

The CakeHole

We make Beautiful, Unique, Vintage Cake Stands

HOW TO MAKE 5-6 CANDLE CUPS using 1 kg of wax

~ The Step-By-Step Method as used by The CakeHole ~



1. You will need: 5-6 pretty teacup with no cracks – any hairline cracks could lead to cup cracking under heat!
2. 1 Kilo of wax – I use paraffin wax. I find this gives a better finish than soya. Soya and other materials also give off soot – just that the soot is white! My [Candle cups](#) burn for at least 10 – 12 hours. You can add beeswax, stearic acid (approx. 10% of the mix) – but to be honest, I would not bother! Stick to this recipe first and try other options later. You can then test for yourself if they give longer burn time and if they are worth the cost and hassle of adding.



3. I use pre-scented wax – which comes in all colours. Again you can go the expense of buying a neutral wax and adding. If you wish to do this – I would suggest 30 ml – 50 ml of scent for 1 kilo. 50 ml is about 8 teaspoons. Only add this at the end, when the wax has melted – otherwise you will overcook it. If you buy a neutral coloured wax and you wish to add colours – the same applies.
4. [Wicks](#) – I use pre-waxed wicks with sustainers (the metal bits at the bottom of the wick that stick to the cup). Ideal for candle cups: wick length 80mm – dia. 2mm – sustainer 14mm dia. You cut the wick to size when the candle is finished. Never burn a wick in a candle cup over 10mm above the wax or you will get an uneven burn and a high flame! You can buy all kinds of wicks that you have to wax yourself and sustainers that you have to add yourself – but quite frankly, not worth the hassle!



5. Sticky tack & Pins. – I use a little bit of sticky tack to the bottom of the sustainer to attach it to the MIDDLE of the bottom of the teacup. This is very important – otherwise the wick will float away when you pour the wax. Once you have stuck the wick to the bottom and it is sitting nice and central in the cup – place two long pins either side of the wick on the top of the teacup to hold it in place. You can buy these or just use any kind of thin sticks – long matchsticks, kebab sticks, chopsticks, knitting needles whatever! Stick them to the top of cup with a tiny bit of sellotape to hold in place. If you don't do this – the wick will droop and fall into the wax as you pour the hot wax!



6. To melt the wax – pay attention as wax is highly inflammable! I use a bain-marie system. I use a large saucepan half filled with water and a stainless steel jug with a lip – best to use something with a lip to pour the wax when it is melted. Don't put too much wax into the jug or you will find it hard to pour without spilling wax all over the place. Make sure you place plenty of kitchen towel or newspaper on your surfaces where you are going to pour or put down implements to stir the mixture or you will spend all night cleaning up wax droplets!



7. Thus start with a bit of wax in your jug and start to melt it in the saucepan of gently boiling water – add a bit more – over a GENTLE heat – keep stirring it (I use a chopstick). When the jug is $\frac{3}{4}$ full and wax melted – add the sufficient quantity of smelly stuff or colour if you are not using pre-coloured –pre-scented wax. As I said – it is a bit like a cake.



8. I am not going to tell you what temperature the wax should be and get all technical. Just use your common sense – when it is melted and not with lumpy bits in it and don't boil the wax!
9. Now pour into your clean prepared cups. BUT ONLY POUR HALF WAY UP THE CUP. I have read quite a few other instructions available where they tell you to fill the cup – they obviously don't make candle cups – perhaps just sell wax! Wax needs to settle and it will dip and look awful on the first pour. Let it harden – in natural conditions – don't move the cup when the wax is still molten. At least several hours – I let mine settle overnight. In hotter climates perhaps less!



10. Second Pour – You look aghast at the first pour – lots of dips and dimples! If you have not secured the wick properly following my instructions – you may also have a wick off centre.



Don't Worry! If the wick is off centre – stick one of the long pins in and push it over to the middle – it will look a bit of a mess – but no matter – the second pour will cover the mess. Put in more wax – you can reheat what you have or start Step 7 again. Only fill to $\frac{3}{4}$ on second pour. Let it harden. It still does not look perfect!

11. Third pour – just a cm or so on top of second pour. Always make sure your wick has at least 10 mm clearance on last pour. Let it harden.



Now here comes the secret! If your candle cup still has bubbles and not as flat as a mill pond on top.....you will have to ask me!

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12. Your candle cup of course will have drips down the side if your hand has not been steady in pouring the wax – don't worry – just wait and clean it up when you have finalised. Trim your wick to 10 mm just above the wax and tell your customers also to do this when burning to avoid hazard.
13. This is just my idea of how to make a candle cup and at the end of the day – it is down to each person to find the way that suits them best. However, I have made and sold hundreds – so I would welcome any comments as to improvements.



Many Thanks & Regards

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