

Floating Candles or Wax Tarts

Materials you will need:

Floater molds
Melting pot for the wax
Pre-tabbed wicks (floating candles only)
Votive/Tart Wax
Color blocks or liquid dye
Scent
Thermometer
Suitable work area
Stove or hot plate
Pot for water (to double boil the wax)

Step 1

Prepare your work area - gather your materials - fill the pot with water and place on the stove.

Step 2

Put all of the wax in your melting pot. Clip your thermometer to the side of the melting pot in the double boiler and start heating. Add color and scent as necessary while heating the wax. Take care not to get the wick on the candle.

Step 3

When wax reaches 180 degrees you are ready to add the color and scent. Using a knife or grater, shave off small amounts of the color block and add them to your wax. It's better to start with small amounts of the dye block because you can always add more to reach your desired color. Stir the wax with your thermometer until the color is well dissolved. You can test your color by putting a drop of wax on a white piece of paper. Keep in mind that when the wax is hardened it will appear lighter than it looks in the melting pot and darker than it appears on the white piece of paper. Once you have the color that you want it's time to add the scent. I use about 1 oz. of scent for every 1# of wax. If you do not want highly scented candles, only add the amount of scent that you want. Stir the scent again with your thermometer.

Step 4

Remove your melting pot from the double boiler and let the wax cool to 160 degrees. Pour the wax into the mold slowly but smoothly just below the top of the mold. When the wax appears "cloudy" (within 1-5 minutes after pouring), place a pre-tabbed votive wick in the center of each mold. Chances are the bottom of the mold will feel tacky and be able to hold the wick in place. If you are making wax tarts you do not need to add the wick.



Step 5

As the wax cools, it shrinks and creates a small “pit” around the wick - this is normal. You can reheat the leftover wax to 180 degrees again and pour enough wax in the mold to fill the “pit” and create a nice smooth top on your candle if you want. This is not really necessary unless the pit is large enough to impair the way the candle burns.

Step 6

Allow the candle to cool fully before attempting to remove from the mold. If the candle does not easily slide out of the mold, tap it gently on the counter or place it in a refrigerator for five to ten minutes then try removing it from the mold again. Never pry or scrape the wax out of the mold.

Step 7

Enjoy your candles! Watch them burn and enjoy the fragrance that you picked. Handmade candles also make great gifts. Your friends will enjoy receiving something that’s handmade and if the directions are followed properly you will have made candles that are a better quality than what you can buy in most stores!

I hope that you have had fun making your candles - I know I enjoy making candles more than just about anything! If you have any questions or need any supplies, feel free to contact me at any time!

Keep in touch too! I would love to hear how your candles turned out. Happy candle making!

Your Friend,
Cindy Novack

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