

Design Resource

## Flower Candle Making - Shiroda, Goa

Wax Art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B.  
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/flower-candle-making-shiroda-go>



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2. Tools and Raw Materials
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## Introduction

A candle is a cylinder-shaped wax with a wick in the middle which is lit to produce light as it burns. It is one of the main sources of lights other than daylight. Other than light it is used for several occasions, decorative purposes, and celebrations. Candles have been used from generations. The wax used for making candles is collected from beehive. Earlier, simple block of candles was made but nowadays different types of shapes and designs are used to serve different purposes. A person manufacturing candle is known as Chandler. Various devices have been invented to hold candles, from simple tabletop candleholders to elaborate chandeliers. The archeological findings have found candleholders in Egypt that dates back to 4th century BCE, though its origin is still unknown factor. Some early references states that candles were made of tallow with one end made pointy ignition. The tallow was extracted from animals like sheep and cattle hence burned scantily and also smelled worse. In ancient Rome for making candles tallow were used as beeswax was highly charged. Beeswax candles burned cleanly without smoky flame as compared to animal-based tallow. This was the reason they were very expensive. In medieval Europe very few people could afford to buy them, hence these were widely used in church ceremonies. During 19th century first patented candle making machines were introduced and candles reached the homes of all classes. New innovations in candle making process along with braided wick were also introduced which improved its quality.

Nowadays candles are made with blend of essential oil and fragrances. Candle making industry did remarkable change and it also provides lot of employment opportunities to many artists. Ms. Namrata Sardesai is such a well – known artist residing in Goa for the past six years. Goa is one of India's most popular tourist destinations and also well-known for its variety of handicrafts. Goa is visited by large numbers of international and domestic tourists each year for its beaches, places of worship and world heritage architecture. Ms. Namrata learned this art techniques from the workshop organized by the Goa Government to empower women artists. She used to make beautiful candle art and sells them in nearby market.



Beautiful flower shape candle.

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Candle art making artisan Mrs. Sharmila.



Melted wax allow it to dry and cut like petal shape.



Artisan is involved in candle art making process.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw material required for candle making:

- **Wax:** It is used as the basic elements of the candle.
- **Colour Pigment:** It is used to add a colour to the wax.
- **Plate:** It is used to pour melted wax.
- **Knife:** It is used to cut the wax as per the required shape.
- **Wick Thread:** It is used for making wick to burn on the candle.



Knife is used for cutting the shapes from melted wax.



Wax is the primary raw material used for making candle art.

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## Making Process

In the making of candle art, it is essential that the fuel being used is heated to the required temperature and maintained at that temperature for the making process duration. The equipment used for heating will depend on the source of heat available. The most important aspect of being considered while using equipment is safety. It is important to note that the wax should not be overheated; heating above 150°C can result in unpleasant and dangerous fumes being given off. This process takes around an hour. It is also very important to prevent wax from being spilled onto a naked flame, as this would present a very serious fire hazard. A double boiling method is used to melt the wax. One of the most common ways of producing a decorative candle is to use colour. It is possible to make coloured candles in two ways by dyeing the wax before making the candles, so that 'solid' coloured candles are produced. The addition of a small amount of fat to the paraffin wax is necessary to obtain bright colours. It is possible to use either dyes or pigments to colour candle wax. The supplier should recommend the amount of dyestuff required per kilogram of wax. As the amount of colouring material required to give a particular shade depends on the composition of the wax mixture, this figure should be used as a guide only, and different proportions of dyestuff are used until the required shade is obtained. In general, a much greater proportion of dyestuff is required for over-dipping than for producing 'solid' coloured candles. When the wax is in the liquid state, it would be poured on a plate with a little lower surface from the edges to store the wax by not letting it spill out. The wax will be kept for cooling purposes. That will help in getting a shape. Once the wax gets cool artisan takes a knife and cuts the wax as per the required shape. To make a flower candle, artisan cut the wax in a circular or semi-circle shape. After cutting the wax from the plate, the first procedure is to roll it in the shape of a petal by keeping a thread in-between the wax piece. After the first step, more wax petals are cut and rolled around each other to form a flower's shape. Then the flower candle is ready to use as a decorative candle, which is used for alternate purposes like parties, dinners, festivals, etc.

Flow Chart:



1. Wax is being melted at a certain temperature, and colour pigment is added in wax's liquid state.
2. The liquid wax is poured on a plate which has a low surface from the edges and kept to dry.
3. After drying, it is cut by using a knife in a circular or semi-circular shape.
4. The petals are made accordingly to cover up the candle giving flower shape.

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Solid wax is melt using double boiler to avoid burning of wax.



Required amount of wax is taken in the container.



Periodically water is added in lower pan to maintain the boiling process.

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Colour is added to boiled hot wax.



Dyed wax is poured in the plate and allowed to cool for 5 to 8 minutes.



Wax is allowed to cool down until the required consistency is obtained, which eases the process of molding.



Wax is cut as per the chosen design into required size, shape and folded accordingly.

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Artisan carefully trims each piece and gives a petal shape.



Once the basic shape is done, it eases the next round of petals to be made.



The complete process takes half an hour to one hour.



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## Products

Artisan named Mrs. Sharmila from Shiroda village makes flower candles. She makes attractive candle art from wax. Flowers, colourful candles, candles in bowls, glasses are few items made from this art. A wide range of colourful and aromatic candles are also made. The price ranges from INR 20 and above.



A bouquet of colourful wax flowers.



Flower shape candle used as decorative element in modern household.



Some candles are so realistic, can be mistaken for looking like flowers.



Flower candles are very popular during Diwali festival and other celebrations.

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## Video



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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Professor Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B. at [NID, Bengaluru](#).

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You can write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

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