

## ~ Candle Recipe ~.

### *For Making Candles the "Old Fashioned Way"*

#### **Getting the 'Ingredients' Together**

(LOL!) OK! OK! I give up! You can let go of my arm now!

I have received numerous requests for my 'Secret Recipe' for making candles the 'Old Fashioned Way'. Didn't any of you watch the old "Kung Fu" show!?! That's where I got the original idea from! Then a year of experimentation, (and quite a few messes,) helped me to work out the secrets to making superb candles!

One of the secrets is being able to judge which 'kind' of wax you are working with! (Huh! There are different kinds of waxes!?!) There are hard waxes and soft waxes. Meaning the melting points of the wax. This just means that one type of wax will melt at a lower temperature. This also means that the candle will burn faster! When you get candle scraps from many different sources, it helps to know which 'kind' it is before you start your dipping.

Why? Because another secret to making 'dripless', 'slow burning', candles, is to put the softer wax in the middle. This way the inside of the candle burns faster, and the 'harder' wax in the outside layers make a 'lip' around the top and hold the wax 'in'. The 'softer' wax burning faster makes a hole in the center in which the slower melting wax flows into as it melts. Thus it drips in, instead of out and down the sides!

An example of a 'softer' wax is paraffin or canning wax. You know, the stuff your mother used to put on top of the jelly in those little glass jars! Start your candles using a soft wax, and use it to make at 'least' 1/3 the diameter of the finished candle. I make candles with multi colored layers. (Don't different colors have different aspects, and affect different things/areas!?!) But you can make solid colors too. You can even mix the melted waxes to make new colors. (But you better know your color chart here and mix carefully, because too much of any one color could give you a brown or sick purple that is tough to work with energy wise! Not too pretty either.

From my experience, the best working diameter is 3/4" to 1" in diameter, (across from side to side.) For containers to melt the wax in, I use 2 1/2" to 3" wide by 8" to 10" tall glasses. You see them sometimes in bars on the tables, but you can find them a lot of times where they sell candles. Make sure they are the 1/4" thick glass kind, because you are working with heat, and they will hold up better.

You will also need a deep pot to put the water and glasses in. 8" is a good size for both height and width. I like to put 5 of the glasses in at a time. 2 for soft wax and 3 hard wax of different colors. You will also need a ball or roll of "Cotton" kite string. Not the skinny 1/32nd size for the little kites, but the 3/32nd size for the bigger kites. It does make a big difference. The small stuff burns up and won't stay lit. The nylon cord, (the strong stuff,) will not work either because the wax will travel up or soak up into the string. The 'soaking up' of the wax into the string, is what lets the wick burn without burning up the string! (like watching water travel across a dishrag when you put the corner in water!) Ok, that's all you need to make the candles besides a heat source. While you go get your supplies, I'm going to bed! It's past midnight and I've got to work in the morning. I'll finish the recipe tomorrow! I'll also post it up on the website when I'm done, so you can refer others to it!

## **Part #2**

### **Construction and 'Secrets'**

Sorry about the delay. Life is just moving things too fast at the moment! Time seems to keep getting away from me! Working overtime everyday, 6 days a week. By the time I get home, it feels like I only have time to make dinner, (ha! That's a laugh! I nuke something,) shower, and download my emails and it's time for bed! Anyway, on to Pt.2

I start out with an old 10" stew pot, (the dark blue with white speckles "old fashioned" kind, .) and put my 8" glass containers into it. Separate the wax scraps into roughly the same kind/same colors, and fill the glasses with them. Then fill the pot 1/2 full of hot water to give you a head start on the melting time.

An easy way to tell the "soft" wax from the "hard" wax, is to watch and see which kind melts first and which melts last. The "soft" wax will melt first! Also let me say, that I only use the wax for a 'softener'. If I haven't 'got' any "soft" wax, putting the paraffin in it will accomplish the same purpose. 1 part paraffin to 2 parts "hard" wax should suffice!

While the wax is melting, (USE LOW HEAT SO AS NOT TO BREAK THE GLASS!.) take your cotton string and tie a loop in the end. Then with an empty glass, (same size as what you've got cooking,) lay it on the side and place the knot at the bottom of the loop on one end. Stretch the string down the side, and cut the string about 1 1/2" from the bottom. This will be your 'pattern' string! Don't use this string to make a candle! Then begin to make more of the strings. Tying a loop on the end of your roll, placing the knot even with the knot of your 'Pattern' string, and cutting the length even with the end of it. (Use the knot as the gauge point because you rarely tie the loops the same size!) The loops are to hang the candles for hardening.

I made a rack of nails pounded in a 1x2 about 1-1/2 inches apart. (12 for me, but you can make as many or few as you want!) I then attached the 1x2 to the bottom of the cupboard next to the stove for ease of use. Dip and hang, Dip and hang. When the soft wax melts you can begin.

Now the first time you try to dip the string in the wax, it's going to twist and turn on you because of the air between the fibers. Just work it down a little at a time. As the string soaks up the wax, it will displace the air and sink down. (Remember water soaking into a dishrag!) The first time you dip, dip it all the way to the knot. The rest of the dips, you should stop about 1/2" down from the knot. This will be where the top of your candle will be. (The first dip down to the knot puts the wax up in the wick so you don't burn up the string when you light it the first time!)

When the wax hardens from the first dip, the string will poke right down into the wax. The 2 most important factors for getting maximum thickness of wax on the candle with each dip are:

- 1) temperature of the wax,
- 2) length of time held in the wax!

The best wax temperature is when you see a little ring of wax forming on the sides of the glass at the top. (Melt wax completely first then turn the heat down to lowest setting you can get.) For length of time, I use 2 different prayers. A shorter version for soft wax and longer version for the hard wax. For the soft wax I use: "Bless and Honor this candle Great Spirit. Fill it with your great Light and Love!" For the hard wax I use: "Bless and Honor this candle Great Spirit. Fill it with your great Light and Love, so that when lit, all entities throughout the Universe will know the power of, and derive benefit from, the Vitality and Healing Energy of Your great Essence!"

Stick the candle in, say the appropriate prayer, hold it above the glass until it stops dripping, and hang it on your rack of nails. Then grab the next one and do the same thing till you reach the end. Then wait until the wax hardens and you can start over again.

In an air conditioned room, it will take about 30 min. for the wax to harden. If the wax is not hardened before you dip again, you will partially re-melt the wax from the last dip and will be wasting your time. This is not something you hurry! Concentrate on your prayer! Say it with feeling and clear intent of purpose! Then both you 'and' the candle will benefit from it. And be more powerful for the people you give them to!

To personalize the candles, just insert their name into the prayer. "Bless and Honor this candle Great Spirit, in the name of ".....", so when 'they' light it, .....etc. When you give light and love energy, don't put conditions on it! "This light and love is for ....." Give it to be used as 'they' wish to use it. Give it to, not for!

Again the best burning diameter, (size,) is about 1" using this method. And a warning! As the candle gets bigger, it will displace more wax when you dip it! So don't let the wax get closer than 1/2" from the top of the glass container for your candles in the beginning, and at least 1" down from the top as they get bigger. (Ahhhhhh! That's why he had us cut the string 1 1/2" up from the bottom of the glass!) This is also why I melt 2 containers of the same color/kind of wax! So as it gets low, I can fill it up again from the 2nd container. I keep the 2nd container at a reasonable level, (about 3/4 full,) by adding more scraps to it when I pour some out. If you 'do' fill it too full, dip the candle in until it gets close to the top, then pull it right back out again. Grab another candle and do it again, until you get it down where the whole candle will go in again. Then maybe you will know better next time! Again I remind you don't hurry! Think of this as a meditation!

Making the candles a dozen at a time will help to speed up the process, and repeating the prayer with focus and intent 12 times will really have a mellowing effect on you! And use caution!

WAX 'IS' FLAMMABLE !!!

Now Enjoy !!!

In Great Light and Love, Rich (Sunaris)