

MAKERS MANUAL #21

Stine Keinicke and Tessa Geuze

BEESWAX CRAYONS

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides step-by-step instructions on how to make crayons with beeswax. Beeswax is a sustainable alternative to paraffin and polyethylene, which are normally used in production of crayons. Sometimes manufactures even add dangerous chemicals like lead and asbestos. In this manual you will create crayons that are only made with natural ingredients.

You can make use of different moulds to create your own designs and colours.

This manual is created in collaboration with the Barbican for London Craft Week 2020.

STEP 1
Heat up a pot of water on the hob.

STEP 2
Use your scale and measure out 160g of beeswax and 32 g of carnauba wax in a stainless steel bowl and mix together. This is enough material to make 4 medium size crayons.



STEP 3
Make a water bath by putting the bowl in the pot with water. Important: make sure not to get any water in the wax.



STEP 4
Now wait till all the wax is melted, to make sure there are no lumps, occasionally stir as the wax is melting.



STEP 5
While you are waiting for the wax to melt measure out 12-20g of pigment. If the colour is light use 20g and if the colour is dark use 12g. You can always add more so feel free to experiment to create the preferred colour.



STEP 6
When there are no wax lumps remaining take the bowl out of the water bath. Add the natural pigment while stirring till the pigment is completely dissolved, leaving no pockets of colour.



LIST OF THINGS

MATERIALS
→Beeswax
→Carnauba Wax
→Natural pigments (earth and mineral pigments)

TOOLS
→Hob
→Pot
→Stainless steel bowls or heat safe mixing bowls
→Stirling sticks
→Scale
→Mould: Silicon baking tray or clay
→Teaspoon
→Tea towel or tissue paper
→Apron (pigments can stain)



STEP 7
Put the bowl with wax back in the water bath to get a liquidly consistency. The wax is now ready to be poured into a mould.

STEP 8
You can use different moulds to create your crayons. Use a silicon-baking tray or clay. The clay mould you can shape into your own design.



STEP 9
Pour the wax in the mould. Make sure your bowl is dry, so no water enters the wax.



BIO OF THE DESIGNER
Tessa Geuze is a Dutch design anthropologist and educator currently based in Rotterdam. In her work she interrogates how we relate to the world surrounding us, challenging conventional ideas and beliefs by creating playful objects as translations of her research. Tessa is associate and tutor at STORE Schools & Projects.

Stine Keinicke runs her product design studio in South London and has has designed for clients like Ikea and Hay. Her work is often seeking new ways to utilize materials or manufacturing techniques to create a functional design with a tactile interaction. Stine is associate and tutor at STORE Schools & Projects and Co-Director of the STORE STORE.

FURTHER READING

→ Mouldmaking and Casting: A Technical Manual – 2005, Nick Brooks

→ The Barbican Estate – 2019, Stefi Orazi

Makers Manual is a collaborative project between exciting makers and STORE STORE. Participation is free and no design background is necessary. You can share your creations using #makersmanual. We will pick our favourite submissions and publish the results in a limited printed edition of all of the manuals. Everyone who makes it into the book will receive a free copy.

This project is supported by Coal Drops Yard.

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STEP 10
Let the crayon cool for about an hour before you take it out.



STEP 11
The crayons are now ready to use!



