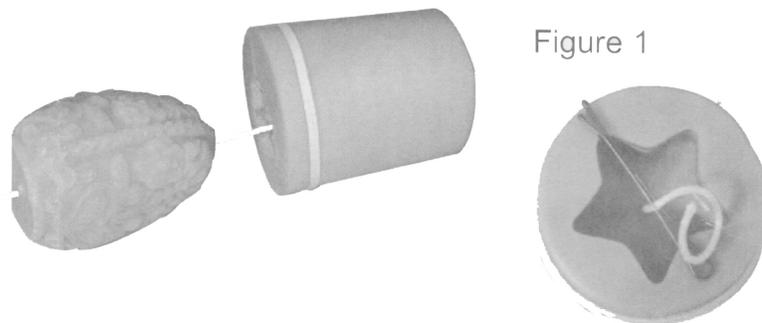


# Using Your Candle-Flex Molds

Use an old Crock-Pot or double boiler that you will no longer use for cooking. These are ideal for melting beeswax slowly without burning it; however, once you have used the pot for beeswax, it can no longer be used for cooking. Think about what utensils you will use as well, as some of these may absorb some of the beeswax, which will make them unusable for some other applications. A large can, such as a 32 oz. tomato can, can be used as a double boiler, allowing you to melt wax without ruining any pots. Clean out the can and place it inside a larger saucepan, filling the outside pot halfway with water. This method is highly recommended if you want to add pigments to the wax to color it for candles, encaustic painting or crayon making, as you can use several cans for different colors. An electric hotplate with adjustable temperature settings and an old percolating coffee pot also works well to melt the beeswax in. Spread newspaper or wax paper around the work surface to protect your table or countertops and put an apron on to protect yourself from accidental spills.

Note the "T" pin that comes with the molds. The "T" pin is inserted to mark the hole the wicking will go through. Use a large eyed darning needle, a wire wicking tool or any small stiff wire to wick the mold. Pull the wick through the mold giving yourself a few extra inches at the top. Leave a substantial length of wicking out the bottom of the mold, then when you pull out your finished candle, you are automatically re-wicking the mold for your next pouring. Most, but not all of our molds are cut to make removal of the candle easier. Smooth surface candles may not require a cut. Heavy rubber bands are provided with any molds that are cut. Place the rubber bands around the mold then carefully align the cut sides. The more attention you pay to this alignment, the less time you will have to spend trying to mend a seam that will show on your candle. Place the bobby pin on the wicking and move it down to the opening of the mold. Be sure your wick is centered in the candle and don't pull it too tight or you will have problems with the burning of the candle. (See Figure 1)

Because beeswax is highly flammable, have your molds ready before starting the melting process. For safety, keep your pouring area away from you wax melting area. Start with a block of pure beeswax, which is available in large or small quantities from Draper's Super Bee. Shave the amount of beeswax you need into your pot to melt. Turn the heat on medium, if you are using an electric hotplate set it to 150 F. Stir the wax with a wooden or metal spoon as it melts. Keep the heat on low and simmer and stir the wax occasionally so that it doesn't set again while you work on the project. **DO NOT LEAVE THE WAX UNATTENDED!** Use a thermometer to check for proper temperature (beeswax 150°F -160°F, soft paraffin wax 170°F-180°F) before pouring the wax. When the proper temperature is reached, add scent or coloring if desired. Pour wax slowly to prevent air bubbles. Allow the wax to cool and harden. Time will vary with the size of the mold. When the candle is completely cooled, remove the bobby pin and rubber bands. Gently separate the mold at the seam then pull slowly but firmly on the extra length of wicking. Pull the candle out and clip the wick, your mold is wicked for the next pouring. If needed, trim the base and/or seams with a paring knife or a hot plate to level off the bottom. Trim the wick at the top of the candle to about 1/2".



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