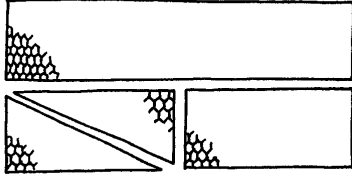


Rolled Beeswax Candles

Instructions and ideas

Items needed: beeswax sheets, wick, craft knife, ruler

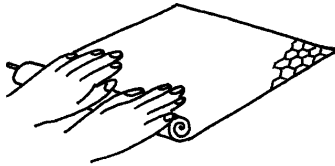


Use a whole sheet or cut to a desired size and shape

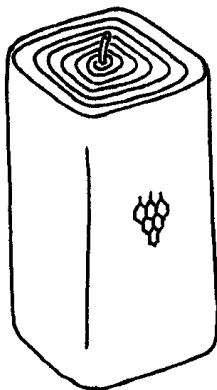
Soften the beeswax a little by working in a warm room or place the beeswax sheets in the sun for a few minutes. (Don't leave it too long or it will melt)



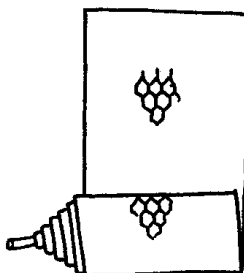
Cut the wick 5mm longer than your beeswax sheet and lay it on the wax at one end and crimp the wax over the wick with your fingers



Using the flat of your hands, firmly roll up the candle



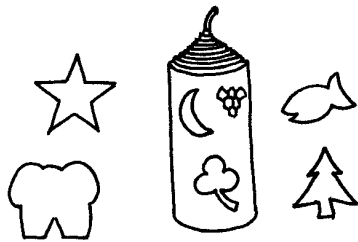
Square candles can be made by starting to roll the candle in the normal way. After 3 or 4 rolls start to square the candle by pressing it on a flat surface, turning a 1/4 turn and flattening again. As the candle grows the corners can be pinched to help squaring. Finish by not pinching the last two rounds, then trim the wax on a corner and flatten.



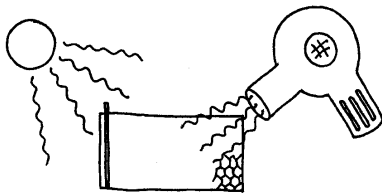
To roll a candle with a conical top, crimp in the wick in the normal way and roll the candle slightly offset creating a cone as you go.



Tapered or spiral candles are made by cutting a rectangular sheet of wax on the diagonal to make two triangular shaped sheets. Edges can be decorated, flared or left flat. A two toned tapered candle can be made by lying two contrasting triangular sheets one on top of the other but staggering them a few centimetres, and rolled up in the normal way.



Icons such as Christmas trees, stars, moons, fish, cats etc can be cut from contrasting colours of beeswax and pressed onto your candles.



After a few months in cool conditions, beeswax can develop a white powdery appearance known as "bloom". This is a natural property of beeswax and can be easily removed by carefully warming the beeswax in the sun or with a hairdryer, fan heater etc. Or it can be left for its rustic effect.

About Beeswax

Beeswax is the building material of the honey bee which they use to make honey comb. It is secreted by worker honey bees from four pairs of glands on the underside of their abdomen. The bees only produce wax when they are producing honey. The honey comb can be made by the bees in the darkness of the hive. Even though many different bees work on the same piece of comb, every cell is identical. Notice how the bottom of the cell forms the high point of the cell on the opposite side of the comb. Because the bees use honey to obtain energy to produce the wax, beekeepers put the sheets of beeswax into the hives allowing the bees to produce more honey for us all to enjoy. For every one thousand kgs of honey harvested, there is about 20 kgs of beeswax produced as a by-product.



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