
Make Beeswax Celebration Candles with Cobrina

Chapter 1 - Make Beeswax Celebration Candles

Overview

- Hi, I'm Cobrina of Creativebug, and I love working with materials that delight my senses. Beeswax not only feels good in the hand and makes beautiful candles, but it smells so good, like honey. You might think the process for making your own rolled or hand-dipped candles would take a lot of special materials, but it really is more simple than you'd think. I'll walk you through the steps of making a rolled candle from sheet beeswax. Then we'll explore making a dipped candle, and I'll show you how to add a little pop of color to the outside. (vibrant music) We'll finish by combining the scraps to make a poured candle. These are easy to make by the dozens, and they're giftable for any occasion throughout the year.

Materials

- We'll be making three types of candles, a rolled version out of beeswax sheets, a dipped version from melted beeswax, and a third version that incorporates the two. For the rolled candle, you'll need sheets of beeswax. These are eight by six and each sheet will yield about 10 candles at two and a half inches by one inch. These sheets often come in a pack, which is nice because you can choose your favorite colors. I'm gonna work with this green, blue, and yellow. To make sure we cut our candles to size, I have a ruler. I'm using a quilting ruler 'cause I love being able to see through it, but any ruler will work, a cutting mat, a craft knife, and a heat gun to bring our wax to temperature if you're in a colder environment. I also found that a book or something with a straight edge helps to roll these candles. To make the dipped celebration candle, you'll need natural beeswax. You can use that either in blocks or in pellets. I recommend a half a pound to a pound to start. To melt your wax, you'll need a stovetop and a small sauce pan half filled with water. You'll also need a tin can. This one's been cleaned out and I've punched the edges down so that there's no risk of cutting myself. I'm gonna be using two cans and two pans, but you can use just one and that's fine. We'll also need a glass of very cold water. And to protect our surface, a piece of parchment paper or wax paper. I got creative with my drying rack, using two full beverage bottles and 40 inches of string. If you'd like to add color to the outside of your candles, you can use broken up pieces of crayons and stir it in with chopsticks. For our third kind of candle, we're gonna incorporate the scraps of both projects into one. For that, you'll just need a small jar and some cookie cutters. And for all three types of these candles, you'll need some wick and a pair of scissors. For your wick, I recommend this waxed hemp wick, but also cotton wick is fine.

Rolled beeswax candles

- Working with bees wax makes the room smell so good. Let's make some rolled candles. When I first started working with this sheet wax, my idea was that I would want something probably about two by two inches, two inches tall and two inches wide. And when I rolled that up I found it actually made kind of a big candle. And so I figured out that two and a half inches tall was the length that I liked and I started to experiment with different widths so that I could see how the thickness changed as I rolled it up. I ended up loving the one inch by two and a half inches tall, one inch wide rolled candle for a more traditional celebratory candle. The thinner bottom helps it go smoothly into a cupcake. And then as you get a little larger, I found that the one and a half inch candle works well

for a candle holder such as a menorah. You can make them even wider or you can make yours shorter. Play around with scale and find which candle best suits your needs. I'm gonna show you how to cut it down to size. This piece here is two and a half inches tall by one and a half inches wide. Start by bringing in your sheet. I love working with the measured cutting mat here cause I can just line it up and bring in my ruler and at the two and a half inch mark cause I can see right through this ruler I can just line it up and use my craft knife to run gently right down it. Go slow, one or two passes should do it, and you'll find that you can move that away. Now I have my height, which is two and a half inches and you can choose whether you want to cut these down to one, one and a half or two. I'm gonna cut mine down two to one and a half. If you don't cut all the way through, that's okay, it will also just tip right off like that. Otherwise just run it through with your blade again. Lining up your edges, one and a half, little bit of pressure so it doesn't move too much. It's not completely imperative that they're perfectly straight, but you'll wanna get them as straight as you can. Cut as many of these as you'd like to make candles for. Before we take our cutting mat away, I also want to cut my wick. Three inches is good for this, which is the two and a half inches plus a half inch of wick, just like that. And I find even that you can find your three inches and then fold and fold and fold as many times as you need to get your wick and then cut those loops. It's a fast way to get a whole bunch of them. Have your book ready, your wick and your wax pieces ready. And if you live somewhere that's a little bit cooler or you're in air conditioning, you may want to use a hair dryer or a heat gun. You don't wanna go too far with this because you can make it really soft and stretchy, we just want it to be pliable. So right now this kind of almost feels like plastic. It's hard, it's not very easy to bend and were I to bend it, it would crack. But I'm just gonna run the heat gun in my hand very gently to warm this on both sides until it feels, well like wax. (heat gun whirring) Just that little bit and I can feel that it has some give now. Go to the edge of your book or whatever you have that's a straight edge, you'll see what will work best once I demonstrate this, and you want to overhang it by about a millimeter it's a maybe about the length of one of these beeswax cells and you're going to tip the edge over just like that. We're starting to begin our roll and the little nest that your wick is going to sit into. So I start to begin that roll quite a ways and then I can put my wick in. Fold it over, trying to keep that wick tucked in, and we're gonna begin to roll. I found the easiest way for me was to roll away from my body. So I'm going to start with all three of my middle fingers to keep it nice and even as I roll, I can put a little more pressure in the front or at the end as I start to roll it evenly up. Not too much pressure, you don't wanna damage the structure of the beeswax, but enough that you're getting a nice tight roll. When you get to the end, there's still that little edge. It can go right over and then pick it up and smooth it gently with your thumb. And then I usually like to stick it to the table, make sure that it's sitting flat and that it's in the shape that I like. That looks pretty straight. I don't think I need to adjust this much, but if you do need to adjust it a little bit, you can roll it on the table. Again, not too much pressure because it will damage this honeycomb structure. Let's do one more. I'll do one that's two and a half inches tall by one inch wide. So you can see the size difference in those. You think, well, how is this little piece gonna wrap right up into a candle, but it does. Let's check it out. It's feeling a little firm so I'm gonna hit it with some heat. (heat gun whirring) Use my edge again, just a little tiny bit over the edge, enough to create a little bed for your wick to lie in. And then I like to tip it just a little bit to keep that curve moving. I can add my wick. I found too - so if you wanna put your wick sticking out both ends that's okay, but you'll have to trim one end then. So I generally like to just have my wick starting right at the edge there. And if this one's too long, then I only have to trim one. Nestle that right in. Nice and even laid down, turn it away from me and start to roll. If it starts to crack or you're seeing any white

showing up in the wax, you definitely need to give it a little bit more heat. You may even just be able to hold it in your hands like this depending on the temperature of your hands and then continue to roll. Follow the lines of the beeswax too to keep yourself on the path. And get to the end and start to fold down that little ridge. That one looks pretty good too. It's pretty straight. There's a one inch birthday candle. Let's compare that to the one and a half inch. It's actually quite a difference. So if you're looking for something in between there, try to do a one and a quarter. You can try something smaller, three quarters of an inch, but you just wanna make sure that your wick is tightly in between a bunch of wax and not on one edge, or it won't burn correctly. Here's a set of candles that fit nicely into a menorah and here's a set that will fit nicely into a sweet of your choice.

Dipped beeswax candles

- The next candle I'm gonna show you is a dipped candle and it takes a little bit of a setup but it should be all things that you have on hand. I have my sauce pan half filled with water and I filled my can all the way with pellets and let it melt for about 20 minutes or so. It's fully melted, but I lost all of that volume so I need the wax to be completely full so that I don't have to dip too far down. So I'm gonna add more pellets until the can is full again. You can stir these in. They'll kind of chunk up 'cause they're colder but just fill your can with wax and then let that melt for about another 15 minutes or so. You don't need to stir it, but I find that pushing it down into the heated wax will speed up the process. Okay, you can use a paper towel or a dish towel for when your can is ready and the action is gonna be to go from dipping in the can to dipping in cold, clean water to hanging on our little homemade drying rack here. I have two full bottles of wine that are really nice and steadily holding about 40 inches of string in a tight little drying rack for me. I've put some parchment down underneath them to catch any drips. Wax isn't necessarily bad for your surface but you will have to scrape it up so this saves you a little bit of work later. While we wait for the wax to melt, let's cut our wick. I found that the sweet spot for this project is about six inches because that makes two two inch candles with two inches between it. So I'm just measuring my wick to six inches crimping it there and then folding it to get a bunch more. All right, let's start there. Cut your loops. (scissors snipping) And this is the full size of your wick but it actually makes two candles like that. My wax is fully melted, so I'm gonna take it off of the heat and put it onto this towel. This is an aluminum can so it's not too hot, but if you are more comfortable using oven mitts, please do so. I now have this set up, so my wax, my water and my drying rack all in a nice row. Begin by straightening your wicks as best you can. Dip them into the wax, dip them into the water and then you can immediately go back and straighten. You can then put this on the drying rack and move on to your next one. I've tried doing this project both with and without the water. I find that if you're gonna do a big long run of them you don't need the water because the waiting time is spent hanging and then coming back and hanging again. The water though makes it nice to go back and forth. Take a second and straighten and then go back and then water, straighten if needed. Dip and then water. You start to get these little drips at the end. You can actually just pinch those off as well and even put them back into your can and continue to dip. And then water. When you dip, you don't wanna dip too slowly. The slower you dip, the more likely you are to melt the layer of wax that you just hardened in the cold water. So make sure that your dip is really just a dip. And then another dip. Starting to form a candle here. Dip. Every time, attempt to get all the way back up to the top of your candle tip. Otherwise you'll end up having a more square top. So every time I wanna dip it all the way everything that has wax on it both times. So back and forth until you have the thickness that you desire. That's a good start. And I'll put them on the drying rack. That's an easy way to do

that back and forth if you're only making a couple of candles. But if you really want to get into a flow and you wanna start making a dozen candles, I recommend doing a dip and then put it on the rack. Take another one. You essentially skip the water step. Take another one, dip. And you don't have to straighten them quite yet because there's not not enough wax on there to worry about it. These are waxed also, so they have a little bit on there already. And then I'm gonna go back to my first one which has already been drying, and I can dip that one and put that back. And by the time I get to this next one, it's ready to be straightened and dipped again. You can straighten them immediately after but they're a little soft. In these first stages, it's easier to straighten them when they don't have very much wax on them and you've let them sit for a little bit. But as you start to build up your layers you'll want to correct them right away, otherwise you'll risk cracking the wax. So then I go back to my first one which is already nice and dried and I can dip. I can even mix and match here. Do a couple of dips and then set that aside. Take my next one. Dip, dip, and move through it. Straighten as you go. The cold water really speeds it up. But again, it's really just the quantity that you're gonna make that will dictate what method you wanna use. Go back to this first one 'cause I was noticing that I was getting these little balls at the end which is where it's dripping and then getting immediately cooled in the water. So again, I can just pinch those off with my fingers and throw it back in. Smooth those out a little bit. Dip and water, and I fixed it. I wanna show you one that I did a different number of dips in. So this is six dips and this is 11 dips. So you can choose how thick your candle is depending on how many times you go through the process. Either one would be great just depends on how you wanna use it. Let's continue with our candles. Dip. If they touch, if you find that you hit them you can see there's a little smudge there where my wax hit the other candle. That's okay, just dip it again. Those imperfections will get hidden really easily by another dip. All right, put that one back. Take these little bits off. I did a lot of research while I was playing with these 'cause this is the only way that I've ever done this. But I found people were tying weights or nuts and bolts and things to the bottom of their candles to weigh them down. I didn't find that necessary, either with the hemp waxed wick or cotton wick. I think if you're making a bigger candle, a larger, heavier candle, you may need some weight at the bottom. That was not something that came up for me. Take that little pinch. We can also leave those little bits at the bottom and then at the end taper them a little bit so that they fit into your candle holder. But I think they look particularly nice when the candle is nice and smooth rather than bulbed at the bottom. So, pinch it off. And you can roll it in your fingers like the sheet wax a little bit to get it into the shape that you like. I love the look of these natural bees wax candles but if you'd like to add a touch of color you can do so using a crayon. It's a great way to use broken up bits of crayon. You just put a little bit of your wax into another tin and add that crayon, stir it up. The thing to consider is that pigment doesn't burn. So if the color is at the core of your candle the wick will not burn through it. But if the bees wax is at the core of your candle and you just have the outside layered in color, it will burn down, no problem. Let me show you what that looks like with this green that I mixed up. This was the remainder of the last batch of wax that I made and I just threw a couple of pieces of broken crayon in it and mixed it up. There's not as much in here so I'm not gonna dip the whole candle. I'm only gonna dip about halfway. You can tip it if you need to but I think there's enough space in here. Same as before, down once fast, whoop kiss together. That's okay. Can do it again. Down two. Down one more time And we end up with this cool ombre, a little bit of green getting a little darker as we go down. Super fun. Let me show you some other variations that I've made. Here's a birthday candle that I did by dipping in a fuchsia crayon. Again, remember this is just the outside dip. So this candle will burn all the way down. So if you want it to be 100% color you need to use real candle

dyes. Here's some others that I did in the green and I played with length here, so I did some that were a little bit longer, a little bit shorter. This one has more dips, this one has less. You can see the difference in saturation of color and when I played with these, it didn't really seem to change the process at all. That no matter how long the wick was, the process didn't change. But you really need your wax to be completely full then. So if you're going to make longer candles, start those first while your wax is really full and make shorter ones as the wax level in your can goes down. Here's some others that I just did that are plain but also a longer length. Really think that those would be beautiful on a cake. Celebration candles of this size will burn for about half an hour or five wishes.

Poured candle

- For this last candle, we're going to use scraps from our previous two projects to create a lovely votive. I'm going to cut out shapes for my sheet beeswax and then pour the remainder of my hot wax into this jar. I have this little cookie cutter or vegetable cutter, and I think it's the perfect little size for cutting out some shapes from my scrap sheet beeswax. It's pretty easy to cut. Just push right through. And then sometimes it's tricky to get it out, so I use my chopstick to pop it out. It's okay if you warp it a little bit. Let's cut a couple of those. You can create any shapes you want I think squares or circles. You can use scissors to cut triangles. Anything you want. You can go in here. You could spell out your name. Anything you can cut out of this sheet beeswax, you can make. The key is to really press it well into the side of your jar. You want it to be as squished down as possible as to combat what's gonna happen when we pour hot wax into here. So just add them as nice and tightly as you can. Let's put a star in there. Because of that beeswax structure, I am actually almost pushing air out of these little air pockets. Try to get as much of that as you can. It's looking good. Let's just do another triangle, actually. Hm. Let's do some color variation. Here's our square. Square. This stuff makes your fingers smell so good after. You smell like honey. That's good. You can go as far as you'd like, put things all over this, but I think that's good. Couple stars, a couple squares. And then we're gonna take a little bit of wick. And just cut a piece that is taller than your jar by half. And you can start just wrapping a little bit around your chopstick. And then take a small piece of your sheet beeswax and soften it in your fingers. Mush it around like Play-Doh until it's soft enough to wrap around the end of that wick. And this is what we're gonna use to stick it to the bottom of the jar. The chopstick is going to hold the wick nice and straight up. Find the center. Press down well. And then you can roll your chopstick until your wick is standing upright. Before you pour in your wax, you wanna make sure it's not too hot. If it's too hot, it will melt the delicate little shapes you just cut out. I've found that by the time I'm done dipping all of my candles, the wax is at a good temperature, which is not too hot and maybe just barely starting to get a skin on top. Another thing to consider is where you're pouring this candle. If you're doing this in the middle of your kitchen counter and you wanna make dinner later, you probably want to pour it somewhere that it can sit and cool for at least a couple of hours. My wax is looking like a good temperature. As I swirl it on the edges of the can, it's starting to build up. So I'm gonna give it a go. Pour gently and right down the middle. All the way up. And just a little bit left. Oh, every last drop. Good! Make sure your wick is centered and taut. And let it sit until cool. Once fully cool, you can trim the wick below the chopstick. I love that this just used up all of my remaining wax. If you wanna do this in a straight edge jar, let it cool and put it into the freezer. You'll be able to remove the candle. This one I won't be able to do that with because it has a little bit of a curved edge. Let me show you what I mean. Here's one that I poured into just a little one-cup mason jar. I let it cool and then I put it in the freezer. It pulled away from the sides and I was able to pop it out. Really nicely, it shows the details

of my sheet beeswax and I got to use up all that leftover poured beeswax. If you choose not to make a poured candle, you can just leave the wax in the tin can to cool and save it for your next candle making project. These celebration candles bring a little more joy to any occasion knowing you made them yourself.