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G & L

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How to Make Beeswax Candles from Honeycomb Sheets

Although making beeswax candles by hand-rolling beeswax sheets is a great project for kids as well as adults,

NEVER leave a burning candle unattended or alone with children!

The basic thing to know about beeswax sheets is that they seem to roll best at about a normal room temperature (about 70-80 degrees F). If the wax is too cold, it will not "want" to be rolled, may even crack, or at least not stick to itself. If the wax is too warm, it will be too soft to roll. The pattern on the wax will get flattened out while rolling and even your fingers will leave dents in the candles--not a pretty sight.

The most important thing to do is to get good contact between the wick and the wax (with no air between the two). Therefore, the first wrap is the most important. Press the wax into the wick on all sides. Also, watch the shape as you roll. It is much easier to make a round (or triangle or square) shape if you start off with one. Spread your fingers across the length of the candle for even rolling. The outer edge simply gets pressed into the candle. If you like, slightly heat the wax directly (or via a heated butter knife) to help blend the outer edge into the candle. This also keeps the candle from unraveling.

A hint: The tighter you roll the candle, the longer it will burn, since there will be less air in the candle to speed the burning process. To learn more about wick and its role in candle making, click [here](#).

A hint: Use a pizza cutter to cut the sheets into shapes. If the cutter won't cut easily, clean the cutter by warming it up slightly in a small oven (or a candle's flame) and wiping off the excess wax with a paper towel. (Clean the cutter when switching colors, too.) Cut against a plastic surface, such as a laminated place mat. I use several laminated mats (one for red, one for the blues and purples, one for white, ivory, and natural, and one for the greens) and each one has the measurements and several straight edges marked on the mat with a Sharpie pen (permanent marker).

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Hand-Rolled Beeswax Tapers

Use size 1/0 square-braided cotton wick.

8" Candlestick (Taper), pair (requires one 8" X 16" sheet):

Cut the sheet in half (along the dotted line in Figure 1). Place wick along one edge and roll wax tightly and evenly around wick. Keep rolling, watching the edges to help you roll straight. Unroll as needed to realign. (Dotted line is the cut line.)

***Hint:** Roll the same direction on the sheet so that the honeycomb pattern looks the same on both candles.

*For a tapered look, cut a small triangle off the the top. Start rolling on the longest (8") edge, aligning the bottom of the candle as you roll (See Figure 2).

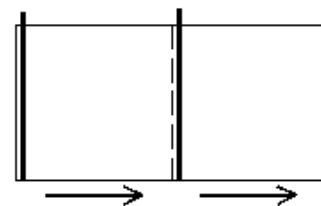


Fig. 1

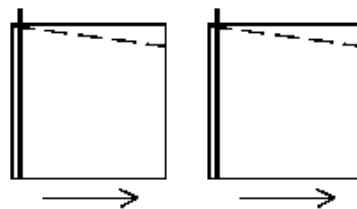


Fig. 2

4" Candlestick (Taper), 2 pairs (requires one 8" X 16" sheet):

Cut the sheet in 4" intervals or in fourths (along the dotted lines in Figure 3). Pieces will be 4" X 8".

Place wick along 4" edge and roll towards opposite end.

See above for hints.

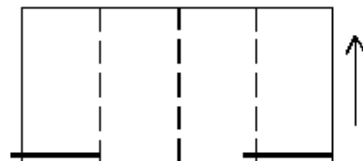
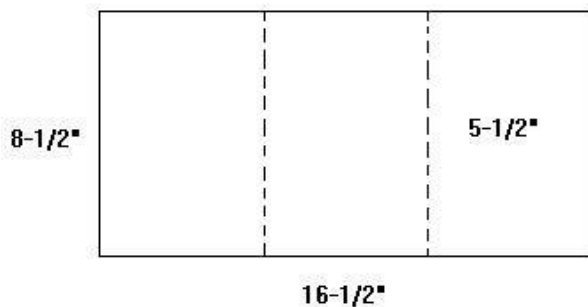


Fig. 3

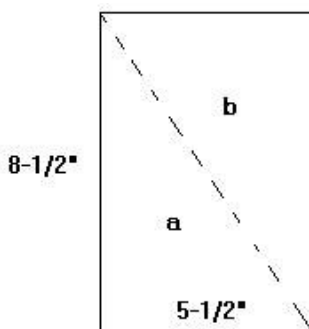
***NOTE:** This is also the direction to roll the sheet if the desired candle height is more than 8 inches (You can roll this way to make an 8" taper too; I usually don't because the sheets are sometimes longer than 16" and I am too lazy to have to cut off the extra beeswax). One sheet will yield one 16" taper *OR* one 12" taper and one 4" taper.

8" Fluted Taper (requires 1/3 of an 8" X 16" sheet)

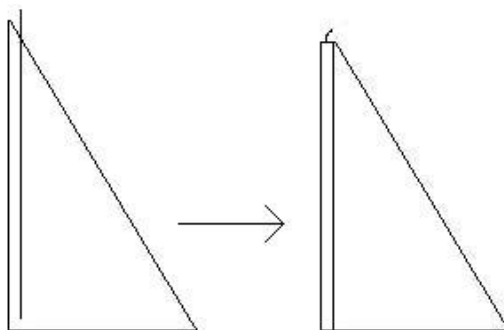
The fluted candle is rolled using two triangular pieces of beeswax sheet. Usually solid sheets are used for these candles, but if you are careful you can roll these with honeycomb sheets also. You can enlarge these dimensions for taller fluted tapers, but your yield per sheet will be less.



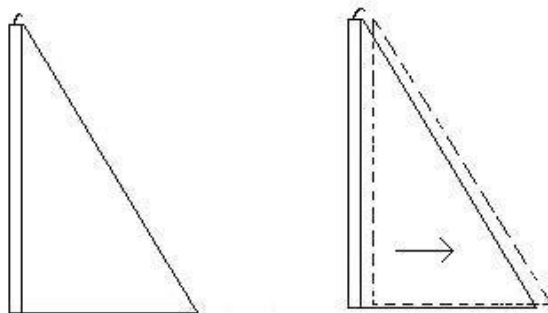
1. Cut an 8-1/2" x 16-1/2" beeswax sheet into three pieces, as above.



2. Cut one of the 8-1/2" x 5-1/2" pieces diagonally, as above.



3. Place wick along the long edge of one of the triangular pieces and roll tightly around the wick.



4. Place the second triangle alongside the first so they overlap, then wrap as tightly as possible. The sheets have a tendency to splay apart, so you will have to take some care until you get a feel for wrapping overlapping sheets. Once wrapped, use your fingers to gently flute the edges, starting at the bottom and working up.

About Lumina's Candle-making Supplies

Hand-Rolled Beeswax Pillars

4" Pillar, approx. 2.5" diameter (requires two 8" X 16" sheets):

Place two sheets on top of one another and cut the sheets in half lengthwise (along the dotted line in Figure 4). A (metal) straightedge is helpful here.

Place wick along the 4-inch edge of one of the 4" X 16" sheets (Figure 5) and roll wax tightly and evenly around wick. Keep rolling, watching the top edge to help you roll straight. Unroll as needed to realign.

After rolling that entire sheet into a small pillar candle, place the next sheet end to end and continue rolling, still aligning the top edge of the candle. Continue in this way until all 4 pieces have been rolled into a beautiful pillar candle.

***Hint:** The uncut edges are usually more attractive than your freshly cut edge, so when you roll, position your sheet so that the newly cut edge will be on the bottom of the candle.

Use size #3 square-braided cotton wick.

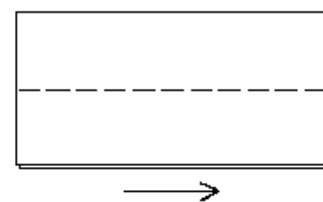


Fig. 4

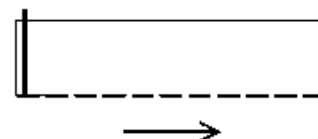


Fig. 5

8" Pillar, approx. 3" diameter (requires five 8" X 16" sheets):

Place an 8.5" wick along the 8" edge of one 8" X 16" sheet and roll wax tightly and evenly around wick. Keep rolling, watching the top edge to help you roll straight. Unroll as needed to realign.

After rolling that entire sheet into a thin pillar candle, place the next sheet end to end and continue rolling, still aligning the top edge of the candle. (I do not overlap sheets at the edges since the overlapped/thicker area makes it a little more difficult to achieve a round shape.) Continue in this way until you have a beautiful pillar candle. **Use size #3 or #4 square-braided cotton wick.**

Votives (use size 1/0 square-braided cotton wick):

Votives are 2" high by 24" long. So I take three sheets and stack them on top of one another. Then I make three lengthwise cuts that yield 4 sections (of 3 layers) that are 2" tall by the 16" sheet length. One of those sections will get cut in half. Each section of 3 layers will yield 2 votive candles (one and a half sections per votive). In other words, three sheets will make 8 votives.

The reason I stack three sheets on top of each other before cutting the 2-inch by 16-inch sections is that although I am careful to measure my cut lines, it is very difficult to get exactly 2-inch high candles. So I would prefer to make at least a pair of votives with matching heights. Besides, I am often making lots of votives, so to cut for 8 at a time is no big deal.

***Hint:** There is no limit to the size pillars to be made. These are just basic guidelines. Also, you don't have to make your pillars cylinders.

You may shape them into squares or triangles--just start the shape early and make a nice, crisp fold on each edge. The final sheet may not end at an edge, so just cut the beeswax sheet back to the last edge and join the wax to the corner.

About Lumina's Candle-making Supplies

Hand-Rolled Beeswax Spirals (or Cones)

Spirals happen because of a diagonal cut in a sheet that is rolled against the straight edge of the sheet. (The **skep**, or beehive, shape is achieved by cutting a diagonal "S" curve, instead of a straight diagonal.) Sheets can be placed end to end (if desired, with varying colors) before the cut is made (see Fig. 6 below). Just use your imagination! (Dotted line is the cut line.) You will need a long straightedge to help you make the diagonal cuts. I usually place the straightedge along the bottom of the sheets to line them up before making the diagonal cut.

NOTE: I do not cut the diagonal from the exact corners. If you do, you will have a very flimsy piece of wax at the end of the rolling and it tends to break off. Instead, I mark the diagonal just short of the corner, about one-fourth to one-half inch.

Use size 1/0 square-braided cotton wick.

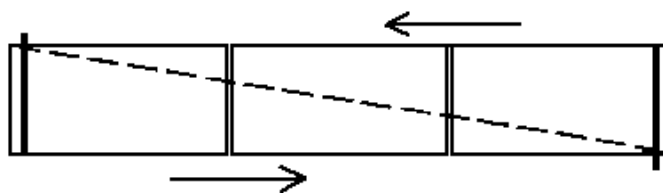


Fig. 6

Figure 6 (above) will yield two 8" spiral beeswax candles.

5-inch Spiral Candles: Follow the directions above for the 8-inch spirals, except that you will make a height cut at 5.5 inches. Then cut your diagonal. (Following the note above, a 5.5-inch cut yields a 5" high piece.) The leftover 2.5-inch x 16-inch pieces may be cut into the 2-inch spirals (see below). Just place the third strip over one of the other two strips. As long as your diagonal cut goes through the longitudinal center of the strip (1.25-inch high mark) at the middle edge (where the two strips touch), the third strip will yield 2 parts that make one spiral.

2-inch Spiral Candles: These small spiral candles (or trees) are one of the most popular items in my candle booth. They are unusual and I often hear, "How cute!" Because they are so tiny, people buy a lot of them so that they can give all their office mates, teachers, church friends, sorority sisters, or other large groups of friends a little gift for the holidays. They are also within a child's budget--as a gift for mommy.

Start with 2 full sheets (8-inch by 16-inch) side by side longways. Use a straightedge along the bottom of the sheets to line them up. Measure down the 8-inch sides (on both ends for a straighter cut) and make a beginning cut at the 2.5-inch, the 3-inch, and the 5.5-inch measurements. Then use your straightedge to make three longitudinal cuts. You should end up with three sections that are 2.5 inches by 32 inches and one long section that measures one-half inch by 32 inches (pictured in gray). (See Fig. 7)

Then on each section, make a diagonal cut (using your straightedge for guidance) as pictured in Figure 7a. Roll each triangular section in the directions indicated by the small arrows in the image below.

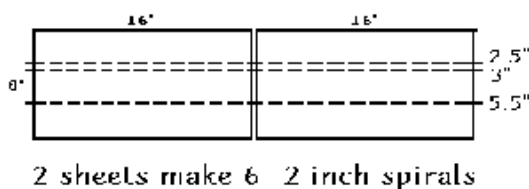


Fig. 7

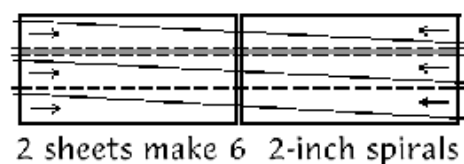


Fig. 7a

The gray section (as seen in Fig. 7a) of wax may be used as **appliques** for other candles or melted down to make new candles. Another use might be to melt down this wax and dip the wicks for these spiral candles in the wax. Since these candles are so small AND hand-rolled (not solid), they won't burn for very long (1 hour?), so giving them a solid wax core can aid burn time.

RE: Solid core wax. Melt some beeswax in your boiling pot and dip the wick into the wax (as in making hand-dipped candles) as many times as desired. By doing this you immerse the wick in wax, instead of just rolling wax around the wick. This gives your candle more wax in it and eliminates the potential for having air in the candle next to the wick (something to avoid when rolling the candles) for better burning. You may melt down a sheet of the same color as the rolled sheet if you don't want the dipped part to be obvious.

When I am making a lot of these spirals of the same color, I will stack no more than 4 sheets on top of one another for time-efficient cutting (I heat my pizza cutter in a small toaster oven to warm the blade for prettier edges) -- in other words, 8 sheets (2 stacks of 4) to make 24

2-inch spirals.

About Lumina's Candle-making Supplies

How Much Wick?



Wick should be at least 1/2 inch longer than the desired height of the candle. If you want to make tapers, the general rule of 1/2 yard (18") per sheet (or 1 yard for every 2 sheets) should work. If you wish to make two tapers that are joined by their wicks (so you can hang the pair on a peg), you will obviously need more wick. Lumina Candles sells size 1/0 square-braided wick which will work in beeswax candles from 1/2" to 1 1/2" in diameter and size # 3 square-braided wick for larger pillars, 2 1/2" to 3 1/2" in diameter.

Wick and Beeswax Prices

Wick should be trimmed to 1/4 inch before burning.

To learn more about wick, click [here](#).

NEVER leave a burning candle unattended or alone with children!

It's fun and easy to make hand-rolled candles from beeswax honeycomb sheets. It requires no heat, which makes rolling candles a great project for kids or for those with little space or time.

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