# **Wax Seals** with CBTV Live

**Chapter 1 - Chapter 1**
Sealing Wax
(upbeat music) - Hi everybody, welcome to Creativebug Live, I'm Courtney, coming at you live, like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which means you can write in and ask us questions, and there aren't a lot of crafts where you get to play with fire, at least not in my world, so I thought we would do something where you do use a little bit of fire. This is how to make a wax seal, and it was something that I was really super into probably like 15 years ago, and I have this little tiny kit that I miraculously still could find in all of my art supplies of my wax seal stuff. But wax seals have come along way since then. There's traditional wax, which is sort of brittle, but it's what they traditionally used to seal documents, and there are little stamps that you use to press into the wax itself. In like the 15th century, people had rings that had a seal of their family crest, or if it was a diplomat, or some kind of aristocrat would have like a family crest, and they would actually use that to seal envelops and documents. Now there are all kinds of things. You can get a monogram, you can get images, and you can even do custom ones, and they range in quality as well. I really like the brass. I feel like, so far, I've gotten the best impression with that, but you can also get little tiny ones that have things like stars and other images like trees. There's your traditional wax. Like I said, it's sort of brittle and it doesn't go through the postal sorter. It has to be hand canceled, so that's something to consider if you're using a traditional wax. There's also new types of wax that have resin mixed into them, which makes them more flexible, so they can be mailed without having to be hand canceled. This is a wax seal made with that, and you can see, I can bend it, and it's not breaking. The traditional wax is more like a hard candy, if you think about that. And the new thing that I hadn't played with yet were wax that you can put through a hot glue gun. So, I was going to show you all of those. I think using and making wax seals is a really fun way to kind of rekindle that want and need to do a handwritten post as opposed to just getting bills in the mail. That's the thing I like least about being an adult is all of my mail are bills. So, I tend to order lots of fun things so I get books in the mail, but I also write a lot of postcards and send a lot of letters. So, I think this is a nice way to kind of dress up your envelop a little bit. Remember, because we're live, you can write in and ask questions. So, let's start with the traditional wax. I'm just going to show you on a piece of card stock here. It's fun to make these little samplers, so you can get to know the different types of wax with the different seals you might have. You also will need either a match, a candle, or a lighter, or maybe all three 'cause then you can experiment. I'm going to use a lighter. You want to hold your wax at about a 45 degree angle to your flame and you want to try not to burn and actually light your wax on fire, although it does happen occasionally. Just be kind of wary of your surroundings. Especially with the darker waxes, you may get some burning, in which case your wax will get like a marbled effect and that's fine. Some people really like that and you can accentuate that. It's a little bit hard to troubleshoot so it's just about practice. I also tried heating, don't try to light it on fire. I also tried heating it with a heat gun but that had too much force and it blew the wax all over. We're trying to puddle the wax in just a concentrated little area, so that then. Ah, try not to catch your card on fire. We're trying to just drip the wax in a concentrated area, so then we can press our seal into it. So, you're aiming for a little puddle that's sort of circular. And you can see, I do have some of that dark tarnishing in there. It's where the wax is kind of burning, and it's going to create a marbled effect. This is the most traditional wax so it's going to be the most brittle and it usually comes in this sort of

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ox-blood red, which I love. We're going to let that sit for just a few seconds, and another tip for releasing your wax seal from the wax itself is using a little bit of, like having your stamps on a little thing of baby wipes or it could be a wet paper towel. I've also read that you could use a little bit of oil instead of having the water technique. I've tried both, I think the baby wipes work best, but you can experiment. Now, you're just going to press your stamp into the wax. It looks like it didn't have enough wax in this one, but you can see what a great impression you can get. Let's try it again with a different kind of wax. Oh, let me show you, too, that this is super brittle. Once it comes to room temperature, it cracks. So, like I said, it's like a hard candy. Whereas that flexible one I showed you earlier, it's not going to break when it's bent or run through the postal service, which means you're going to have to tear your envelop. A traditional wax seal would snap like that when you would open up your document or your letter. Okay, so let's do another one. This time we're using a traditional style of wax that's mixed with resin so it's more flexible. It does take a minute to heat up. All right, some waxes will melt a little bit more quickly than others. This one we're getting, now that it's warmed up, we're getting a pretty good drizzle here. Let's add a little more wax since our wax seal happens to be pretty large. Okay, just let that continue to drip until it starts to harden and let your puddle of wax dry just a little bit, maybe five or six seconds. So, we're just letting it kind of air dry. I think that's a nice puddle of wax for this and I'm taking my wax seal. This happens to be a C for Creativebug or C for Courtney, and it's coming from my baby wipes, so it has a little bit of moisture. We're going to press right on there. Now, this is really warm and gushy, so I want to let it set up just a little bit. If you try to remove this and there's resistance, let it sit there a little bit longer because you don't want wax to stick into your seal. Look, that is a perfect impression, and once it fully dries, I can bend it for you so you can see it's a little more flexible unlike the one that we snapped because it was the traditional. The other kind of wax that I mentioned is the one using the hot glue gun. I've got an industrial hot glue gun. It's loaded with gold wax. Wax in parentheses because it's really more like a hot glue. Now, you can't do this with just hot glue. I tried just 'cause I was curious 'cause I was like, oh, what if you can do this with regular hot glue, and you could add glitter and you could add shimmer powder and all sorts of other stuff. It just stuck to my seal, so you do want to get the wax that's made for a hot glue gun, and it comes in all different colors, you can see here. And we're just going to puddle a little bit and let it sit for a minute. - [Woman] We have our first question. - [Courtney] Oo, we have our first question. - [Woman] Brianne. - [Courtney] Hi, Brianne. - [Woman] Is asking, "What's your favorite "brand/kit for beginners?" - That's a good question. Let me show you this glue gun impression, and then I will answer that. Thank you, Brianne, for tuning in. As always we love your questions. I just don't want this to dry too much. Yeah, I think this is good. We've let it sit for about five seconds. I'm going to dab my seal on the baby wipe and we're going to just press that down. Again, we're going to let it set up a little bit. I find the hot glue is more likely to stick to your seal, or your stamp, rather, than the traditional wax, or the hybrid wax that has the resin in it. As far as beginner kits, that is an excellent question. Because I hadn't done this in a while, and I was like curious about it and I wanted to kind of revive in my own personal letter writing, I went everywhere to see what was available. I ordered stuff on Amazon, I went to Paper Source, I went to my local art supplies store. I had the stuff that I had saved over the last decade 'cause I didn't use every single bit of wax, and I kind of got varied results. On Amazon, I got these little kits where you actually melt the wax in these spoons. It was not that easy to use. Some of the spoons heat up better than others. This one happened to be sort of kind of semi-coated with something that would allow the wax to slip out, but then it's permanently stuck in this little spoon once in dries. So, switching colors could be a little bit tricky.

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There's also wax that has a wick in it, so, it kind of does double duty. You don't have to have a flame in one hand and your wax in the other hand, but you get a lot of burning and a lot of drops of wax on fire with that, so, I would just experiment and see what you like best. I would say that I liked the hot glue the least. I really preferred the traditional wax or the hybrid wax with the resin. Good question. This is ready to come off. It just slipped right off, so that's perfect, and that's the hot glue. It's a little less shimmery, it's a little more mat, but it's much more flexible, like you can see. I also kind of experimented a little bit because when you're doing a seal, you only have once chance, right, because you've already written your envelop or your letter. Rather, you've sealed up the envelop and you're doing a wax seal. If you wanted to perfect your technique, you could practice on a sheet like this, but I also tried doing it on some wax paper and then peeling it away. In which case, then you would just hot glue this down when you have the perfect ones that you love, or you could use a little bit of, like a double-sided glue dot. And this kind of worked a little bit. You tear up a little bit of the wax paper, but that's also worth experimenting, too. You could try doing it on parchment paper instead, or maybe a vinyl acetate sheet, or like, maybe a silicone baking mat could work. We have another question. - [Woman] We have two people, three people asking, "Can you use wax crayons?" - Can you use wax crayons? I think the wax crayons would be super brittle, but I haven't tried it. It's definitely not as opaque as this wax. This is formulated. You can see it's like oil paint almost. It's super rich in color and totally and completely opaque, so not transparent at all. You could totally try. The thing that's different about this wax is that it either has resin or some kind of demar varnish mixed into it, which means, once it air dries, it's hard. If you were to use, like a wax crayon, you could easily just scratch the entire thing with your fingernail, so going through the mail and an automatic postal sorter, could really damage your seal. It would probably break it off before it even gets to your recipient. Yeah, that's a good question. I know Crayola and like, wax crayons are really popular for a lot of art making and melting and stuff like that. They're really fun to play with. I just don't know they they would be ideal for the wax seal. Now, there's another method to help you with your technique, and that is to kind of slowly melt this, and then use the stick to sort of draw your circle, so that you get a more perfect circle as opposed to just dripping little drops until you get a puddle. So, why don't we try that with our traditional wax, since I broke the first wax seal, just to show you how brittle it was. Again, we're going to use the lighter, or you could use a candle, whatever feels more comfortable for you. Now, you do have to be careful not to set this on fire, and also, to not let too much wax drip into your candle. It's really easy to do because it's hard to tell how melted the tip of your wax stick is. This is literally the wax stick I've had for like 10 years. These longer sticks, you can probably get 10 to 12 seals out of, depending on the size of your stamp. There are also little stamps, which I haven't shown you yet. I'll show you one in just a minute, and you can probably get more from that. - [Woman] Courtney, for those just joining us, can you tell the folks at home if they need special postage to mail letters with these stamps on it. - Oh, good question, it depends. Anything that needs to be hand canceled, so, I'm just pressing the melted wax right onto the paper. I still need more wax, so I can do this in a few layers. I'm not worried about those little strings. I can get rid of those after. If you're using the traditional wax, the brittle one, it needs to be hand canceled. Things that are hand canceled require more postage. You're going to need to check with your local postage, (laughs) You're going to need to check with your local post office, sorry, just to see how much extra, 'cause I'm not sure, but if you're using the hybrid or the hot glue that's flexible, you can just drop it in the mail. It doesn't require extra postage. It's a good question. Let's see how liquidy that is. It's still not totally liquidy. I'm looking for, like a nice puddle, and I'm not quite there yet, but it's okay to do this in layers, that's not a problem. This takes a little more time to

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do. Let's see what that looks like. It's getting a little better. That is pretty sticky. Why don't we try using our heat gun and melting this down a little. (heat gun whirs) just to soften it up. That is a very large puddle and I was going to show you the little seal, so that's fine, I don't mind. Again, this is our little seal. Its got the little star. It's coming from the baby wipe so it's got some moisture. We're going to let that sit for just a few seconds and then we're going to press right into that and then release. So, hopefully you can see how cool an impression that is. Now, don't think you have to use these seals just for mailing an envelop. I think they would be really beautiful for packaging. I know one of my great friends, Christina, who I own my store with, she always loves to give tapered candles as gifts and she always wraps them so beautifully, so you could do a little paper wrap around tapered candles, and then do a little wax seal with some twine. You could do it for a bundle of special envelops, like these really cool vintage postage envelops. We can make a set of stationery. - [Male] Try it. - Brian! (women laugh) I'm apparently being told to try the Crayola crayon version, which we'll do in just a minute, fine. Okay, we'll see, I think it's gonna scratch off, though, and I think it'll probably break pretty easily. But yeah, you can totally use these wax seals for other things if you're not a big letter writer or you don't sent a lot of postal art, and this doesn't inspire you to do so. I think it would be a great use for a gift wrap. It could also be really pretty for little ornaments. You know, you could do something embellished on top of a special piece of paper or fabric. I think the possibilities for this are really numerous, and now, because this has become a little bit more popular, and kind of paper arts in general, calligraphy and letter writing has gotten kind of into the forefront of the arts and crafts world, it's much easier to find more wax in more places, more seals in more places, and like I said, you can also do custom ones. So, now we're going to try the crayon version. Let's pick something dark because I think that will probably do a little better, We definitely need to remove our paper because you don't want to catch them on fire, and a blade would be nice for that, but I don't have one here because Brian just ran in and gave me this box of crayons. It's going to take me just a sec to peel the paper off. I was at my friend, Tracy Benjamin's house. She's also known as Shutterbean on Instagram. She's a food blogger an an amazing photographer, and we did a little Valentine's Day craft night there, and she has a son who she was doing a lot of crayon art with and they bought like one of those vintage. I got it. Brian thinks he's Johnny on the spot, but he's a pain. Actually, this is very helpful, thank you, Brian. There we go. She's doing a lot of wax, crayon wax, kind of art projects with her son, who I think is about eight or nine, and they had this cool old, like vintage heat tray that people would use for, like cocktail parties to like kind of keep your appetizers warm, and it was really fun to melt wax, wax crayons on wax paper and just have this huge puddle of wax, and you kind of swirl it around. Then you dip your postcards into it. If you want to see that, let us know because I could do a live shoot on that. It was pretty fun to play with. So, I know that crayons are super popular right now. Let's see what it does for a wax seal. All right, we're going to use the lighter method. Let's use the non-tapered end. Oo, I'm liking the color. This could be a contender. Let's see, it's also not catching on fire, which is nice. Let's get a nice little puddle. Do-do-do. Okay, that looks good. We're going to use the smaller stamp on it, so, I think that's enough. Give it just a few seconds in the air. Again, make sure your stamp is coming from a baby wipe, and press. Oh, let's see, it doesn't set up quite as quickly. So, we've got some holes in the star, and it also kind of removed some of the wax. You can see it, I just don't think it's as firm. Why don't we try another one, though. That color is pretty good, it's pretty opaque. It's more opaque than I thought it would be, which is nice. Let's try it, let's do some tone on tone. That could be fun. Now, that I have my blade, I can easily remove this paper. Let's do another one. So again, melting. This could be a good way to just practice your technique, too, for puddling, and

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holding something in your left hand and then holding fire in your right hand. The other thing that I didn't mention but could look cool with something like a wax like this is instead of placing your stamp on a baby wipe for moisture, you can put it in some rubber stamp ink, some permanent rubber stamp ink, and then you would get that color on top of your wax. You can see how much thinner that wax is, too, when it's dripping. Let's give it a few more seconds in the air because maybe if we let it dry a little bit longer, we'll have a better success rate with keeping the impression. Let's give it a few more seconds, all right. And I'll let it sit there for a little bit longer, too, just to see. You can see that's still really liquidy there. Let's give it a little more time. Okay, not a bad impression. We do get some bubbling there. Let's just see how they hold up. So, we know that this one is going to be super brittle and breakable. It's like a hard candy. This is our traditional wax. This is the hybrid wax that has kind of the qualities of the traditional wax with some resin added and it's really flexible, so this can be put through the mail without any problems. This is the hot glue, it's also super flexible, and this is our Crayola, which in addition to just being really brittle, it also leaves a stain. Which the traditional wax, while it's brittle, doesn't leave a stain. Yeah, I think it just doesn't have enough binder in it to really keep a seal. But it is fun to play with, and it's a good way to start, to try. If you have that lying around and you're just dying to try it, you could totally play with your Crayolas and see how that works. I would recommend getting some good, proper wax for this if you are going to embark on doing a bunch of letters or envelops. Well, let's do one on an envelop and that's how we'll finish because I have an envelop ready. I want to try this blue color. I want to do the one where you kind of place it. Let's try it with the blue, instead of puddling it. It's really cool how many colors that this comes in. It's like lipsticks or eyeshadow or something. This one happens to be slightly more transparent wax, which I think is also really pretty. And this is also a hybrid wax, so it's kind of like the traditional wax but it has the resin in it, so it's more flexible. And maybe for the rest, let's do our puddling, now that I've got kind of an area. Come on, there we go. Sometimes it just takes a little while to get started and then it starts to drip pretty evenly, which is nice. It gives you a little more control. Let's get a little bit more of a puddle here. All right, hm, maybe a little bit more. I want to use the bigger seal instead of the star this time. So, I'll add just a little bit more wax. Oh, we don't want to catch it on fire if we can help it. Give it a second. I also have, the letter I wrote in here also has a wax seal. I can feel it right there. And make sure our C is going the right way up. Oo, it's a nice juicy one. Give it a second. I forgot to do my baby wipe, so hopefully it still looks okay. Yeah, that looks good. My finger got caught in the edge. It's pretty, I love that blue color. It's not something you see traditionally. I think the red is kind of what you picture. Really, just like any other craft, it's all about experimentation, so try this out if you're curious about it. Again, play with the glue gun wax seal or you could try the hybrid kind that has the traditional properties of the wax with the resin mixed in so it's flexible, or you could go for the very traditional, kind of brittle, but really beautiful traditional wax seal, and then play with the different kinds of stamps. I'm really curious about using buttons and things. If you give them a good little spray with water or maybe with a little bit of oil, if they'll release, so, I'm going to play with that next time, I guess, and if are curious about anymore wax crafts, like I was mentioning the one using the Crayola, we could try that out. That's what these live shoots are for, so let us know. We love your feedback and we love your questions and we'll see you next week. (upbeat music)

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