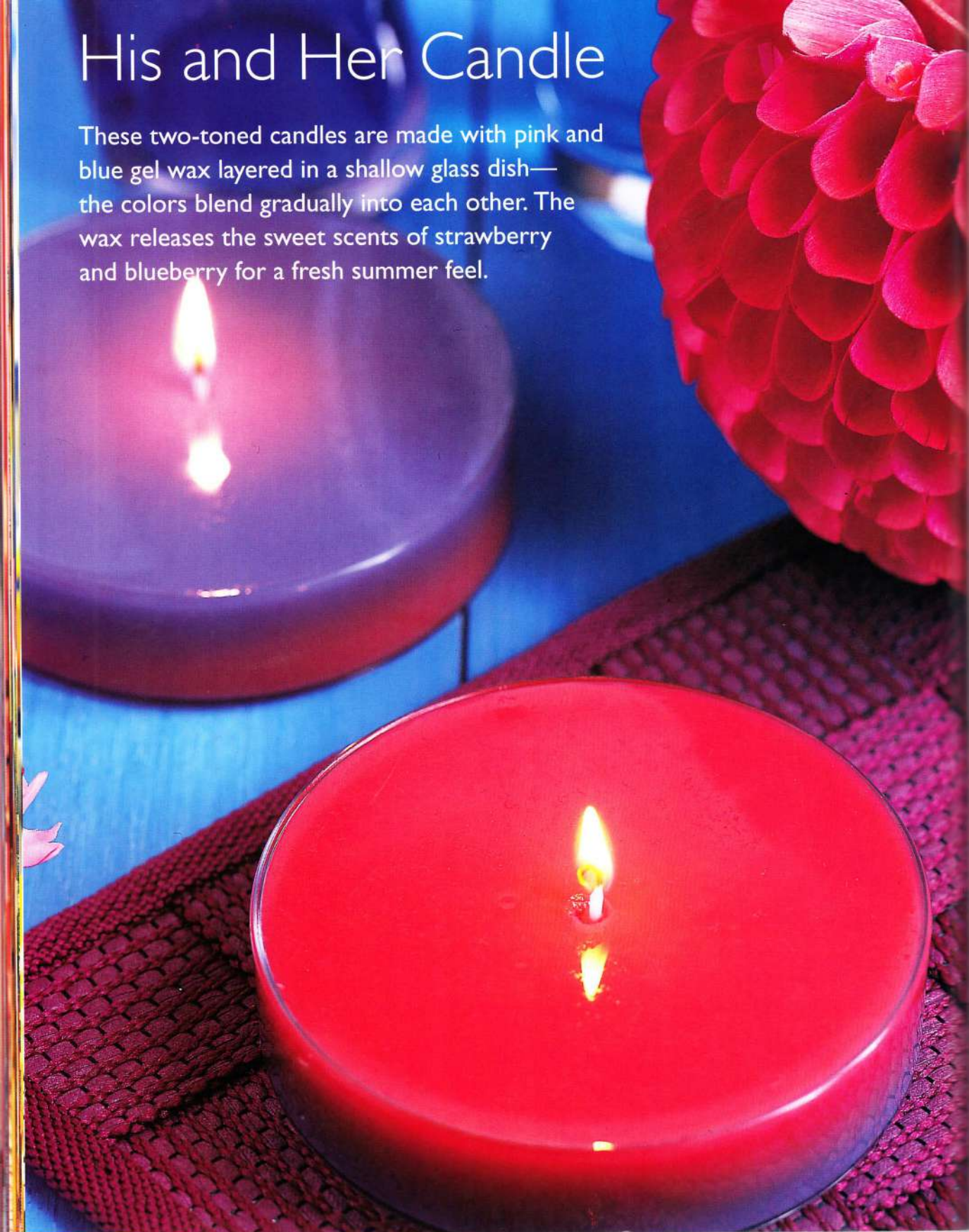
4 Use tweezers to dip a piece of paper doily into the melted wax for a few seconds; lift it out and let any excess wax drip back into the pot.



5 Apply the waxed pieces to the candle as shown. Gently press them to the candle with a paintbrush. Let the wax cool completely.

His and Her Candle

These two-toned candles are made with pink and blue gel wax layered in a shallow glass dish—the colors blend gradually into each other. The wax releases the sweet scents of strawberry and blueberry for a fresh summer feel.



As Gifts

Make a simple package that allows the receiver to see what's inside. Wrap the candle in transparent cellophane and pull the edges up over the top of the candle. Tie the package with pink or blue ribbon.



How, When, Where

For a festive dinner table, use all the colors of the rainbow to create multiple two-toned candles in various shades. Fill little glass bowls with two different shades of gel wax. Use bright colors like red, purple, orange, yellow, and blue scented with fragrances appropriate to the colors, such as a fruity orange-and-yellow candle scented with mandarin and lemon.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Gel wax in pink and blue, 7 oz per candle
- 2 shallow, round glass dishes
- Strawberry and blueberry-scented oils
- 2 waxed wicks

Equipment

- Double boiler with 2 small pots
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt the pink gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 5 drops of strawberry-scented oil.



2 Pour the melted wax into a shallow, round dish about one-third of the way to the top. Let the wax partially solidify so the blue wax added on top will blend slightly with the pink.

HINT

Timing is important when making these candles. If you pour the second layer too soon, the pink and blue will blend completely; add it too late, and the colors won't blend at all. It might take a few practice candles to get the timing just right.



3 Melt the blue gel wax and add 5 drops of blueberry-scented oil. Pour it over the pink wax in the dish, filling to the top.



4 When the wax is completely solid, pierce the center with a needle and insert a waxed wick, precut to the desired height. Make the other candle with a first layer of blueberry blue wax and a second layer of strawberry pink wax.

Valentine's Day Candle

Use a couple of these romantic candles as a centerpiece for an intimate table for two. Shaped like hearts, the traditional symbol of love, these candles are scented with wild strawberry, an aroma that will surely sweeten your evening.





An Alternative

Create heart-shaped tea lights with the help of a cookie mold. Arrange the tea lights on a tray or in individual saucers to use as place-holders. They will add a delightful touch to any romantic occasion.

As Gifts

For a touching and romantic gift, make three or four heart-shaped candles and arrange them in the shape of a clover with the tips of the hearts turned toward the center. Wrap the candles in a piece of red tulle tied with a matching ribbon.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 10 ½ oz white wax granules
- Wild strawberry-scented oil
- Waxed wick
- Dark red coloring

Equipment

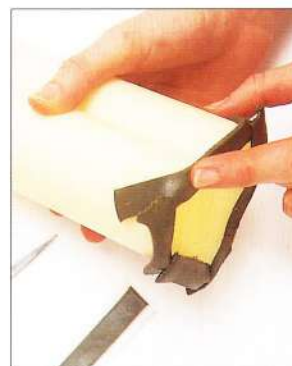
- Double boiler
- Tall heart-shaped mold
- Small scissors
- Skewer
- Modeling clay
- Glass dish
- Spoon
- Tape



1 Melt the white wax granules in a double boiler over low heat and add 10 drops of wild strawberry-scented oil.



2 Color the wax with dark red coloring, stirring slowly with a wooden spoon to disperse the color.



3 Prepare the heart mold by covering the edges of the base with a few strips of modeling clay. Place the mold into a glass dish, making sure the modeling clay forms a seal with the dish to prevent any wax leakage.

HINT

To remove the candle from the mold, run it under cold water for a few seconds, or place it in the refrigerator for a couple minutes. The chilled candle will easily slide out of the mold.



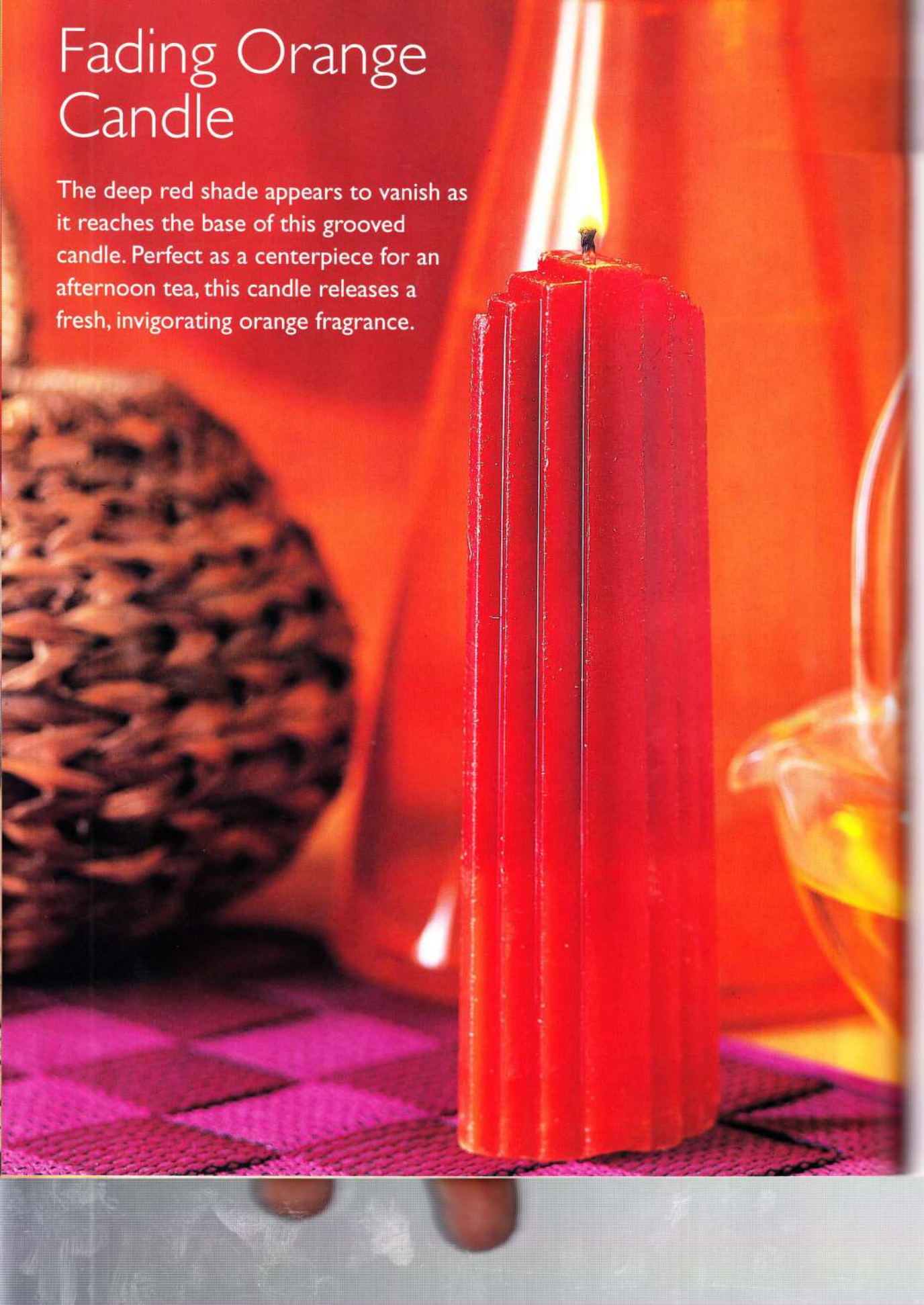
4 Insert a wick to the bottom of the mold and wrap the tip around a skewer taped to either edge of the mold. Slowly pour the melted wax into the mold, being careful not to move the wick from the center. Let cool.

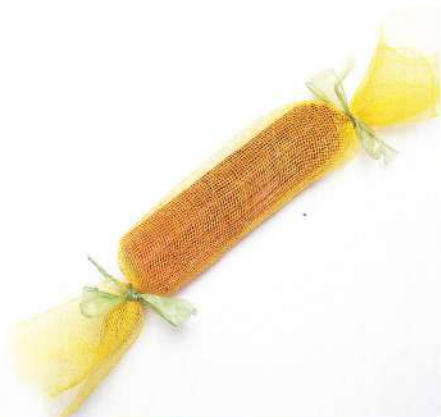


5 If a small indentation forms near the wick while the candle is drying, add a few drops of melted wax to the top to fill it. When the candle has completely hardened, remove it from the mold and trim the wick to the desired height.

Fading Orange Candle

The deep red shade appears to vanish as it reaches the base of this grooved candle. Perfect as a centerpiece for an afternoon tea, this candle releases a fresh, invigorating orange fragrance.





As Gifts

Wrap the candle in a rectangle of yellow netting and tie each end with a green ribbon, just like a piece of hard candy. The wide weave of the netting allows the orange aroma to escape, even before the package is opened.

How, When, Where

Display this red candle at a dinner party with a pop style. Use a bright fuchsia tablecloth topped with orange placemats. Place bright vases in red, orange, and fuchsia along the table and fill them with tulips or gerbera daisies in similar shades.

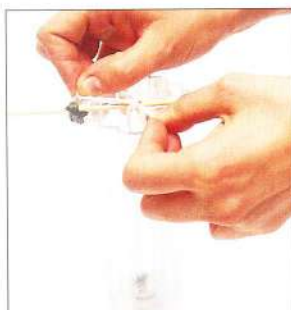
To Make the Candle

Materials

- 14 oz opaque white wax
- Red, orange, and yellow coloring
- Waxed wick
- Orange-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Cylindrical grooved mold
- Skewer
- Modeling clay
- Scissors
- Tape



1 Insert the waxed wick through the bottom hole of the mold and secure with a large knot and a small ball of modeling clay. Wrap the other end of the wick around a skewer taped on the top rim of the mold.



2 Melt one-third of the opaque white wax in a double boiler over low heat, then add 3 drops of red coloring and 5 drops of orange-scented oil.



3 Pour the melted wax into the mold, filling it approximately one-third of the way up. Let the wax cool completely.

HINT

Letting each layer of wax cool completely before adding the next one helps avoid mixing any of the colors. If you want a slightly blended effect, pour onto wax that's still a bit warm and soft.



4 Melt another third of the wax, adding 1 drop of red and 2 drops of yellow coloring and 5 drops of orange-scented oil. Pour this second layer of wax into the mold.



5 Melt the last third of the wax and add only 2 or 3 drops of orange coloring and oil. Pour this on top of the second layer after the second layer has hardened. If some sinking occurs around the wick as the wax cools, fill the depression with a few drops of melted wax.



6 When the candle has completely hardened, remove the modeling clay and cut the bottom wick knot. Remove the candle from the mold and trim the wick to the desired height.

Metallic Netting Candle

This simple white candle is dressed with a wrap of woven metallic net. It has a top layer of icy crystal wax. The four wicks burn slowly to release a sweet vanilla fragrance, sure to create a relaxed mood.

Materials

- 10 1/2 oz wh granules
- 3 1/2 oz crys
- Thin metalli
- Vanilla-scent
- 4 waxed wi

Equipment

- Double boil
- Round meta
- Needle
- Scissors

HINT

To make re
candle from
easier, dip t
water before
the melted
can also spr
with water
spray bottle



An Alternative

Use a large, square terra-cotta container to create a candle with a rustic feel. Melt the opaque wax and add a fragrance of your choice, then pour it into the terra-cotta pot. Insert four waxed wicks.

How, When, Where

Make tea-light placeholders for a modern dinner table with shades of white and silver. Curl strips of metallic netting into cylindrical shapes and insert them into tall glasses. Place a white tea light on the bottom of the glass; the light will shine through the netting.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 10 1/2 oz white wax granules
- 3 1/2 oz crystal wax
- Thin metallic netting
- Vanilla-scented oil
- 4 waxed wicks

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Round metal pan
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt the white wax flakes in a double boiler over low heat and add 10 drops of vanilla-scented oil. Pour a thin layer of wax into the metal pan and tilt and turn it to cover the bottom and sides with wax.



2 Place the metallic netting inside the pan and press it to the waxed sides so it is secured all the way around the pan. Leave some of the netting draped over the top rim.



3 Pour the remaining melted wax into the pan, over the netting, until it's about 1 inch from the top. Let it cool completely.

HINT

To make removing the candle from the pan easier, dip the pan in water before adding the melted wax. You can also spritz the pan with water using a spray bottle.



4 With a needle, pierce four holes on the surface of the candle and insert four measured waxed wicks.



5 Melt and perfume the crystal wax, then pour it over the candle, creating a thin layer on top. Let the candle harden and remove from the pan. The finished candle will appear to be covered in ice.

Multicolored Layered Candle

These overlapping wax square candles incorporate all the colors of the rainbow. The wick, inserted through the center, allows the layers to rotate, creating fun, irregular shapes. The candles are scented with insect-repelling lemongrass, making them perfect to use outside.



Materials

- White wax fl...
- Wax crayons...
- Waxed wick...
- Square cardb...
- Lemongrass-

Equipment

- Double boile...
- Spoon
- Craft knife
- Needle

HIN

To make sur... doesn't pull... candle, use a... a metal base... over the wick... bottom and a... the bottom s... with a little... wax. You can... modeling cla... bottom to ho... wick, but you... spread it out... candle lies fl...



An Alternative

Design cheerful little place-holders for your guests: Make a wax square and a circle of two different colors, pierce through both centers with a needle and insert a waxed wick. Experiment with tone or contrasting colors to create a bright, geometric effect.

How, When, Where

For a children's party, make these colorful candles and add fun citrus scents. For an outside party, use citronella or lavender fragrances, which are both good for repelling insects. To intensify any fragrance, add 2 drops of oil at the base of the wick.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- White wax flakes, 1 oz per candle
- Wax crayons in orange, red, lilac, violet-blue, blue, green apple, and mint green
- Waxed wick
- Square cardboard cartons (1 carton for each layer)
- Lemongrass-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Craft knife
- Needle



1 Melt 1 ounce of wax flakes in a double boiler over low heat, add 2 drops of lemongrass-scented oil, and crumble a piece of yellow crayon into the wax. Stir to mix the color and fragrance.



2 Cut the bottom off a cardboard carton to make a mold about 1½ inches high. Pour the melted wax into the mold to create a layer about ½ inch high.



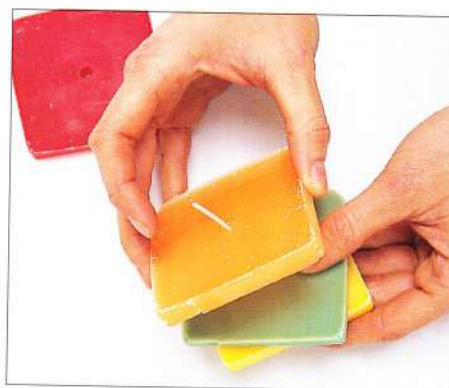
3 When the wax has cooled completely, pierce a hole through the center with a needle.

HINT

To make sure the wick doesn't pull out of the candle, use a wick with a metal base, or fold over the wick at the bottom and affix it to the bottom square with a little melted wax. You can also use modeling clay on the bottom to hold the wick, but you'll need to spread it out so the candle lies flat.



4 Carefully remove the hardened wax square by tearing off the carton.



5 Make other colorful wax squares using the same method and varying the colors. Layer a pile of finished wax squares one on top of the other, alternating colors, until you obtain the desired effect. Insert a waxed wick through the center holes.

Cutout Shape Candle

The sunshine of summer is reflected in these candles made from bright red and orange wax. They're made with two wax layers; the top one is engraved with a flower or star shape. Spicy cinnamon combines with sweet mandarin orange to create an energizing and balancing fragrance.

Materials

- 5 ½ oz wax
- Waxed wick
- Square-based cartons
- Red and orange wax
- Cinnamon and mandarin orange scented oils

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Needle
- Scissors
- Star and flower cookie cutters
- Tweezers
- Spoon

HINT

When you melt the orange wax, be careful not to get inside the cookie cutter. To prevent this, you can cover the inside of the cutter with heat-resistant adhesive tape.



As Gifts

Use warm red and orange colors to package this gift: Crumple two pieces of colored tissue paper around the candle and tie with a raffia ribbon onto which you've threaded a tag in the same shape as the cutout design. For a fragrant touch, spray a few drops of cinnamon or mandarin-scented oil on the paper.

Scenting the Candle

Mandarin essence has long been used to scent the home and in aromatherapy because of the fruit's many therapeutic properties. A natural antiseptic, mandarin harmonizes and soothes the spirit; it's also used to relieve stress. Spray a little mandarin essence in the house or office to fight fatigue and recapture your energy.

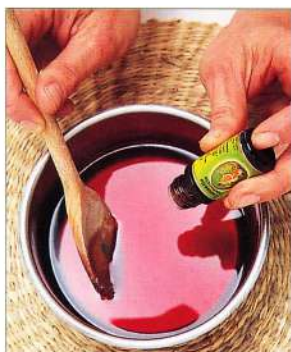
To Make the Candles

Materials

- 3 1/2 oz wax per candle
- Waxed wicks
- Square-based cardboard cartons
- Red and orange colorings
- Cinnamon and mandarin-scented oils

Equipment

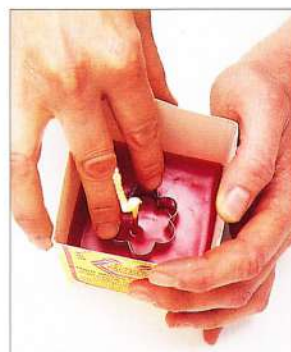
- Double boiler
- Needle
- Scissors
- Star and flower-shaped cookie cutters
- Tweezers
- Spoon



1 Melt 3 1/2 ounces of wax in a double boiler over low heat. Add 5 drops of cinnamon-scented oil and 6 drops of red coloring.



2 Use scissors to cut off the bottom half of a carton. Suspend the wick vertically, supported by a needle or skewer lying across the carton's top rim. Pour a layer of melted wax approximately 1 1/2 inches high into the mold.



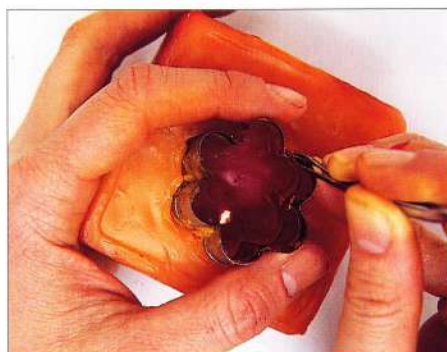
3 When the wax has partially solidified, untie the wick from the needle and press a small flower-shaped cookie cutter into the center of the wax, about 1/2 inch deep.

HINT

When you make the orange wax layer, be careful not to pour it inside the cookie cutter. To prevent this, you can cover the top of the cutter with heat-resistant adhesive tape.



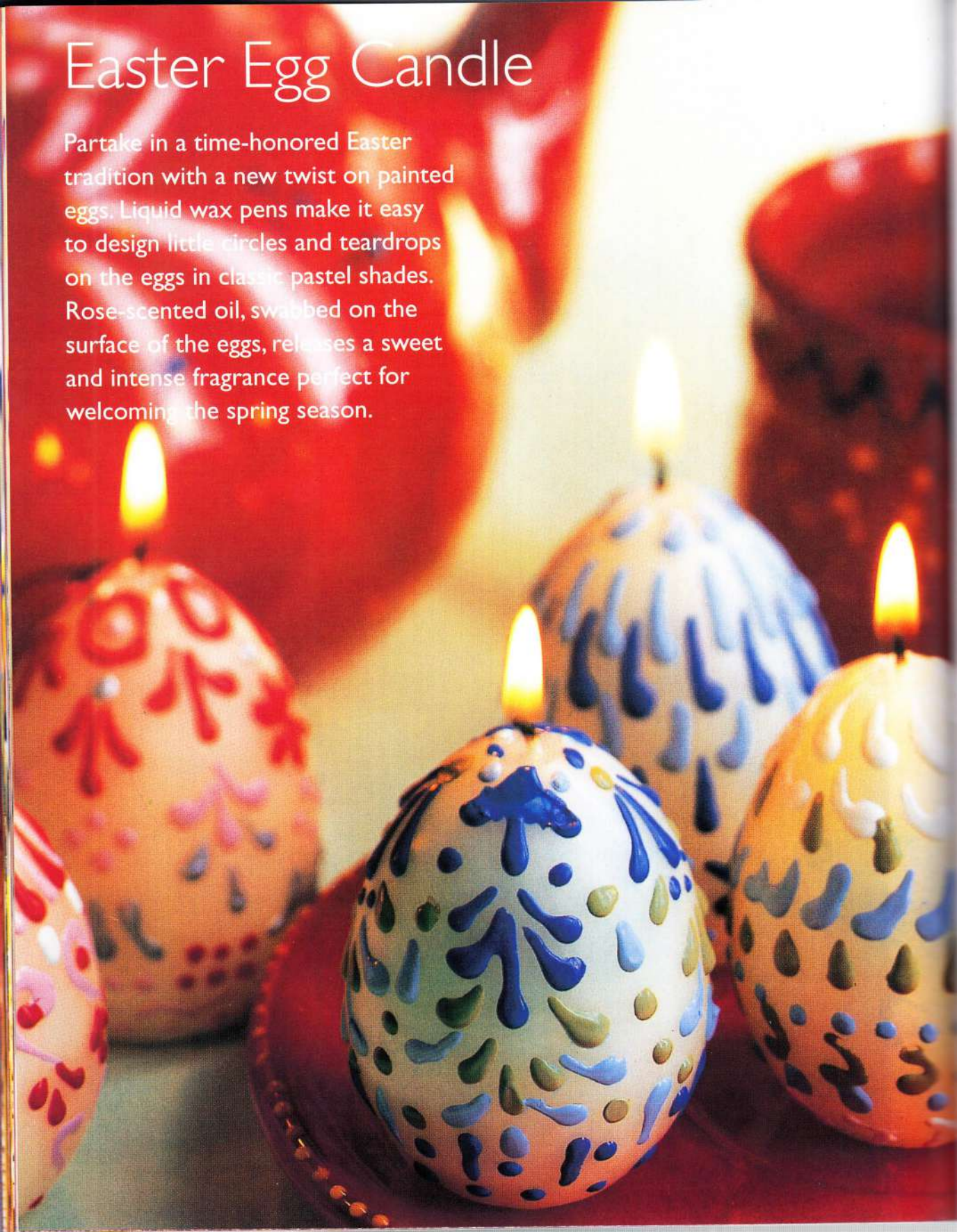
4 Melt the remaining wax and add 5 drops of orange coloring and 4 drops of mandarin-scented oil. Pour the wax into the mold, around the flower, filling to the top of the cookie cutter.



5 When the candle has completely hardened, remove it by gently tearing off the carton. Use tweezers to carefully pull the cookie cutter out of the wax. Repeat the process for the star candle, alternating the colors.

Easter Egg Candle

Partake in a time-honored Easter tradition with a new twist on painted eggs. Liquid wax pens make it easy to design little circles and teardrops on the eggs in classic pastel shades. Rose-scented oil, swabbed on the surface of the eggs, releases a sweet and intense fragrance perfect for welcoming the spring season.





An Alternative

For those with an artistic flair, decorate the eggs with a marbled effect. With two or more different shades of liquid wax pens, paint interlaced patterns over the eggs to resemble marble. Let dry for at least 12 hours before lighting.

As Gifts

Wrap an egg in a square of yellow netting and tie the package with a thin orange ribbon to make a cheerful Easter gift.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 5 white egg-shaped candles
- Liquid wax pens in light blue, dark blue, white, green, red, and pink
- Rose-scented oil

Equipment

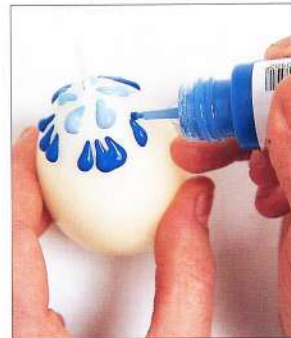
- Egg cup
- Cotton cloth
- Cotton ball



1 Clean the surface of the egg-shaped candle with a cotton cloth to remove any dust. Add a few drops of rose-scented oil to a cotton ball and gently rub it over the egg.



2 Hold the candle with the wick turned toward you and paint five blue comma designs around the wick to resemble flower petals.



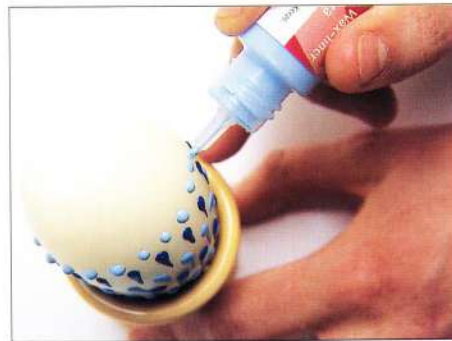
3 Continue decorating by adding more petals lower on the egg. In the spaces between the petals, add light blue drops and five groups of dark blue petals, each made with three wax drops.

HINT

To make an even design, practice drawing with the liquid wax pen on an old candle. Hold your fingers steady, gently press on the pen to squeeze out a little wax, then lift the tip of the pen away from the candle to create a petal shape.



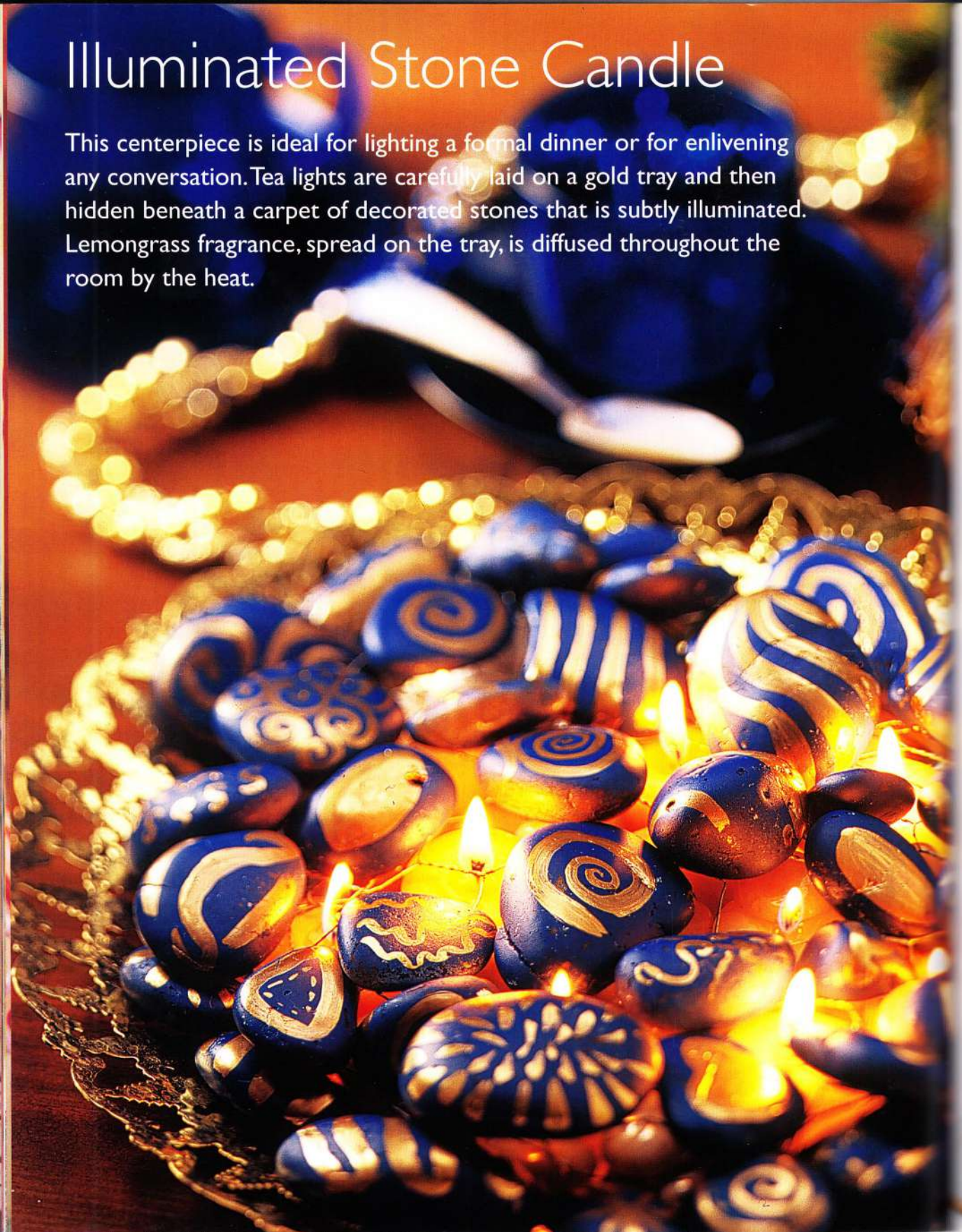
4 Use the light blue wax pen to decorate the center of the candle, making a band of "comma" petals equally spaced around the egg. Then add a band of dark blue petals slightly lower in the spaces between the light blue petals. Let dry for at least 12 hours so the wax completely solidifies.



5 Turn the candle upside down and place it in an egg cup. With the light blue wax pen, make a circle of dots around the candle, slightly above the dark blue petals on the top part of the egg. Continue decorating the bottom part of the egg and let dry for another 12 hours. Decorate the other eggs in the same way, changing colors and patterns as you wish.

Illuminated Stone Candle

This centerpiece is ideal for lighting a formal dinner or for enlivening any conversation. Tea lights are carefully laid on a gold tray and then hidden beneath a carpet of decorated stones that is subtly illuminated. Lemongrass fragrance, spread on the tray, is diffused throughout the room by the heat.





An Alternative

To make a smaller version of this centerpiece, arrange three decorated stones and two tea lights in a small rectangular box, alternating between the two. You can then place the display on an end table or bookcase to light up any corner of the room. Don't forget to add 3 or 4 drops of lemongrass-scented oil to the box.

Scenting the Candle

The lemongrass essence is reminiscent of the earth, forest, moss, and roots. This intense fragrance is also known for its sensual properties. In India, small mats are made from the dried roots of lemongrass and placed under mattresses.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Lemongrass-scented oil
- Gold metal tray
- 8 tea lights
- Bag of smooth, decorative stones
- Dark blue water-based spray paint
- Gold acrylic paint
- Gloss or semigloss spray varnish
- Aluminum netting

Equipment

- Cotton cloth
- Small paintbrush
- Scissors
- Old newspaper



1 Pour 6 drops of lemongrass-scented oil on a cotton cloth and swab the inner surface of the gold tray. Place one tea light in the center of the tray, and arrange the others around the outer edge at an equal distance from each other.



2 Cut the netting to make a circle slightly larger in diameter than the bottom of the tray. Fold the edges under so the metal doesn't prick your fingers.



3 Position the net over the center of the plate so each of the candles' wicks is above the metal. Thin aluminum net is very malleable; you can shape it with your fingers or trim it easily with scissors.



4 In a well-ventilated area, lay down a piece of newspaper and paint the stones with blue water-based spray paint. Paint one side, let dry, and then paint the other side. Once both sides have dried, paint designs on the stones with acrylic gold paint, as shown in the photograph.



5 To make the stones even more luminous, spray them with a coat of gloss or semigloss varnish once the paint has dried. Carefully arrange the stones over the aluminum netting, leaving the wicks uncovered.

Snow Star Gel Candle

This snow-and-ice centerpiece is created using powdered white wax and clear gel. The wax "snow" forms a star in the center of the candle, which is surrounded by the transparent gel. A pine fragrance releases a fresh scent, making this the perfect candle for warming the holidays.





An Alternative

Fill heart, star, or flower-shaped tea-light holders with powdered white wax. Add a wick and a few drops of pine-scented oil and place them around the house to freshen any room.

Another Idea

Use colorful gel wax to make holiday place-holders. Place a heart, star, tree, or angel cookie cutter in the center of a flat-bottomed glass bowl and fill with colorful wax grains. Outside the cookie cutter, pour melted gel wax scented with cinnamon, moss, orange, eucalyptus, honey, or vanilla. Let solidify completely.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Clear bell-shaped glass vase
- 9 oz transparent gel wax
- White wax grains
- Waxed wick
- Pine-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Tall, plastic, star-shaped cookie cutter
- Spoon



1 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add a few drops of pine-scented oil.



2 Place a star cookie cutter in the center of a glass, then pour the melted wax in the space between the mold and the glass.

HINT

To make the candle correctly, it's important that the vase is perfectly flat on the bottom and widens toward the top. This is to ensure that enough air can get to the candle as it burns so it does not extinguish itself.



3 When the gel wax has solidified, remove the star mold. With your hands or with the help of a knife, remove the wax that might have penetrated the bottom of the mold.



4 Use a spoon to fill the empty star shape with white wax grains.



5 Insert a measured waxed wick through the center of the grains.

New Year's Eve Candle

Toast the new year with these elegant candles made using champagne goblets. Transparent gel is flecked with gold leaf sparkles in the bubbly. Orange essence slowly diffuses from the wax, releasing its fresh scent to inspire health and wealth all year long.





An Alternative

For your New Year's celebration, make bubbly placeholders for each of your guests: champagne glasses filled with large flakes of gold leaf floating in clear gel wax. Once lit, the candles will glow with fragrant light.

How, When, Where

Create an elegant centerpiece for New Year's Day. Take a large glass bowl and fill it with melted gel wax scented with orange oil. Scatter fragments of gold leaf onto the surface and push them gently into the wax using a wooden stick. Let the wax solidify, then insert four waxed wicks.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Champagne goblet
- 3 1/2 oz transparent gel wax
- Orange-scented oil
- Gold leaf
- Waxed wick

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 6 drops of orange-scented oil.



2 Crumble some pieces of gold leaf into small pieces with your hands. Add the fragments to the melted gel wax.

HINT

To make sure the gold leaf doesn't melt, allow the gel wax to cool slightly before adding the gold. But be careful that the wax doesn't solidify too much, making it impossible to pour into the champagne goblet. To avoid this, you can first pour the melted gel wax into the goblet, wait a few seconds for it to cool, and then add the gold leaf.



3 Pour the gold-flecked gel wax into a champagne glass, filling it until about 1/2 inch from the top. Let it cool.



4 When the wax has completely solidified, pierce its center with a needle and insert a measured waxed wick.

First Snow Candle

Capture the magic of the season's first snow with these transparent gel candles in glass mugs. The snow lies on the bottom of the mug, making a white carpet on which lie small pinecones wrapped in snow and ice. Both beautiful and practical, these candles are scented with pine (known for its anti-inflammatory properties), making them ideal for treating a winter cold.





An Alternative

Decorate your home with several small candles during the cold winter months. Use small round vases, layer fake snow and a small pinecone on the bottom, then cover with gel wax. These candles can also be used as place-holders for a warm winter supper with friends.

Scenting the Candle

Studies show that certain scents create a positive atmosphere and improve sociability. Draw out an introverted personality with an oriental scent like amber or opium and delight an extrovert with fresh, floral fragrances. For a dreamy temperament, use a sweet, intoxicating scent like coconut or sweet almond.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Glass mug
- 3 ½ oz transparent gel wax
- 2 oz opaque white wax
- Fake snow
- Small pinecones
- Pine-scented oil
- Waxed wick

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Pour a handful of fake snow into the bottom of a glass mug, creating small dunes in the snow.



2 Melt the opaque white wax in a double boiler over low heat and let it cool slightly. Dip the pinecone into the wax and roll it around so the wax sticks to it as shown. Repeat with the other pinecones, then let them dry.



3 Place the pinecones onto the layer of snow to create an imaginative arrangement.

HINT

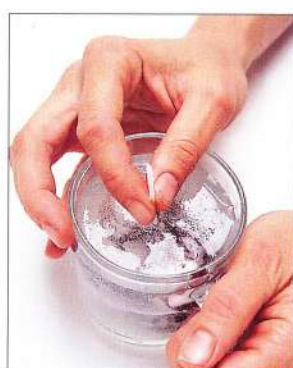
To avoid melting the white wax off the pinecones when it comes in contact with the gel wax, make sure the wax on the pinecones is completely hardened before placing them in the mug. Wait for the gel wax to cool for a few seconds before pouring it.



4 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 4 drops of pine-scented oil.



5 Pour the melted wax into the glass mug until about ½ inch from the top. Pour slowly so you don't disturb the fake snow or pinecones.



6 When the wax is partially solid, pierce it through the center with a needle and insert the measured waxed wick. Let cool completely.

Cocktail Party Candle

These inviting cocktails are made from colorful wax gel scented with orange, lemon, and raspberry. Add a slice of dried orange to the glass to make the perfect cocktail. A great way to light up happy hour with friends.





An Alternative

Create as many juicy candles as you can imagine. Make a grapefruit juice candle using clear and yellow gel wax and adding a few drops of grapefruit-scented oil. Place the candle on a glass plate surrounded by dried slices of red and yellow grapefruit. Or make candles inspired by famous cocktails. Why not capture a mojito in a glass? Use yellow gel wax with a green tint and insert a few slices of dried lime and some mint leaves.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 4 cocktail glasses in various shapes
- Tubes of transparent gel wax in yellow, blue, red, and clear
- Orange and lemon-scented oils
- Dried orange slice
- Waxed wicks

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Skewer
- Scissors



1 Gently heat the translucent gel wax by placing the entire tube in a double boiler for a few minutes.



2 To make the Campari cocktail, pour red gel wax into the glass until about 1 1/2 to 2 inches from the top. Add a little yellow wax and some drops of blue wax.



3 Add a few drops of orange-scented oil to the cocktail and stir with a skewer to achieve a consistent color and fragrance.

HINT

To make a Chambord cocktail in a glass goblet, combine red gel wax with a few drops of blue wax. Add raspberry-scented oil to complete the imitation.



4 When the gel is partially solid, add a slice of dried orange.



5 To make the Lemon Drop, start with clear wax and lightly color it with a few drops of yellow wax. Add a few drops of lemon-scented oil.

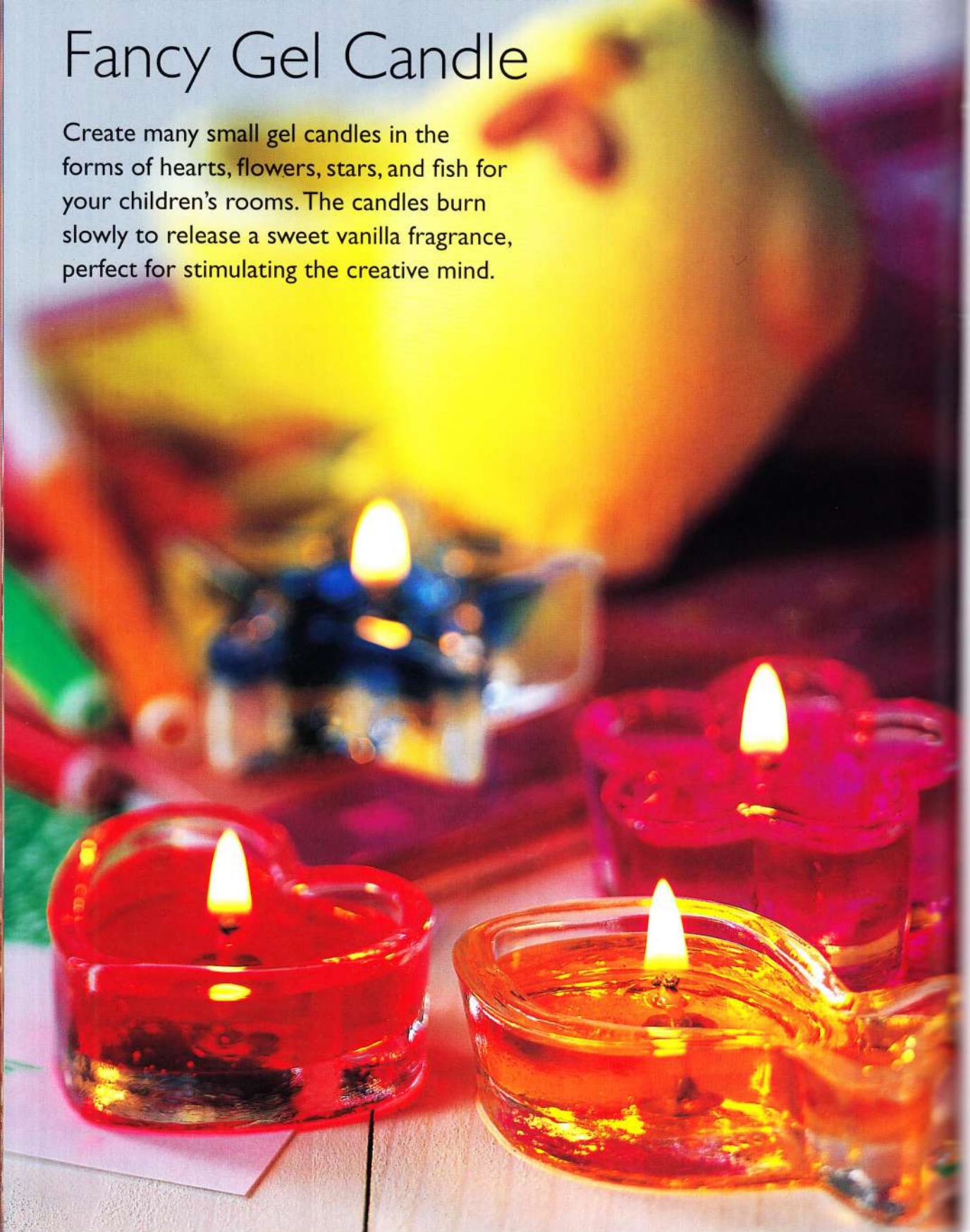


6 For a Grand Marnier, use red wax lightly colored with yellow wax. Add orange-scented oil. When the candles are partially solid, pierce holes through the centers and insert waxed wicks.



Fancy Gel Candle

Create many small gel candles in the forms of hearts, flowers, stars, and fish for your children's rooms. The candles burn slowly to release a sweet vanilla fragrance, perfect for stimulating the creative mind.





As Gifts

Wrap these tea lights in transparent packaging that offers a glimpse of the colorful candles inside. Place a sheet of yellow tissue paper on the bottom of a clear plastic box, and arrange the candles inside. Tie up the package with a wide yellow ribbon.

How, When, Where

To light up a birthday party, place one of these bright tea lights next to each guest's plate. Put a thin piece of cardboard with the guest's name underneath the candle, and sprinkle colorful confetti over the entire table.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Glass tea-light holders in heart, flower, star, and fish shapes
- Gel wax in red, yellow, fuchsia, and blue (2 oz per color)
- 4 waxed wicks
- Vanilla-scented oil

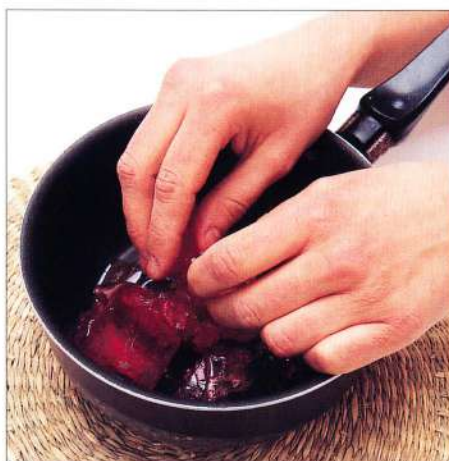
Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Scissors



HINT

If you insert the wick before the wax has solidified completely, it will tip over into the gel. To avoid this, wrap the tip of the wick around a skewer balanced on the rim of the holder. The wick will then remain vertical until the wax has cooled.



1 Crumble the red gel wax with your hands and melt it in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly. Stir in 3 drops of vanilla-scented oil.



2 Pour the melted red wax into a heart mold until about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the top. Let cool.



3 While the wax is still only partially solid, insert a waxed wick about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long through the center of the candle.



4 Repeat these steps to create the other three tea lights in yellow, fuchsia, and blue gel wax.

Barnyard Candle

An inventive gift idea inspired by children's toys, these transparent gel candles are filled with miniature barnyard animals. The wax is scented like passion fruit, a fresh, sweet fragrance to encourage children's creativity.





As Gifts

Wrap this candle as if it were actually a jar of jam. Take a piece of brown gingham and cut out a circle of fabric about 2 or 3 inches wider than the lid of your jar. Tie a bright red ribbon around the gingham to fasten it to the jar.

Gel Wax

Gel wax is an innovative and practical material for creating candles. The transparency of the wax allows the insertion of a variety of objects, from flowers to fruits to small gifts. The wax is also practical in that it is more easily removed than traditional wax and it doesn't drip. Gel wax can be colored using a few drops of liquid coloring or with crumbled wax crayons.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Passion fruit-scented oil
- 18 oz clear gel wax
- Dark green tapered candle
- Waxed wick
- Glass jam jar with watertight lid
- Nonflammable plastic animals

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Skewer
- Small glass bowl



1 Break the green candle into several small pieces, remove the wick, and melt in a double boiler over moderate heat.



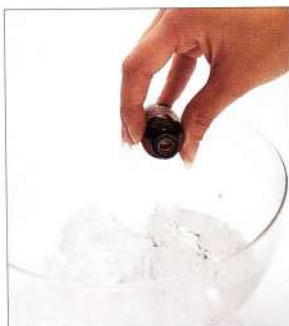
2 When the wax has completely melted, pour a layer about 1 to 1½ inches high into a glass jar, creating a base on which to place the animals.



3 Let the wax cool until partially solid, then arrange the animals on the "grass," pushing them slightly into the wax. You must do this before the wax has hardened or the animals will tip over.

HINT

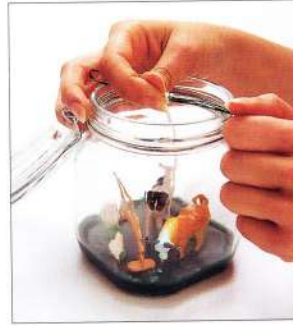
It's possible to mix traditional opaque wax (the dark green candle of this project) with the clear gel wax. Wonderful transparent-opaque effects can be achieved by doing this, as long as you allow for the different cooling times.



4 Crumble the clear gel wax in a glass bowl and add 10 drops of passion fruit-scented oil.



5 Wrap the tip of the wick around a needle or skewer, place it on the rim of the jar, and center the wick. Make sure the wick doesn't move when you pour the wax.



6 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and pour it into the jar, completely covering the animals, until it's about 1 inch from the top. If the wick has moved, reposition while the wax is still in a liquid state.

Frog Candle

These transparent gel candles with their cheerful yellow frogs perched on fabric lily pads can be adapted to a children's playroom or given as a gift to a nature-loving friend. The peppermint scent releases an intense cooling fragrance.





As Gifts

Wrap each candle in a fine-meshed yellow plastic net and close it with a piece of green raffia. Inspired by the netting in which fish are brought to market, this is a great way to present your frog candle.

Another Idea

You can make many different versions of these gel tea lights. Replace the yellow frogs with brightly colored fish to make a tiny aquarium for a child's bedroom. Or use small seashells to add a nautical touch to a bathroom.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 2 small glasses
- 2 oz transparent gel wax
- Waxed wicks
- Fine-grained white sand
- Peppermint-scented oil
- 2 plastic frogs
- 2 fabric leaves

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Scissors
- Needle



1 Crumble the gel wax with your hands and add 3 or 4 drops of peppermint-scented oil. Melt in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly.



2 Pour a thin layer of gel wax on the bottom of a glass and dust it with a handful of white sand. Let solidify.



3 Pour another layer of gel wax about 1/2 inch thick into the glass and let cool.

HINT

Another way to make the bottom of the candle is to replace the white sand with a handful of artificial snow or sawdust.



4 Place the fabric leaf and the frog into the wax, pushing them down gently.



5 Cover the leaf and frog with more melted wax until the glass is about three-fourths full. Let partially solidify and pierce a hole through the center with a needle.



6 Insert a measured waxed wick into the hole. Follow the same process for the second candle. Let cool completely before using the candles.



Daffodils in Gel Candle

Here's a new way to create a candle that also becomes a stylish complement to any room: A yellow daffodil bulb seems to be frozen inside this clear vase. The transparent vase allows you to see the beauty of the flower, while the daffodil fragrance, with its fresh and delicate aroma, slowly scents the air.





An Alternative

Small gel candles with fabric daffodils or yellow roses can be used as elegant place-holders or simply to freshen a room. Use spherical glass candleholders or small drinking glasses to create the candles.

Another Idea

A simple way to transform the color and scent of the candle is to use fresh flowers instead of fabric ones. Place a perfectly formed red rose bud into the candle to make a thoughtful gift for the one you love.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 17 ½ oz transparent gel wax
- 3 ½ oz green gel wax
- Yellow daffodil bulb
- Waxed wick
- Cylindrical glass vase
- Daffodil-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Skewer
- Scissors
- Cotton cloth
- Rubbing alcohol



1 Carefully clean the inside of the vase with a warm, damp cloth to remove any dust. Clean the outside with rubbing alcohol and let dry.



2 Crumble the clear gel wax into small pieces with your hands. Melt the wax in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly.



3 Crumble the green gel wax in a separate pot and add 5 drops of daffodil-scented oil. Melt in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly.



HINT

To avoid ruining the flower while pouring the wax, make sure the clear gel is not too hot but still in liquid form. Cool the filled vase immediately by running it under cool water.



4 Pour the green wax into the vase, creating a layer about 1 to 1 ½ inches high. Wrap the tip of the wick around a skewer and lower it into the wax so the wick is slightly off-center. Support the stick on the rim of the vase.



5 Insert a daffodil bulb into the center of the vase, pushing it gently into the green wax and keeping it vertical.



6 After the green wax has solidified, slowly pour the clear gel wax into the vase until about ½ inch from the top and let cool completely. Trim the wick to the desired height.

Marmalade Candle

Use clear jelly jars to create these unique marmalade candles. Dried orange and lemon slices and cinnamon sticks are inserted into the wax, scenting the candle with a warm citrus and spicy cinnamon fragrance.





As Gifts

Wrap these candles as if they were real jars of marmalade. Decorate the lemon jar with a dried lemon slice tied down with yellow raffia. For the orange candle, glue a slice of dried orange to the lid and attach a few cinnamon sticks with natural orange raffia.

How, When, Where

Make several marmalade candles to scent your entire home. For an energizing aroma, add orange or citronella-scented oil to the gel wax. For a more sensual fragrance, try sandalwood or cedar oil. For a more relaxing atmosphere, combine essences of lavender and chamomile.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 2 glass jelly jars with watertight lids
- Dried lemon and orange slices
- Cinnamon sticks
- 7 oz transparent gel wax
- 2 waxed wicks
- Orange and lemon-scented oils

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Crumble the dried lemon with your fingers and put a few pieces on the bottom of the glass jar.



2 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 3 drops of orange-scented oil and 2 drops of lemon-scented oil.



3 Slowly pour the melted wax into the glass jar until it's about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the top.

HINT

To avoid forming bubbles in the wax, first lightly heat the jar with a hair dryer—bubbles form when there is an abrupt transition from warm to cold.



4 When the wax has cooled and slightly solidified but hasn't completely hardened, scatter a few pieces of dried lemon and crumbled cinnamon sticks into the wax. Let it solidify completely.



5 Pierce through the center of the candle with a needle and insert a waxed wick, measured and precut. Make the orange slice candle using the same process.

Sea Glass Candle

These small candles feature a sparkling combination of colors and transparent wax. Colored glass gems appear to float in the wax and create vibrant refractions of light as the candles burn. The lemon fragrance instills a fresh and energetic feeling, making these candles a perfect way to light a dinner with friends.





As Gifts

Add an original touch to the packaging of these candles with a mustard-colored sheet of rice paper, a simple white cord, and two dark yellow glass gems. Wrap the candle in the paper, creating a fan shape at the top, tie the cord around the paper several times, and glue the beads to the tips of the cord. Use similar packaging to match the color of each candle.

How, When, Where

To amplify the colorful effects of the gems, place the candle on top of a round mirror and decorate the mirror's edges with gems of the same color. The candles, when burning, will reflect their bright light onto the table and walls.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 7 oz transparent gel wax
- 4 waxed wicks
- Sea glass gems in 4 colors
- 4 short glasses
- Lemon-scented oil

Equipment

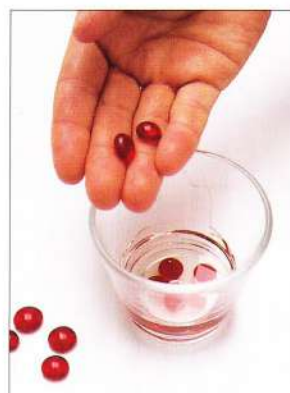
- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Scissors



1 Crumble the gel wax into little pieces with your hands and melt in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly.



2 When the wax has completely melted, add 5 drops of lemon-scented oil and stir to disperse the fragrance. Pour a layer about 1 inch high into the bottom of a glass to create a base.



3 While the wax is still in liquid form, arrange seven colored glass gems in the shape of a flower on the bottom. Allow the wax to cool completely.

HINT

Gel wax quickly solidifies on the surface but takes some time to cool on the inside. Before inserting the gems, wrap your hands around the glass to see if the wax is still warm. Wait until the glass has cooled to keep the gems from sinking directly to the bottom.



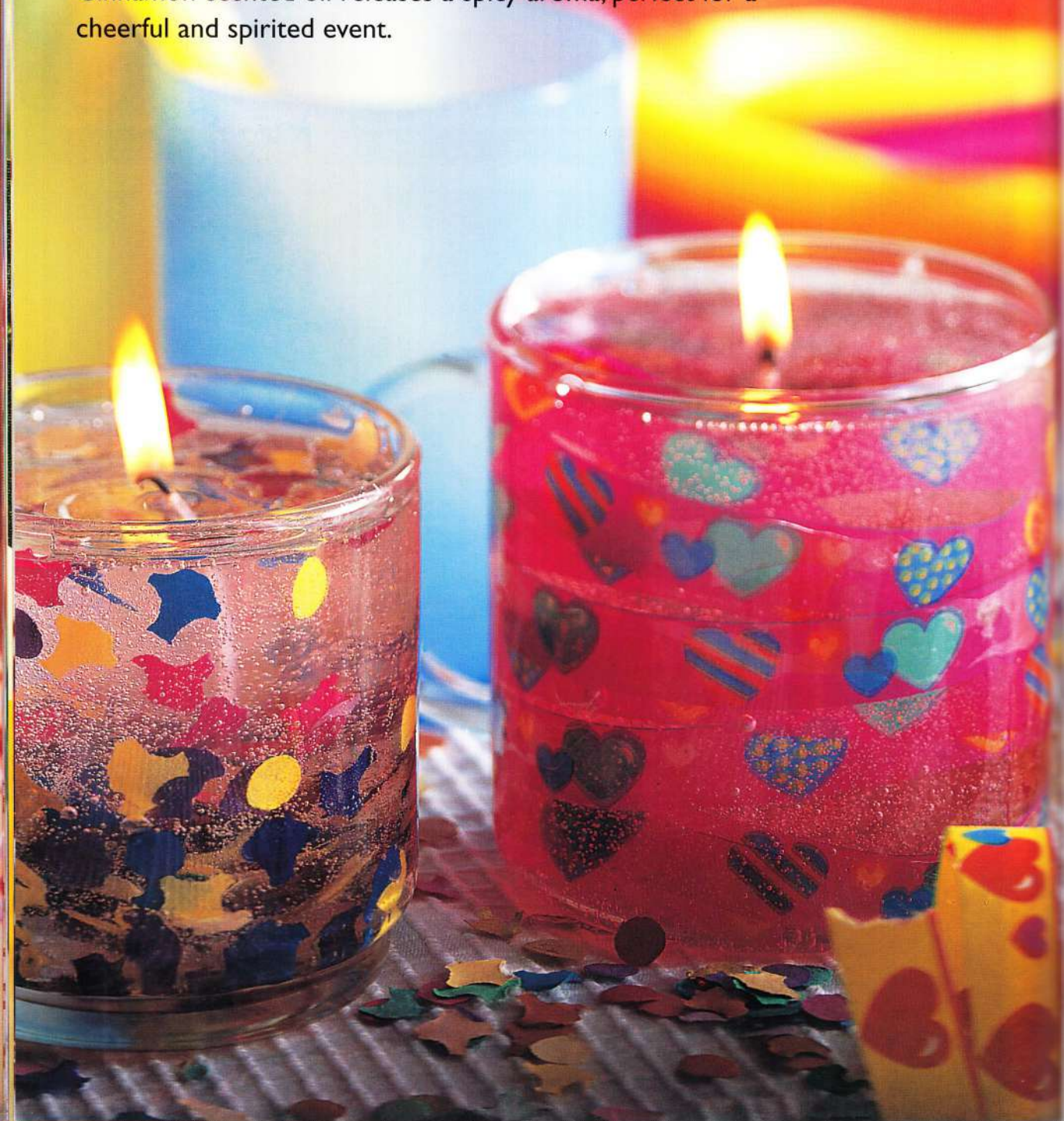
4 Create another layer of wax about 1 to 1½ inches high and let solidify for 10 minutes. Place another handful of gems of the same color in the wax, and let solidify completely.



5 Fill the glass with wax until it's about a ½ inch from the top and insert a waxed wick. Let the candle cool, then trim the wick with scissors. Three more candles of different colors can be made using this same process.

Spinning Confetti Cup Candle

For a children's party, make these colorful confetti gel candles—the festive confetti appears to float and spin inside the mug. Cinnamon-scented oil releases a spicy aroma, perfect for a cheerful and spirited event.





As Gifts

Create fun, bright packaging for this candle by first placing it in a clear cellophane bag. Fill the bag with a handful of confetti and tie it with a bright raffia ribbon. Add another colorful printed ribbon and a noisemaker to make a great party favor.

An Alternative

Pair the confetti candle with a candle of spinning stars. Unwrap a roll of foil stars and coil them along the inside walls of the mug, starting at the bottom. Slowly cover the stars with gel wax, repositioning them as you go along. Proceed carefully until about ½ inch from the top. If the stars move, use a skewer to reposition them while the wax is still warm.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Cinnamon-scented oil
- 5 oz gel wax
- Waxed wick with metal base
- Glass mug
- Confetti

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Skewer



1 Melt 5 ounces of gel wax in a double boiler over low heat, being careful not to let it boil. When the wax has completely melted, add 6 drops of cinnamon-scented oil.



2 Pour about 1 inch of wax into the mug, let it cool for a few minutes, then insert a metal-based wick, pushing it to the bottom and keeping it perfectly centered.



3 Scatter a handful of confetti onto the first wax layer. Use your other hand to keep the wick in a vertical position.

HINT

If you don't have a metal-based wick, you can insert a regular one after about 20 minutes, while the wax is still a little soft (if it's too hard, the wick won't penetrate the wax; if it's too soft, the wick will fold over).



4 Add some more wax to the mug until about the halfway point. Pour slowly so the confetti is not concentrated in one area.



5 Put in another handful of confetti and fill with wax until about ½ inch from the top. If the wax has started to solidify, reheat it in a double boiler. Let the candle cool completely, wrapping the tip of the wick around a skewer balanced on the rim of the mug.

Mimosa Candle

This delicate and sunny candle announces the arrival of spring. Transparent gel wax envelops a sprig of mimosa that seems to float inside. The sweet and intense aroma complements a pleasant dinner with friends.





As Gifts

To emphasize the sunny color of the candle, use colorful netting as your gift wrap. The mesh allows you to create a large, colorful bow while still revealing the contents of the gift. Choose a bright shade of netting and add a sprig of real mimosa for a finishing touch.

How, When, Where

An intense, penetrating aroma is released from this candle when it's lit. The scent, cool and intoxicating, is associated with the reawakening of nature and the sweetness of spring. Displayed on a tray with a garland of real mimosa, this candle makes a bright and elegant centerpiece.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Mimosa-scented oil
- 10 ½ oz gel wax
- Fabric sprig of mimosa
- Waxed wick with metal base
- Glass container (about a 6-inch diameter if round, 4 × 4 inches if square)

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Scissors
- Skewer
- Rubbing alcohol
- Cloth



1 After cleaning the glass with rubbing alcohol and a dry cloth, position the wick in the center and wrap its tip around a skewer.



2 Place the fabric sprig of mimosa in the glass so it rests on the bottom.

HINT

If you'd prefer to use real mimosa, dry a sprig in a dark place. Carefully detach the yellow balls and lay them on the bottom of the glass container, then cover with gel wax.



3 Melt 10 ½ ounces of gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and stir in 14 drops of mimosa-scented oil to achieve an intense fragrance.



4 Let the wax cool for a few minutes—but not so long that it hardens—and slowly pour it into the glass until it's about ½ inch from the top. Let cool for 12 hours.



Gel Rose Candle

The transparency of the gel wax makes it easy to see the beautiful woven rose in the center of this candle. Its bright spring color makes it perfect to grace a reading corner or living room. The sweet and delicate rose fragrance helps relax and harmonize the spirit.





As Gifts

This rose candle makes a thoughtful gift for anyone who loves pastel colors or flowers. Wrap the glass in a square of cellophane and tie it with a ribbon of natural green twine. Glue two tiny red fabric roses to the bow to make a simple and charming presentation.

An Alternative

To make an elegant place-holder for a formal dinner or wedding, use tiny fabric roses, in a color suitable for the event, in place of the larger rose. Put the tiny roses in a champagne glass and cover with transparent gel wax, then insert the wick.

To Make the Candle

Materials

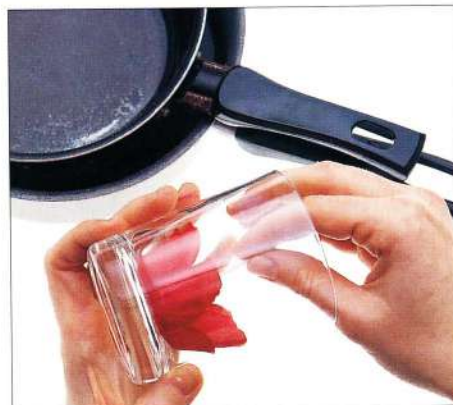
- Drinking glass
- 7 oz transparent gel wax
- Rose-scented oil
- Waxed wick
- Fabric rose

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Scissors
- Skewer



1 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add a few drops of rose-scented oil.



2 Cut the stem from the rose and insert the flower into the bottom of a glass. Add a few drops of warm wax to the metal base of the wick, then fasten it to the center of the rose. Or put the metal base on the bottom of the glass and pull the wick up through the flower.

HINT

Never place gel wax in a refrigerator to try to speed solidification or it will turn opaque. After the candle has burned down, the fabric rose can be reused by removing any residual wax with a warm, damp cloth.



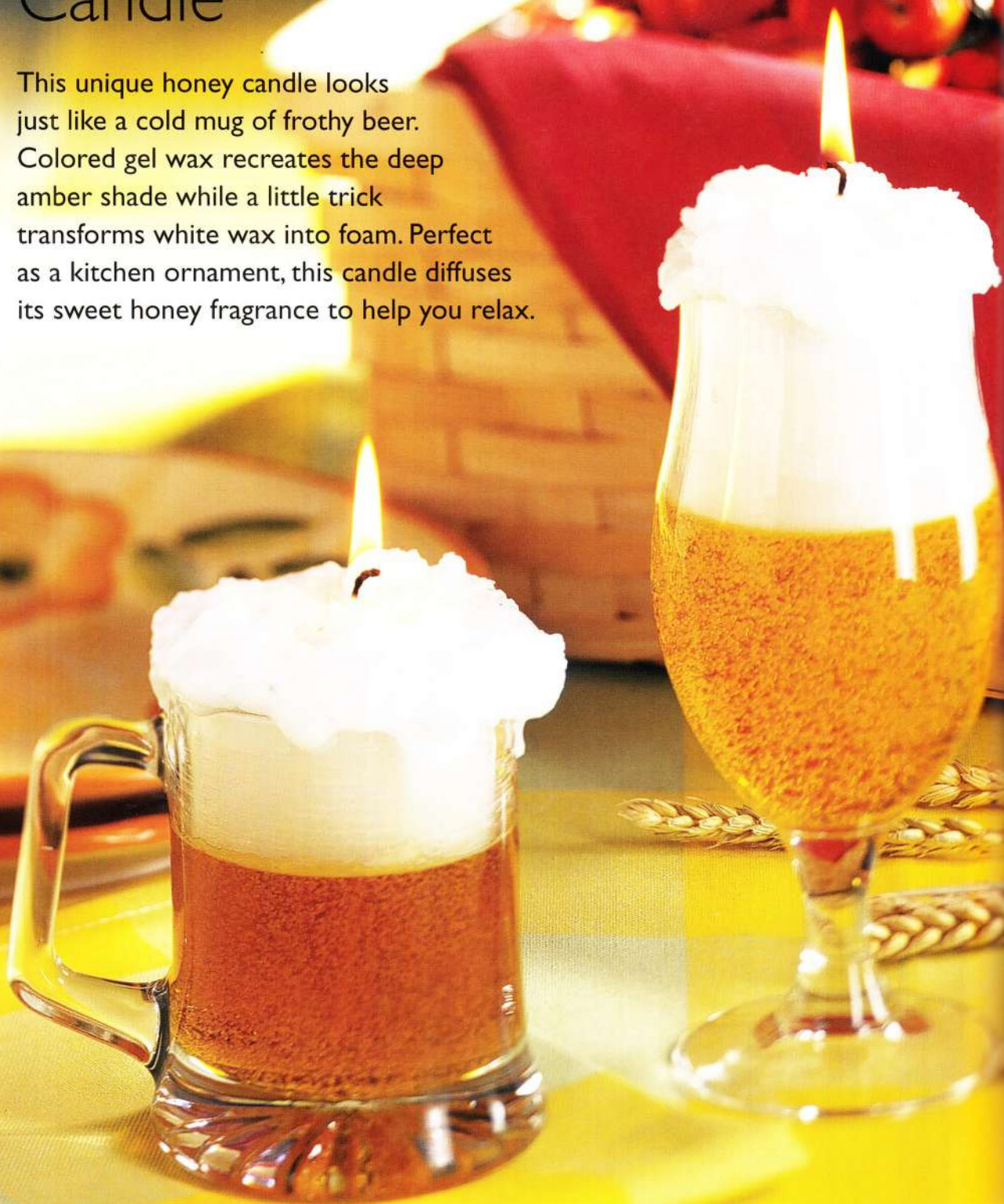
3 Slowly pour the melted wax into the glass, holding the wick vertical with your fingers. Completely cover the rose with wax until about ½ inch from the top.



4 Wrap the tip of the wick around a skewer set on the rim of the glass, and let cool for 3 to 4 hours. Trim the wick.

Frothy Beer Candle

This unique honey candle looks just like a cold mug of frothy beer. Colored gel wax recreates the deep amber shade while a little trick transforms white wax into foam. Perfect as a kitchen ornament, this candle diffuses its sweet honey fragrance to help you relax.





An Alternative

For those who love Ireland or are simply beer connoisseurs, why not recreate a pint of Guinness? Fill a classic Guinness pint glass with paraffin wax colored dark brown to mimic the color of the beer. Add a thin layer of frothy white wax at the top to complete the effect.

How, When, Where

After a long day at work, invite a few friends over for an informal happy hour on your patio. Prepare several beer candles to intersperse between the real mugs, using a variety of glasses and coasters. When it gets dark, the candles will create a pleasant atmosphere and, if scented with citronella, will help keep away the bugs.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Glass beer mug
- 10 ½ oz transparent gel wax
- Yellow coloring tablet
- Honey-scented oil
- 3 ½ oz opaque white wax granules
- White waxed wick

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Fork
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Crumble the gel wax with your hands and melt it in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly. Add a yellow coloring tablet and a few drops of honey-scented oil.



2 When the wax has completely melted, pour it into a beer mug, filling about two-thirds of the glass.



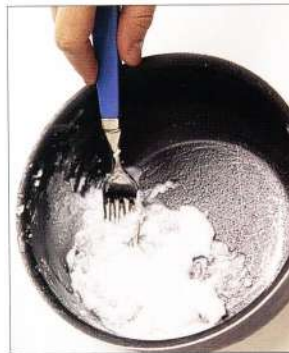
3 Melt the white paraffin wax granules in a double boiler, keeping the heat low to avoid bubbling.

HINT

If the gel wax drips on the outside of the glass when you pour it, you can remove the drip with your fingers after it's cooled. The oily streak can be wiped away with a cotton ball dipped in rubbing alcohol.



4 When the yellow gel wax has solidified, pour the white wax into the mug until it's about ½ inch from the edge.



5 Let the remaining white wax cool slightly, then mash it with a fork to create a foamy texture. If the wax won't mash together, it's because it's still too warm—wait a few more minutes. Spoon the foam on top of the beer mug.



6 Use a needle to pierce through the center of the candle and insert a waxed wick, already measured and cut with scissors.

Rainbow Gel Candle

These stylish gel candles are made with layers of gel wax in yellow, red, green, and blue. The bright rainbow of colors and sweet strawberry fragrance will add a cheerful and energy-filled atmosphere to your home.





As Gifts

Attach a delicate fabric butterfly to the package. Wrap the candle in a sheet of transparent cellophane and close it with a piece of clear nylon thread. A large blue and yellow butterfly alights atop the package, giving it a unique and colorful touch.

An Alternative

Add a little something extra to these rainbow candles: Use the method described to fill a wide round glass with layers of alternating yellow and green tones. Insert a small red woven butterfly into the wax to create a vivid color contrast and an unexpected twist.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 3 ½ oz transparent gel wax
- Wax coloring in blue, green, yellow, and red
- Waxed wicks
- Several glasses in various shapes and sizes
- Strawberry-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat, add 6 drops of strawberry-scented oil, then divide the wax into four equal parts. Color each part with 4 drops of coloring: one part blue, one green, one yellow, and one red.



2 Slowly pour the blue wax into the vase, covering the bottom. Let the blue layer solidify completely.

HINT

As you need the different colored waxes, rewarm them over a heat source or heat them in a double boiler before you pour them. Remember to never stir the wax unless it's in liquid form to avoid turning it opaque or creating lumps.



3 Repeat this step to make successive layers of green, yellow, and red wax. Always let the previous layer cool completely before adding the next or the colors will blend together.



4 Pierce through the center of the candle with a needle and insert a measured waxed wick.

Flowers in Oil Candle

This elegant candle is made with oil and features the simple lines of a peach-tree flower. Perfect as a small table ornament or to add a refined touch to any room, the candle releases its sweet peach fragrance for a feeling of vitality and balance.





An Alternative

A long-necked bottle and a sprig of jasmine can be transformed into a simple oil candle. Place the woven flower in the bottle, then fill the bottle with liquid wax perfumed with a few drops of jasmine-scented oil and a few drops of bergamot. The jasmine's light floral fragrance moderates the bitter citrus scent of the bergamot to create a pleasant aroma.

Candle Oil

Candle oil, also known as liquid wax, has been used for centuries because it burns without smoke or unpleasant smells. Essential oils add a delicate fragrance to the oil that is released slowly but lasts a long time.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Liquid candle oil
- Glass candle-oil bottle with wick holder
- Wick for oil candle
- Sprigs of peach-tree flowers
- Peach-scented oil

Equipment

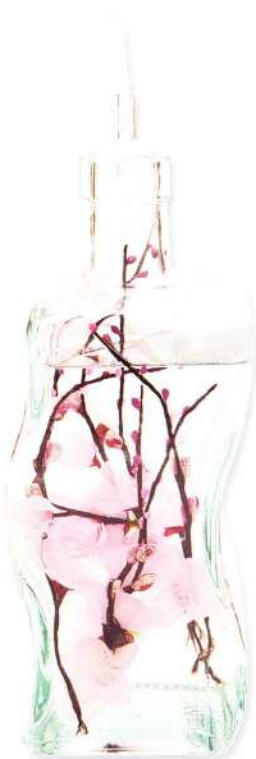
- Small funnel
- Scissors



1 Insert a few sprigs of peach-tree flowers into a bottle until you get the effect you want.



2 Use a funnel to pour candle oil into the bottle until it's about two-thirds full—be careful not to disturb the flowers.



3 Add a few drops of peach-scented oil to the candle oil and let it absorb for 2 or 3 hours.



4 Insert a waxed wick through the wick holder of the bottle, then trim the wick with scissors.



5 Drop the wick into the candle oil, being careful not to move the flowers, until it touches the bottom of the glass. Pull the wick up slightly before lighting.

Murano Glass Candle

This impressive candle captures the beauty of murano glass. Several yellow and green wax threads are rolled together and thin disks are cut from them to resemble murano glass, which comes from the Venetian technique of combining several colored glass rods to create an intricate design, often used in ceramics or jewelry. The burning candle creates a luminous effect while releasing a purifying geranium scent.



An Alternative

Another stylish candle can be made by layering strands of yellow and green wax thread and adding geranium-scented gel wax. Cut the wax threads the same length as the inner circumference of the glass, pressing them *lightly against the inner walls*. Pour the melted gel wax *into the glass*. The alternating yellow and green threads create a bright color contrast, perfect for a summer evening on the patio.

How, When, Where

To add a fresh, energizing fragrance to your candle, add orange or citronella-scented oil to the wax. For a sensual experience, try sandalwood or cedar oils. For a calm, serene atmosphere, add a few drops of lavender and chamomile.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Yellow and green wax thread
- 3 1/2 oz transparent gel wax
- Drinking glass
- Waxed wick
- Geranium-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Craft knife
- Skewer
- Scissors



1 Alternating colors, combine six yellow wax threads with six green wax threads, pressing them together to form a long rod.



2 Use a knife to cut slices from the rod, each about 1/8 inch thick, making many small pieces of "murano" wax.



3 Apply light pressure with your fingers to attach the murano wax slices, side by side, to the inner walls of the glass.

HINT

To better join the colored wax threads, heat them between your hands for a few moments. Do the same when attaching the murano disks to the glass. If the disks detach, heat them with a hair dryer and reposition them.



4 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 6 drops of geranium-scented oil.



5 Insert a waxed wick in the center of the glass and wrap the tip around a skewer laying on the rim. Gently pour the gel wax into the glass, filling it to the top.

Mosaic Candle

The stunning beauty of mosaic tiling comes alive in this gel candle with thin panes of colored glass. For a warm and radiant atmosphere, turn off the lights and let the flames dance across the walls as the candle's exotic jasmine scent is slowly released.





An Alternative

Create a beautiful mosaic centerpiece for dining al fresco. Take a large green glass bowl and decorate its inner walls with panes of green and yellow glass. Inside a smaller bowl, pour jasmine-scented gel wax and insert a wick. The space between the two bowls will serve to intensify the fragments of light.

Another Idea

There's no limit to the variety of candles you can make with a mosaic glass technique. Play with geometric shapes by taking a colored glass and decorating it with vertical stripes in contrasting colors. Or use black and white panes to create a complementary effect.

To Make the Candle

Materials

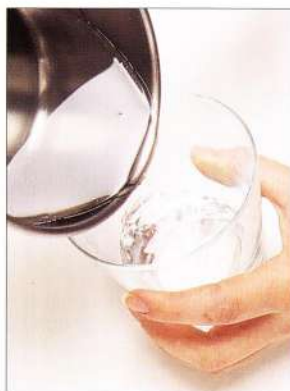
- Transparent gel wax, 7 oz per candle
- Waxed wick
- Jasmine-scented oil
- Glass mosaic tiles in shades of blue and yellow
- Drinking glass

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Scissors



1 Crumble the gel wax into pieces with your hands and melt it in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly. Add 5 drops of jasmine-scented oil.



2 Pour a layer of wax about 1 inch thick on the bottom of the glass and let it cool slightly.



3 Tilt and rotate the glass so the wax is spread on the inner walls.

HINT

The wax will cool quickly, so you must rapidly position the tiles on the inner walls of the glass. To make the positioning of the tiles easier, you can dip each tile into the warm wax with a pair of tweezers and individually press them to the walls. Be sure to heat the wax before each use or a film will develop on the surface, altering its consistency.



4 Attach the glass tiles to the still-warm wax, pressing lightly with your fingers, alternating colors and allowing a small space between each. Let cool completely.



5 Spread another thin layer of wax over the tiles with a spoon, being careful not to detach any of them. When the wax has completely solidified, slowly fill up the glass with the remaining wax. Let cool, then insert a measured waxed wick through the center.

Batik Candle

Create the look of India in your home with these simple gel candles. The colored glasses in tones of yellow, red, green, and blue, characteristic of Indian design, are embellished with gold batik patterns. Once lighted, these candles glow with jeweled light and release a spicy coriander fragrance, perfect for a romantic evening.





An Alternative

Turn these candles into hanging lanterns to add an exotic feel to a summer night. Wrap a thin wire a few times around the top of the vase, then form an upside-down U out of a second piece of wire and attach it at both sides of the rim. The candles can be hung on tree branches, wall hooks, or wherever you want warm, sensual lighting.

How, When, Where

Decorate your table for a Middle Eastern meal with these batik candles. Spread some lotus petals and cinnamon sticks on the table to continue the theme. Place pitchers of water on the table filled with lemon slices and anise stars frozen in ice cubes, and make individual finger bowls with coriander leaves and crumbled cinnamon sticks to complete the effect.

To Make the Candles

Materials

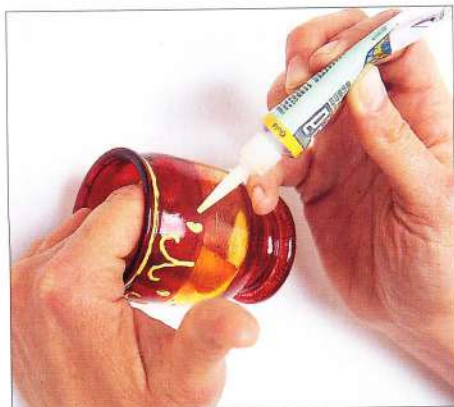
- 3 small glass vases
- Gel wax, 7 oz per candle
- 3 waxed wicks
- Coriander-scented oil
- Transparent paint for glass in red, yellow, blue, and green
- Gold acrylic paint

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Small paintbrushes
- Scissors



1 Paint a band of red around the top of the glass vase. Make a wide band of yellow around the center, and finish with another red stripe at the bottom. Let dry completely.



2 Decorate the vase with gold acrylic paint, making little patterns around the glass that resemble Indian batik. Let dry.

HINT

Before adding the gold acrylic designs, practice painting on a sheet of plastic. If the vase is painted with thick designs, it will have a more embellished appearance. For a clear design without drips, touch up the fresh paint with the tip of a skewer.



3 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add a few drops of coriander-scented oil.



4 Pour the melted wax into the vase, being careful not to let any wax get onto the painted outside. Allow to solidify slightly.

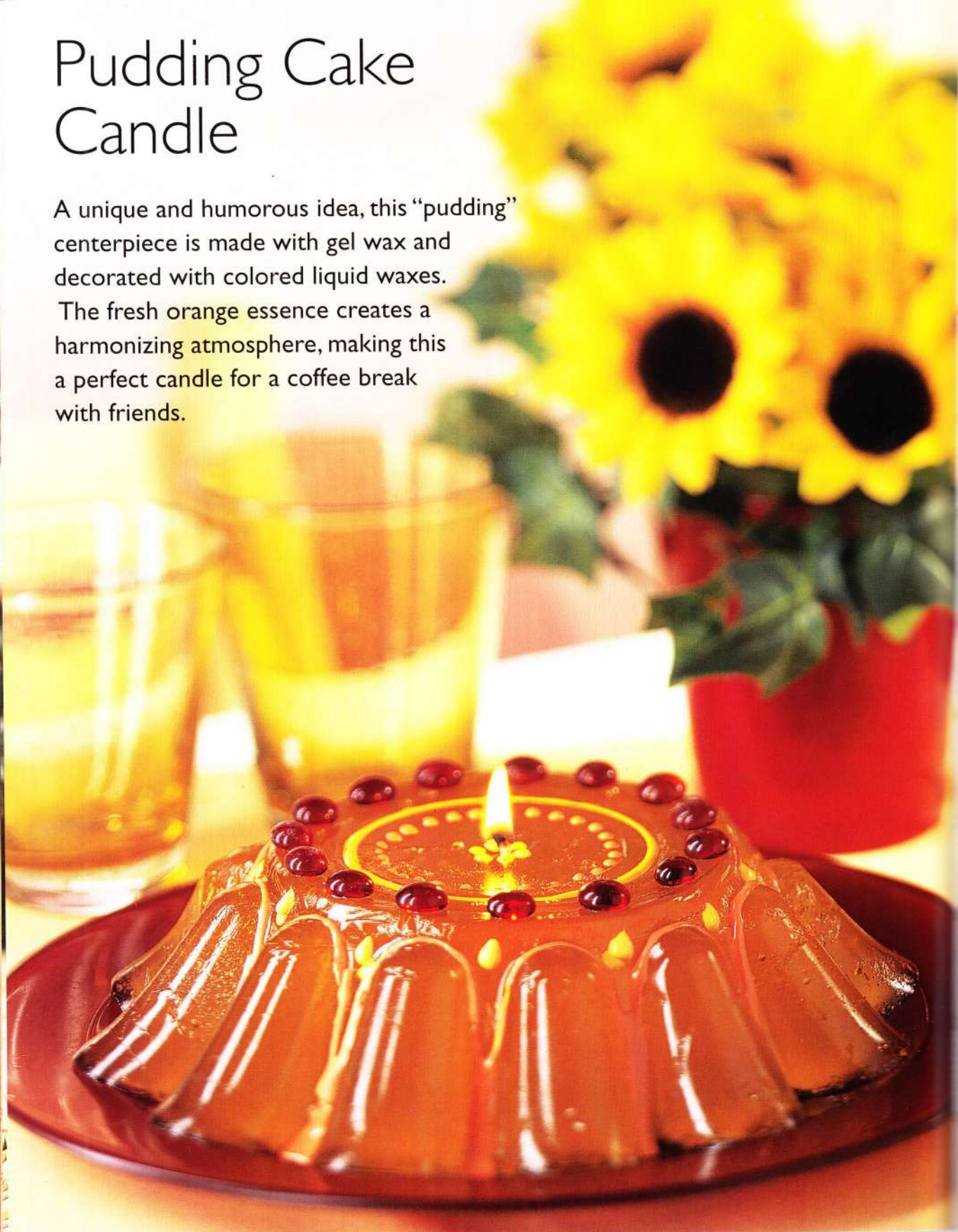


5 Insert the wick through the center and let the candle cool completely. Make two more candles using the same process, painting one vase in blue and green, and the other red and blue.

Pudding Cake Candle

A unique and humorous idea, this “pudding” centerpiece is made with gel wax and decorated with colored liquid waxes.

The fresh orange essence creates a harmonizing atmosphere, making this a perfect candle for a coffee break with friends.





An Alternative

Use your imagination to decorate this candle with liquid wax pens. You can draw a variety of designs on the "pudding" cake and on the surrounding plate, and you can use multicolored glass gems to resemble candy toppings.

How, When, Where

Surprise a friend on their birthday: In place of a real cake, present them with a pudding cake candle. Following the method described below, insert many wicks as if they were birthday candles, making sure the wicks are completely vertical so they burn properly.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 13 1/2 oz transparent gel wax
- Orange coloring
- White waxed wick
- Yellow and orange liquid wax pens
- Red glass gems
- Orange-scented oil
- Glass plate

Equipment

- Metal pudding mold
- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Scissors
- Needle



1 Crumble the gel wax in a small pot, add a few drops of orange coloring and 6 or 7 drops of orange-scented oil. Melt the wax in a double boiler over low heat, stirring constantly, then pour it into the pudding mold.



2 When the wax is completely solid, turn the mold over onto a glass plate and allow the "pudding" to slip out.

HINT

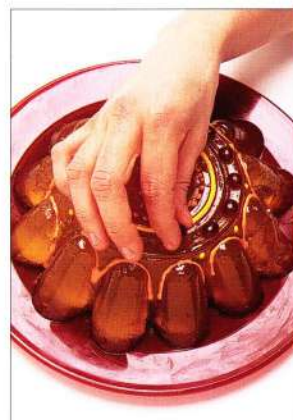
To make sure the wax slips easily out of the mold, before pouring the gel wax, carefully spread a few drops of olive oil on the inside of the mold with a cotton cloth.



3 Pierce a hole in the center of the wax with a needle and insert a measured waxed wick.



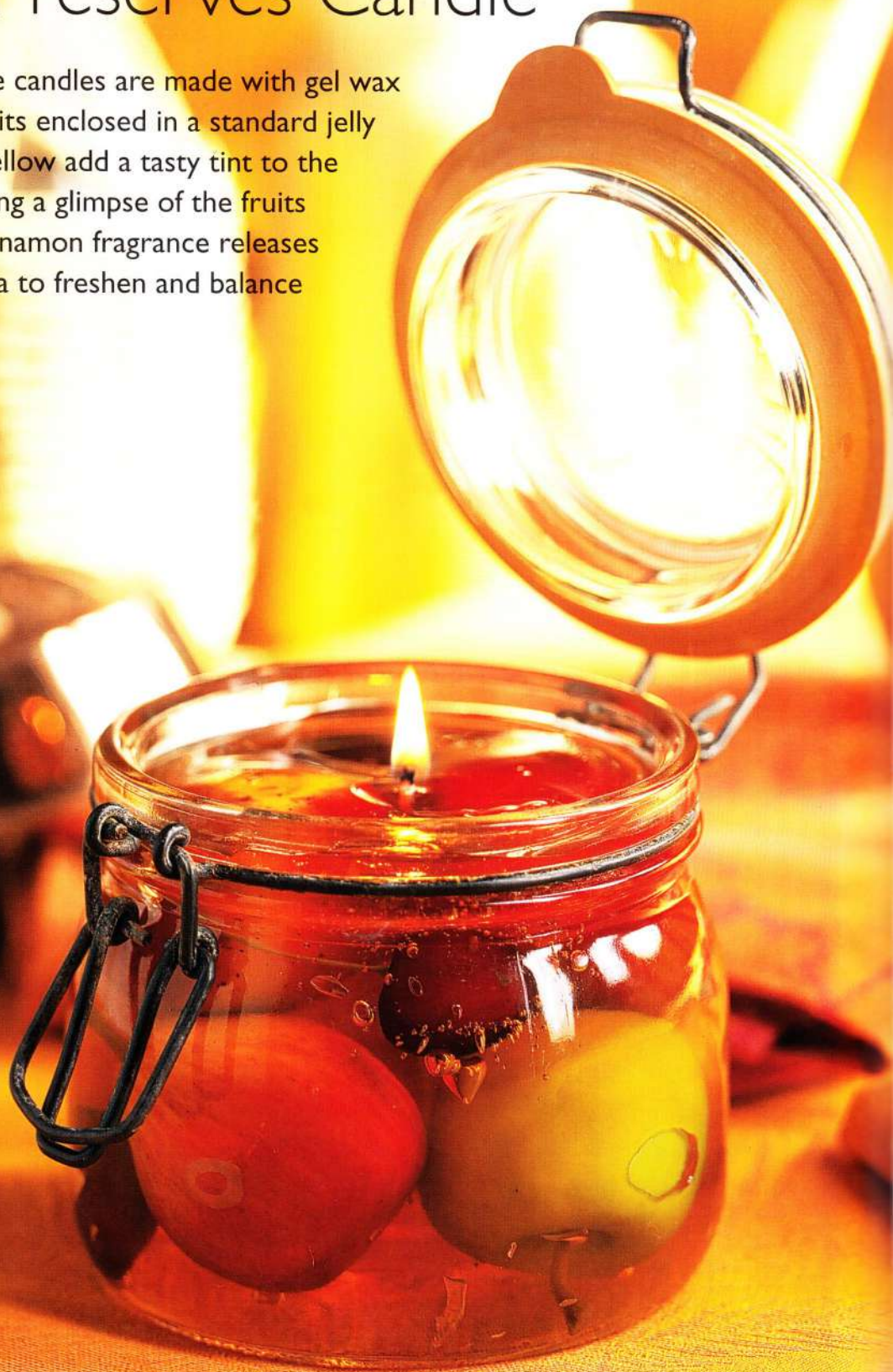
4 Decorate the candle with the liquid wax, then let dry for at least 12 hours.

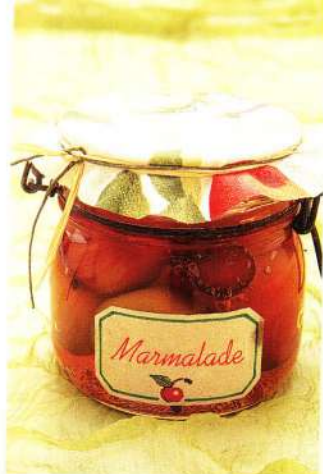


5 Make candy gum drops by arranging red glass gems on top of the candle and pressing them down lightly with your fingers.

Fruit Preserves Candle

These creative candles are made with gel wax and plastic fruits enclosed in a standard jelly jar. Red and yellow add a tasty tint to the gel wax, offering a glimpse of the fruits inside. The cinnamon fragrance releases its spicy aroma to freshen and balance the room.





As Gifts

Transform this candle into a true jar of preserves to surprise your friend. Gently fold the wick over, being careful that it isn't immersed in the wax, and close the jar. Cut a circle of fruit-patterned fabric slightly larger than the lid, and attach it with yellow and green raffia. Put an adhesive label on the front of the jar that identifies the contents.

How, When, Where

Use these jars to create a variety of jams, or even a jar of pickles. Choose an appropriate container from the jars you have at home and carefully clean them with water and rubbing alcohol. Fill them with gel wax and whatever plastic fruits or vegetables you like. Try strawberry or cherry syrup, made with dark red gel wax and plastic fruits, and fragranced with a corresponding scent.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Glass jelly jar with watertight seal
- 7 oz gel wax
- Yellow and red coloring
- Plastic fruits
- Waxed wick
- Cinnamon-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt one-third of the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add a few drops of yellow coloring and a few drops of cinnamon-scented oil.



2 Fill one-fourth of the jar with the yellow wax. Melt the remaining wax, add cinnamon-scented oil and red coloring, and pour some of it over the yellow wax.



3 When the wax has cooled but isn't solid, insert the plastic fruits, embedding them deep inside the jar.

HINT

To make sure the fruit doesn't float around in the jar (especially if you're using foam fruit), let the first wax layer slightly solidify, then carefully arrange the fruits. Use a spoon or skewer stick to help embed them in the wax.



4 Complete the candle by pouring the remaining red wax over the fruit until it's about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the top of the jar. Let it solidify completely.



5 Pierce the center of the candle with a needle and insert a measured waxed wick. Let the wax solidify around the wick before lighting.

Bean Candle

Perfect for the kitchen, these unique candles allow a glimpse of the dried lima beans, peas, or whatever legume you prefer, artfully arranged in a glass jar. The transparent gel wax releases a spicy cardamom scent, an energizing and purifying fragrance.





As Gifts

Wrap these candles as if they're actually jars of dried beans. Cover the lids of the jars with circles of colorful cotton fabric, and tie them with contrasting ribbons. Affix a label to the front of the jar that identifies the beans inside.

How, When, Where

Thanks to the variety of beans, seeds, and spices you can find in the grocery store or farmer's market, these candles can be adapted to suit any kitchen. Create candles with red chili peppers, poppy seeds, dried corn kernels, or cinnamon sticks. Choose corresponding scents like dill or anise for sweet and spicy fragrances, or basil for its fresh aroma.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Glass jars
- Gel wax, approximately 4 oz per candle
- Dried white beans and peas
- Cardamom-scented oil
- 2 waxed wicks

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt 2 ounces of gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add a few drops of cardamom-scented oil.



2 Pour the melted wax into a jar, filling it about 1 inch high. Immerse some white beans into the wax.



3 When the wax inside the jar has slightly cooled, insert a few more beans, and then add wax until it's about 1½ inches from the top.

HINT

To keep the beans from floating to the surface of the liquid wax, let each layer cool slightly before continuing to the next. Or use a skewer to push the beans down while the wax solidifies.



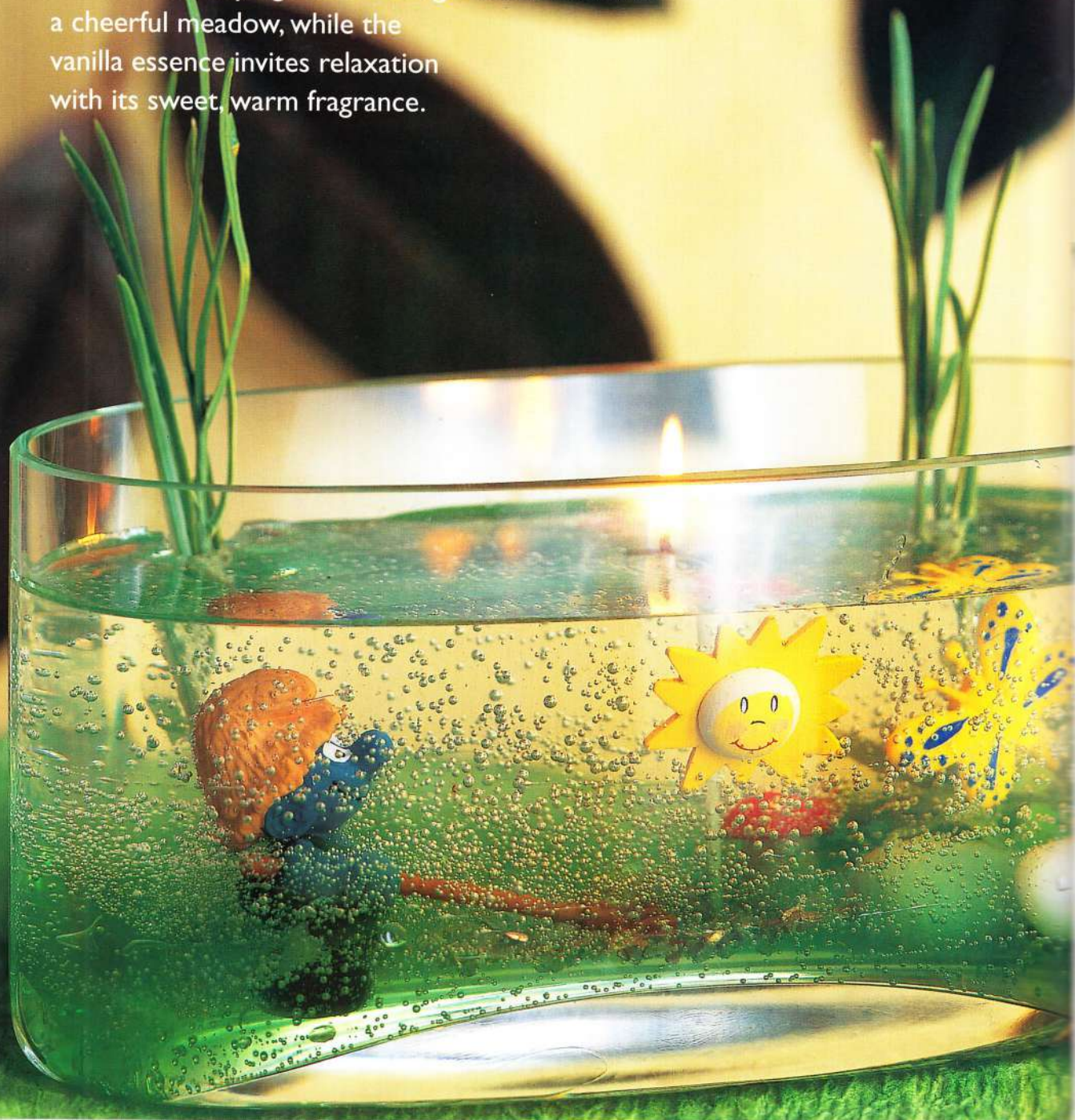
4 Complete the candle by adding a few more beans and then filling with wax to the top.



5 When the wax is partially solid, pierce through its center with a needle and carefully insert a measured waxed wick. Let solidify completely. Repeat the process for the pea candle.

Toy Figure Candle

Your children can have their own toy village in their room with this amusing candle. The transparent gel wax allows a glimpse into the tiny world of the toy figures. Green gel wax recreates a cheerful meadow, while the vanilla essence invites relaxation with its sweet, warm fragrance.





An Alternative

Create a collection of gel candles for your children, all inspired by the world of their favorite toy characters. Fill little glass containers with gel wax and insert an extra figure of the toy. Place it on a bed of gravel or fabric flowers, for example, to make a sweet gift for any child.

How, When, Where

Allow children to appreciate a variety of colors and scents by creating several small gel candles. Lightly color the wax and insert plastic animals or other toys. Add sweet fragrances like vanilla or honey for playtime, or relaxing scents like chamomile and lavender for naptime. Never leave a candle unattended, especially around children.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Oval glass vase
- 7 oz transparent gel wax
- Golden gravel
- Toy figure
- Plastic aquarium plants
- Small round stones
- Plastic sun, mushroom, and butterfly
- Green coloring
- Waxed wick
- Vanilla-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Needle
- Scissors

HINT

For a fun finishing touch, add a drop of blue coloring to the final portion of wax to create the sky.



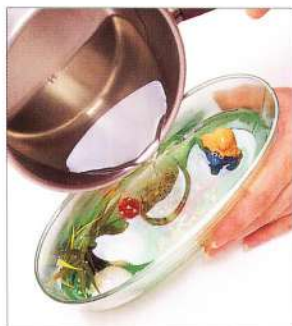
1 Melt 2 ounces of the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 6 drops of vanilla-scented oil and 2 drops of green coloring. Stir, then pour the wax in the vase.



2 Slowly pour a handful of golden gravel into the still-warm wax and scatter along the bottom of the vase. Let the wax partially solidify.



3 Place small plants, a mushroom, river stones, and the toy figure on the gravel, as shown, pressing them down lightly to embed them in the wax. Let the wax solidify completely.



4 Melt the remaining wax and add a few drops of vanilla-scented oil, then slowly pour it into the vase until about two-thirds full. Let partially solidify.



5 Insert the plastic sun and butterfly into the still-warm wax so they appear to be suspended in the sky. Let solidify and pour the remaining wax into the vase until it's about 1 inch from the top.



6 After the wax has slightly solidified, pierce the center of the candle with a needle and insert a measured waxed wick. Let solidify completely. (This diorama can also be created without a wick to add a fun element to your child's room without fire danger.)

Gel Centerpiece Candle

Small opaque candles in warm yellow and orange tones “float” in a pond of yellow gel wax to create this sunny centerpiece. The wax releases a relaxing, sweet honey scent.





An Alternative

Using the same method as described for the center-piece candle, you can make several small gel candles. Inside each rounded glass, insert an opaque wax tea light. Cover the tea light with transparent gel. Create multicolored candles to use as place-holders for a dinner with friends.

How, When, Where

Use this candle center-piece as the main source of light for a romantic evening, or in your bathroom as you listen to tranquil music. The soft honey scent and warm glowing colors will make for an unforgettable evening, no matter what the occasion.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- 7 oz transparent yellow gel wax
- Round opaque candles, 2 small orange and 1 medium yellow
- Honey-scented oil
- Shallow, round glass dish
- 3 waxed wicks

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 10 drops of honey-scented oil.



2 Pour the wax into a shallow glass dish, covering the bottom with a layer about 1 inch thick. Let it solidify slightly.

HINT

When you pour the second layer of wax around the opaque candles, the wax must be perfectly melted so it will disperse evenly and not form lumps. You might need to reheat it in a double boiler shortly before you use it.



3 When the wax is partially solid, arrange three round tea lights in the wax, creating a harmonic composition. Let solidify completely, and then pour the remaining wax up to the edge of the tea lights.



4 Use a needle to pierce the gel wax at three different points between the tea lights and insert three measured waxed wicks.

Leafy Gel Mug Candle

These simple, colorful candles, made in transparent glass mugs, are tinted green, yellow, and orange with colored gel wax. Each mug holds a dried leaf visible through the glass, while the gel wax releases an earthy sandalwood fragrance.





An Alternative

Create several small candles with dried leaves in colorful glass bowls and use them as place-holders at an autumn gathering with friends. Color the wax to your liking and pour it in a satin-finished glass bowl of a contrasting or complementary color. Place a dried leaf slightly below the surface so it looks like it's floating on top of the wax and insert a waxed wick in the center.

Another Idea

During the fall, collect some leaves in warm yellow and red tones, then press them in a book for a few days without waiting for them to dry. Use these pressed leaves instead of the dried ones to create a pleasant, rustic effect.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Transparent gel wax, 3 ½ oz per mug
- Green, yellow, and orange coloring tablets
- Sandalwood-scented oil
- 3 dried leaves: 1 green, 1 yellow, and 1 orange
- 3 glass mugs: 1 green, 1 yellow, and 1 orange
- 3 waxed wicks

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Needle
- Scissors
- Spoon



1 Melt 3 ½ ounces of gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 10 drops of sandalwood-scented oil.



2 Color the melted wax with one-fourth of a green tablet and stir until the color is uniform.



3 Press a dried green leaf in the green glass mug, attaching it to the wall with light pressure.

HINT

To keep the leaf from moving while the wax is poured you can first attach it to the mug with spray adhesive.



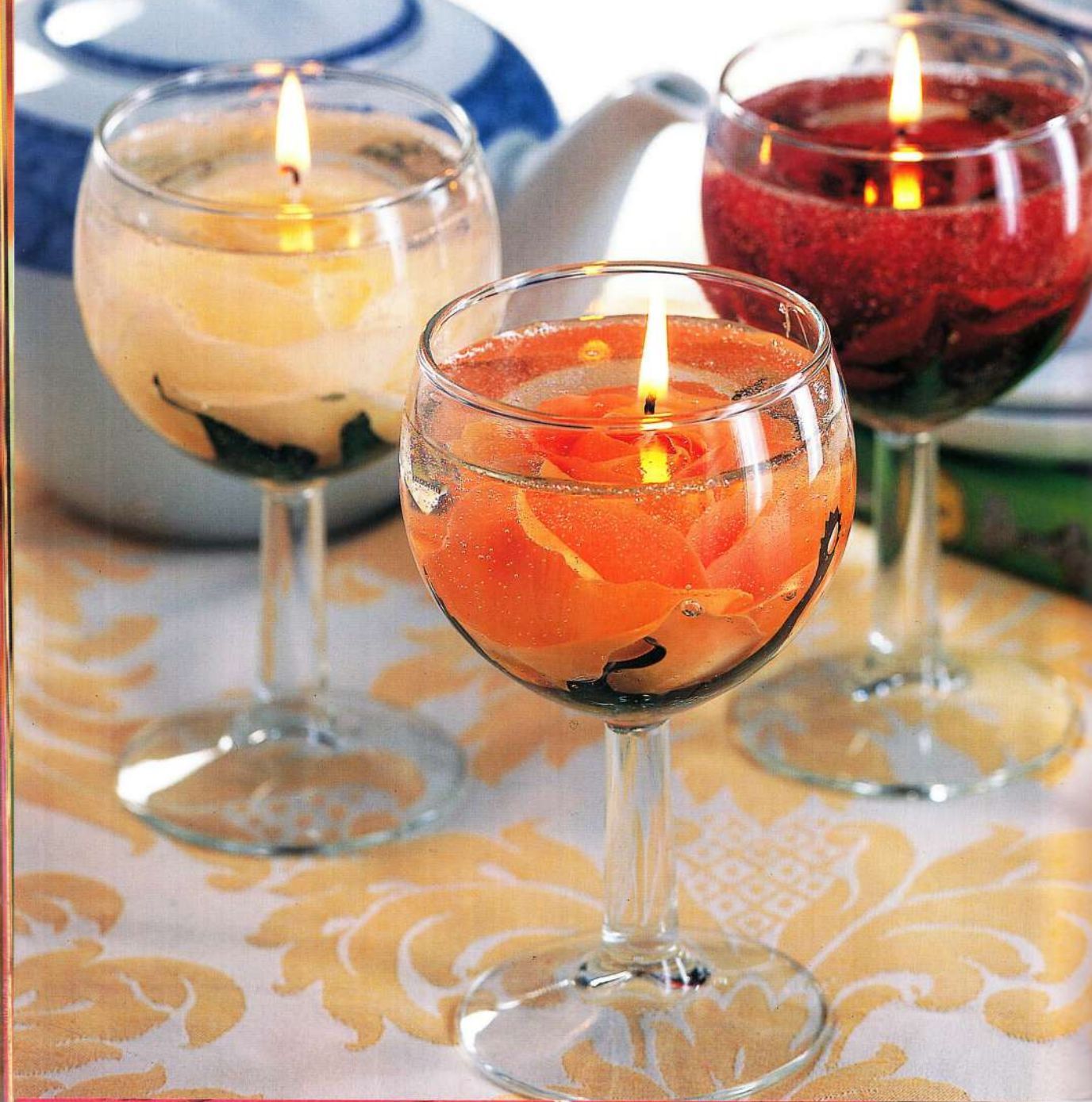
4 Pour the gel wax around the leaf in the mug, filling until about 1 inch from the top. Let it solidify completely.



5 Pierce the wax through its center with a needle and insert a measured waxed wick. Repeat for the yellow and orange mugs.

Rose Wineglass Candle

A trio of elegant wineglasses are transformed into transparent gel candles with floral hearts. Three delicate fabric roses add a charming touch to the glasses, making them perfect for adorning a romantic table for two.





As Gifts

Create a simple and refined gift that will reveal a hint of the beauty inside. Wrap the goblet in a sheet of clear cellophane and shape it around the glass. Around the stem, tie a raffia ribbon that matches the enclosed rose.

How, When, Where

For an anniversary dinner, use these romantic gel candles as your only source of light, and decorate the table to match. Use a red tablecloth and napkins and two scented white roses as napkin rings. Scatter white rose petals over the tablecloth and sprinkle a few drops of rose-scented oil around the borders for a finishing touch.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- 7 oz transparent gel wax
- Rose-scented oil
- 3 wineglasses
- 3 fabric roses: 1 peach, 1 white, 1 red
- 3 waxed wicks

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Spoon
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt the wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 10 drops of rose-scented oil. Stir with a wooden spoon.



2 Pour a few drops of melted wax into the first glass to create a base on which to affix the rose.



3 Place a rose in the center of the glass, pressing the bottom part of the flower into the wax base.

HINT

To avoid bubbles and lumps and to maintain the transparency of the wax, it's necessary to use very clean pots and to stir the wax slowly while it's melting.



4 Cover the rose with melted wax, pouring slowly to avoid lumps and air bubbles. Let solidify completely.



5 Pierce the center of the wax with a needle and insert a waxed wick. Trim to the desired height with scissors. Repeat with the other colored roses.

3-D Heart Candle

A cheerful cardboard heart is made three-dimensional in transparent gel wax to create this detailed, romantic candle. The wax holds the heart while the vanilla essence releases its warm, calming scent.





As Gifts

Wrap the candle in a sheet of paper printed with love poems and tie a wide red ribbon around the base. For a decorative touch, glue a red cardboard heart to the center of the bow. Instead of using printed paper, you can take a piece of light beige or yellow rice paper and write your own sentiment.

An Alternative

Create a magic romantic evening mood by suspending little silver stars and a large, curved moon in a candle of transparent blue wax. Add jasmine-scented oil to bring to mind a warm summer evening.

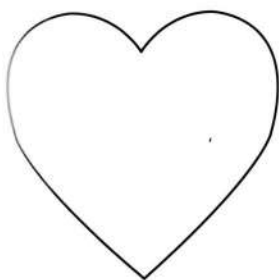
To Make the Candle

Materials

- 7 1/2 oz transparent gel wax
- Wineglass
- Red foam
- Waxed wick
- Vanilla-scented oil

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Needle
- Glue
- Spoon
- Scissors



Pattern for heart outline

HINT

Before inserting the 3-D heart into the glass, make sure the glue has completely dried. To speed up the drying, use a hair dryer.



1 Fold the red foam in half and cut out two equal hearts, each about 2 inches long.



2 On one of the hearts, cut a slit in the center of the top, being careful not to cut the heart in half. On the other heart, cut a slit in the center of the bottom.



3 Put the two hearts together, creating a three-dimensional heart, and add a drop of glue at the top and one at the bottom to secure it.



4 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 10 drops of vanilla-scented oil.



5 Pour wax into the glass about 1 inch deep. Place the heart in the glass, making sure it's embedded in the wax. Fill the glass with the rest of the melted wax and let solidify completely.



6 Pierce the candle on two opposite sides of the heart, cut the waxed wick in half, and insert the two wicks.

River Stone Candle

These simple transparent gel candles allow a peek at the river stone inside. Perfect for decorating a den or bathroom, or to use as place-holders, these candles release a moss fragrance to create a cool and balancing atmosphere.





As Gifts

Choose a cool color of tissue paper to bundle these stone candles. Crumple white, gray, or icy blue paper, wrap it around the candle, and tie it with a few natural strands of raffia. Glue a stone to the package for a decorative touch.

An Alternative

Add color to this gel candle by painting the stones in warm shades like yellow, red, and orange or cooler shades like blue, green, and purple. Insert the stones in similarly tinted wax to create a subtle tone-on-tone candle. For a finishing touch, paint a thin band of color around the upper edge of the glass to match the gel and stone.

To Make the Candles

Materials

- Small smooth river stones
- 3 ½ oz transparent gel wax
- Moss-scented oil
- Drinking glass
- Waxed wick

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 5 drops of moss-scented oil.



2 Pour a thin layer of wax on the bottom of the glass and let it cool slightly.



3 Place the stone in the center of the wax, pressing down lightly. Let it solidify completely.

HINT

If you want the stones to be suspended in the gel, first pour a layer of wax about one-third of the way up the glass. Let the wax solidify and position the stone in the center. Fill with the remaining melted wax.



4 Pour the remaining wax over the stone until it's approximately ½ inch from the top. Let solidify.



5 Use a needle to pierce the wax through the center until you reach the stone, then insert a measured waxed wick.

Pearl Necklace Candle

Opaque and transparent waxes combine in this half-sphere glass candle to dramatic effect.

Opaque gel wax covers the base while a spiraled strand of pearls is visible in the more transparent wax. This unique modern candle releases a sweet strawberry fragrance.





An Alternative

Add a colorful touch to your desk by creating a feminine bust candle. Transparent purple gel wax is poured into a glass ink bottle and a wick is inserted through its center. A complementary strand of pearls is knotted around the bust to resemble a necklace. Bring this candle to your office as a surefire conversation piece.

How, When, Where

For a modern dinner table, make several pop-art gel candles in fluorescent colors like red, purple, yellow, green, and blue, combined in bright, contrasting layers. Use round or square vases and alternate the layers of opaque and transparent gel wax.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Half-sphere glass
- Transparent purple wax
- Opaque lilac wax
- Strawberry-scented oil
- Strand of pink plastic pearls
- Waxed wick

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt the lilac gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add 5 drops of strawberry-scented oil.



2 Fill one-third of a half-sphere glass with the opaque lilac wax. Let it solidify completely.



3 Melt and perfume the transparent purple gel wax, then pour a layer about 1 inch thick over the opaque lilac wax.

HINT

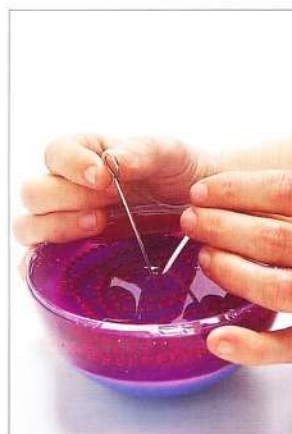
To keep the spiral of pearls from sinking to the bottom of the glass, make sure the opaque layer is completely solid before arranging the strand. Also, the melted wax you pour over the pearls should not be too warm or it will heat the layer beneath it, causing it to liquefy.



4 When the wax is partially solid, spiral a strand of pink pearls on top of it.



5 Pour the remaining purple wax over the necklace, filling up the glass.



6 Once solid, pierce the candle with a needle and insert a measured waxed wick.

Rustic Candle

Make a miniature meadow for your home by enclosing a green candle with a small wooden fence. The wax releases a sweet, earthy sandalwood fragrance, perfect for rest and relaxation.





As Gifts

To give these unique candles a natural effect, first wrap them in a square of clear cellophane, then in a sheet of heavy yellow tissue paper, slightly crumpled with your hands. Tie the ends with an orange cord, letting the ends fall to the side.

An Alternative

If you'd like to add a colorful touch to your candle, paint the wooden fence with acrylic paint in one or different colors, alternating the colors on each stick. You can even write a message or line of poetry on one of the sticks to personalize it.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Small wooden fence
- 14 oz transparent gel wax
- Green coloring
- Sandalwood-scented oil
- Drinking glass
- Waxed wick
- Thin wire

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Wooden skewer stick
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt the gel wax in a double boiler over low heat and add some green coloring and 5 drops of sandalwood-scented oil. Stir to disperse the color and fragrance.



2 Pour the green wax into a glass, filling it to the top. Let it solidify.



3 With an eye dropper, add a few drops of sandalwood-scented oil to the wooden fence. Let the essence absorb completely.

HINT

You might want to secure the fence to the glass with a few drops of hot glue. Let it dry, then remove any glue threads with your fingers.



4 Wrap the fence around the glass to get an accurate measurement, remove it from the glass, trim it down as needed, and fasten the two ends with wire to create a holder.



5 Place the glass in the round wooden fence. Pierce the wax through the center with a needle and insert a measured waxed wick.

Flower Bucket Candle

Candle or flower arrangement? An aluminum pail holds these delicate white woven flowers floating on a pond of red gel wax. Both the flowers and wax are perfumed with a delicate peach fragrance, reminiscent of the sweet smells of summer.





An Alternative

Make a colorful gel wax candle in full bloom to add a fresh, floral scent to any room of your home. Use a small vase, a terra-cotta pot, or a transparent glass that will show off the brightly colored gel wax. Insert a fabric flower of your choice into the wax.

How, When, Where

To brighten a spring day or celebrate a birthday, decorate the table with a floral theme; peach-tree flowers work especially well. You can wrap flowers around the napkins and create a large centerpiece candle made with a glass bowl and peach-tree flowers encased in transparent gel wax.

To Make the Candle

Materials

- Small aluminum pail
- Gel waxes in clear and cherry red
- Peach-scented oil
- Fabric peach-tree flowers
- Waxed wick

Equipment

- Double boiler
- Needle
- Scissors



1 Melt the two waxes in a double boiler over low heat and add 10 drops of peach-scented oil.



2 Fill two-thirds of the aluminum pail with melted wax. Let cool until partially solid.



3 Remove the fabric flowers from their stems, then add a few drops of peach-scented oil to the petals.

HINT

When you remove the plastic stems from the flowers, leave about 1 inch of the wire attached so it can be easily inserted in the wax. Be careful to insert the stems directly into the holes you made with a needle so the surrounding wax doesn't crack.



4 Place the flowers on top of the wax, placing their wires in holes made with a needle.



5 Pierce through the candle's center with a needle and insert a measured waxed wick.

Resources

BOOKS ABOUT CANDLE MAKING

The following titles contain information, projects, and ideas useful to beginners looking to advance their skills.

Constable, David. *Candlemaking: Creative Designs and Techniques*. Tunbridge Wells, Kent, UK: Search Press, 1992.

Ebeling, Eric, ed. *Basic Candle Making*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2002.

Jenkins, Alison. *The Handmade Candle*. Pownal, VT: Storey Books, 2001.

Nichol, Gloria. *Candles: Illuminating Ideas for Creative Candle-Making and Enchanting Displays*. New York: Anness Publishing, 1999.

Oates, Letty. *Naturally Creative Candles*. Iola, WI: Krause Publications, 1997.

Spear, Sue. *Candle Making in a Weekend: Inspirational Ideas and Practical Projects*. Cincinnati: North Light Books, 1999.

RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

www.candles.org

Website of the National Candle Association.

www.candlemaking.org.uk

Website known as the Essential Survival Guide to Candlemaking.

www.candlecauldron.com

Loaded with ideas and tips.

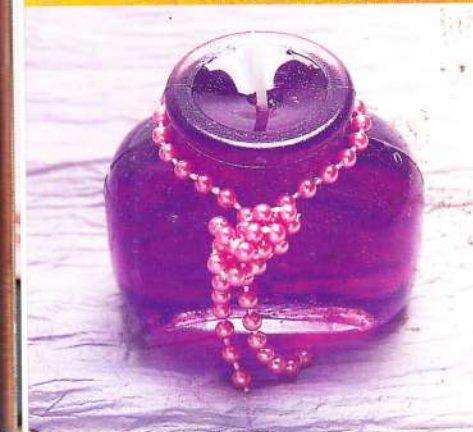
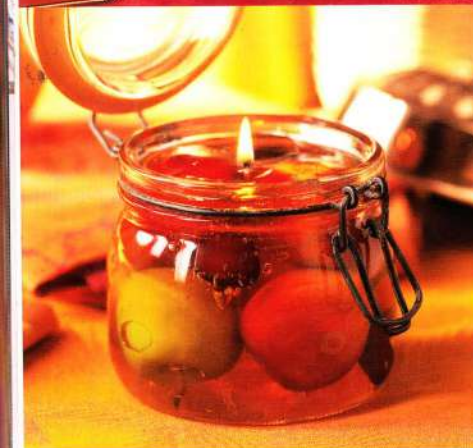
www.thescentreview.com

Good look at the scents available for candle making.

groups.yahoo.com/group/candlemaking survival

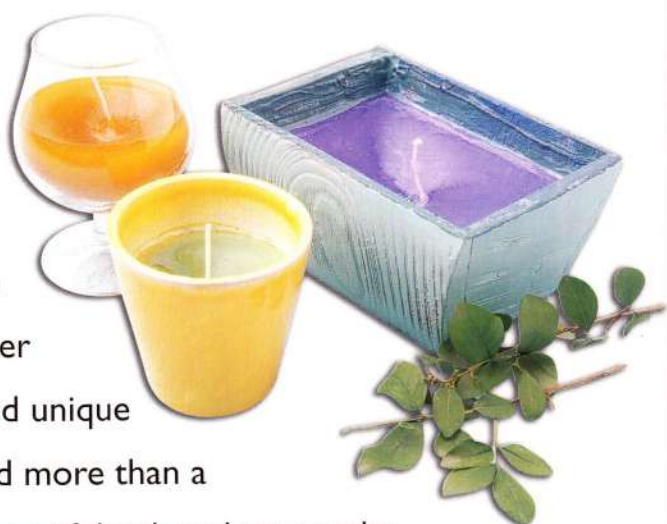
Online group with thousands of members who exchange ideas and techniques for candle making, from beginner to expert.





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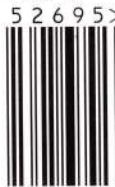
one hundred unique projects and more than a thousand beautiful color photographs, this book is a must-have guide for candle makers. Concise step-by-step instructions accompany each photograph, and introductory chapters cover basic techniques and materials in detail. From designing a candle for a special occasion to simply adding a decorative touch to any table, this book offers ideas using a wide variety of containers, scents, waxes, molds, and other materials. Also includes creative variations and gift-wrap suggestions for each candle.



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