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## **Luminaria: Candle Shades** with Kelly Wilkinson

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### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

#### Overview

[MUSIC PLAYING] Hi. I'm Kelly from Creative Bug. This month, we're offering the luminaria workshop as a gift so you can bring some handmade into your holidays. I'm going to show you how to take wax paper, pressed flowers, and washi tape and create these beautiful, glowing lanterns. You could use pine needles or glitter for the holidays. No matter what you use, you'll have these lovely lanterns to warm up your holiday table or gatherings. [MUSIC PLAYING]

### **Chapter 2 - Composition**

#### Materials

So to whip up these lanterns you just need a few really basic things. You need the wax paper since we're going to be taking two pieces of wax paper and passing an iron over them to fuse them together. So you need the wax paper, just your basic, everyday kitchen wax paper. You'll need an iron, you'll need a ruler. I'm using one with a cork backing because the wax paper is really slippery, so that gives it some grip on the wax paper, but you can make anything work, really. And then you need an Exacto knife to cut with, washi tape is how you're going to seam all of the four panels together. And then I'm going to show you how to make two different kinds of lanterns. One has confetti inside. This is really great for a kids party or something that you want to be really festive and cheery. The other is the pressed flower lantern. So of course you need what's going to go inside. For the confetti lantern I'm going to make confetti with different scraps of bright paper that I have on hand and a regular hole punch. You can buy confetti, I'm sure. Actually, for how much I love parties I never go to party stores, but I'm sure you can find confetti there if you don't want to make your own. And then for the pressed flower lantern I have some flowers and leaves that I have in this big heavy book that I press everything in, tucked away in here. I've got some flowers that are already pressed and ready to go. And it looks like a tiny little inch worm that hitched a ride. And that's all you need. Now we're ready to get cutting and ironing.

#### Pressed flowers

Before we start cutting the wax paper, I just wanted to talk a little bit about gathering and pressing flowers. Because really what you're going for is flowers and leaves, whatever you're using that are really completely dry and flat. So the best way to do that is when you go out and collect them, you want it to be a warm day. You want it to be dry. You want everything that you gather to be dry. Because if not, when you go and put it in your book, it'll kind of mildew a little, and it won't achieve a good, flat, nice perfectly flat flower. And I can show you an example of that. This one here, it's like when you were a kid and you did light as a feather, stiff as a board sort of. You really want it to stay in this plane as much as possible and be completely dried. You can tell that one is really dry and nicely crisped up and ready to go. As opposed to, say, probably this guy isn't quite ready. We could make that work. It's dry-ish, but you want to let that one dry even longer so it really stays nice and perfectly flat. And then, when you've come back with whatever you've gathered, I just use the biggest, fattest book that I have in my house. And when I'm pressing flowers, I want to make sure to put them between two layers of either paper towel or napkin. So you layer them down. You sandwich the flowers or the plant in between, and that will help press them and dry them faster.

And it will also protect the pages of your book. So just let them go to town there, dry out and check back in a couple days. And when they're nice and dry and flat, you're ready to go.

### **Chapter 3 - Making the luminaria**

Cut and iron wax paper

Now, we're going to cut the wax paper into the rectangles that become the panel for each side of the lantern. So to do that, we want to cut four rectangles. And you do want to be a little careful when you're laying it down. You don't want to crinkle it up, because that will create those little white marks where it's folded and bent. And I'm using a self-healing mat which is gridded out already. For these lanterns, I'm going to cut four rectangles that are 9 inches across by 4 and 1/2 inches high. So then, when I fold them in half, and I'm putting the flowers in between, and then ironing it, it will give me a perfect little 4 and 1/2 inch square. You can make them any size that you want. That's just the size that I-- it makes a really nice cube that I like. It fits on the table, and it's low enough that everyone can talk over. But feel free to experiment and make whatever size you want to. So as you can see, this shows me really clearly what line I need to follow with the nine inches. If you don't have one of these gridded out mats, you can just use a cutting board from your kitchen and a ruler. And just use a pencil. Just make a light little line where you want to cut, and cut 9 inches across by 4 and 1/2 inches tall. So you definitely don't need this mat. It helps, but you don't need it. So that's one. And you just need to cut three more exactly that same size, which I have already cut and have ready here. Now comes the pretty part with all the flowers. And what we're going to do is take our rectangle of wax paper and fold it in half. So you want to line the edges up as best as you possibly can here. Although, it's not super fussy. And just fold that closed right at the edge. And then, you're going to pick out what you want to have inside your wax paper. And this is the part where you get to use your own taste and design to compose this tiny little piece of art, this tiny little wax paper lantern. So you want to just mess around with the flowers that you have, and maybe you want to give them a little bit of movement. Maybe you want to have one coming from the bottom and one from the top. I'm going to pick this guy off here. However you would like to arrange your flowers in here. And don't worry about the edges, the stems going outside of the wax paper. After we iron it together, we can just snip that right off with a pair of scissors. So you want to create four of these by doing the exact same thing, folding them in half, picking out whatever kind of flower you want to put inside. I'm going to go for these little purple ones. I don't really like this one sort of floating in space here, so I'm just going to move it on over to an edge. And once you have them all lined up how you want them, you just set them aside, because the next thing is going to be bringing them over to the ironing board. So if you're making one lantern, you just make four of these. If you want to make a bunch at a time, you just make however many panels. If you're making two lanterns, you make eight of these, and on and on. However many you want to make. I really like them in groups of three, both the flowers that I'm putting inside of each panel, and I like to have three lanterns. I think it's a nice grouping. Now we've laid out all of the panels for the lanterns, all four of them. And the next thing is to take it over to the hot iron. I set mine on cotton so it's nice and piping hot for this part. And one by one, iron the panels so they fuse together. Now, where people tend to go wrong here a little bit is they will bang their iron down and think the more that you iron, the stronger it will be, the more melty and infused it will be. But really, what you want to do is just a light little pass, a quick pass over each panel. Because if you think about it, you're just taking the wax paper, and you want it to get high enough just to have it melt to the other piece. And that gives you that nice fused piece of wax paper. So one by one, you just want to make a

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quick pass with your iron right over the top of the wax paper.

### Seam panels

Now that we have all four of the wax paper panels ready, the only thing that we have left to do is just quickly seam them together. And I'm going to use washi tape, because it's a lower tack, and it comes in all these really beautiful patterns and decorative colors. So that is what we're going to use to put the two panels right next to each other, and tape them together. I'm gonna use gold washi tape for this guy. And to make it a little bit easier to keep them in place, I'm going to just take a look piece. And I've got them side by side here. You want to have them lined up nice and straight. And I'm just going to put a little piece of tape at the top to keep them in place. And then for this strip here that we're going to join, I want a nice clean edge on that. So I'm just going to cut that edge off. And I'm going to pull it longer than the length of this panel, and start at the very top here. And I'm going to get down at eye level to make sure that I'm following the seam right along as I just tape this guy right in place there. And then cut the bottom edge. Give yourself a little bit of room at the bottom. And that's where we're going to flip it over to the other side. Carefully pull up the top. Turn it to the other side, and fold these edges over to the wrong side. Take off these pieces of tape. Take off that. And then just run your fingers along the edge here and give it a nice crisp fold. And now that we have that, we're ready to just continue right along, seaming each panel to the next one in the exact same way. This is the only part where you just need to be a little-- you do want to get it as close together as you can. And they want to move around just a little bit, so it's best to tape over the top first. And then run your fingers right alongside. And if you don't get it perfectly done, you can just peel that washi tape up and give it another try. You just want to fold that over to be nice and flush, so it's a straight line right across the top edge. So after you have taped the four panels together-- so you've done the three tapes-- you are all ready to close up your last side. And the easiest way to do that is to lay it down so the wrong side is facing you, and then just fold these two sides in. They'll just flop right into place. And then you are just going to do the same exact thing over top of the whole lantern. This one's actually a little bit easier, because everything is joined together, so they don't move around as much. Run that last piece of tape along. And then flip it back over. Fold that last tape over to the wrong side. So just press that last edge. And you've got yourself a flower lantern.

### Confetti lantern

Now that you've seen how easy it is to make that pressed flower lantern, I just want to show you quickly another type of lantern you can make. And it's using confetti. So to use that, you just want to either buy confetti, or I make confetti with the scraps of bright colored paper I have at home, and a hole punch. So you just gather up all of your different color paper and your just regular old hole punch, and you go to town. If you have a really old school hole punch, you know that whatever you punch just goes flying out. So you want to do it over a bowl. I have one of these nifty hole punches that has this arm here. So it keeps everything that I'm punching out in there. And then when I've done enough, I just open it up and out comes the confetti. Once you have your confetti, you're gonna put it right inside your wax paper, just like you did with the flowers. It's exactly the same. So you want to just sprinkle it into your paper, sort of like you're seasoning food. Put it wherever you want it. And then close it up. And iron it. So you make four of these guys. And put them together the exact same way with the tape. And what you have is a fun time, happy, little party lantern.

Confetti lantern.

### Conclusion

So you see how easy it is to make these really simple lanterns. But even though they're really simple to make, they do cast this really warm, lovely glow when the lights start to go down if you're outside or if your inside having a dinner party. So you can change it up in terms of the different flowers that you use with the different kinds of plants, with the different kinds of tape. But no matter what you do, you'll achieve this same simple lantern that will warm up your next gathering.