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**Preserved Flower Candles**

**By Michelle Gauthier**

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Preserved Flower Candles

Putting flowers in your candle will add a unique look, while preserving your favorite flower.

Written by Expressive Candles

We have been asked many times, how to put flowers and other objects on the outside of a candle. So, we'll be showing you how it is done. The most important thing to remember is to be safe. Putting anything on your candle such as paint, dried flowers, ribbon and other objects, pose a fire risk. While this is unlikely to happen with this project, we need to warn you before hand. We do not recommend burning any candle that has flammable material on it.

To start with, you will need a few supplies. First and the most important is a big pillar candle, at least 3" in diameter. This will help keep the flame out of reach of anything you put on the candle. You will also need to have a small white votive, or the same color votive as your pillar, an old pan to melt wax in, a paint brush, dried flowers or herbs and ribbon.

Candle making is an art, and requires exact precision in the melting process of the wax. Luckily you do not have to be exact in this project. Place the votive in your old pot; you will not be able to use this pot for food ever again. Next place the heat on Low Medium to Medium heat, **DO NOT HEAT ON HIGH**. The only thing we want to accomplish here is to melt the wax down to a liquid. As soon as the last solid piece melts, is when you turn the heat down to low.

Next, select what you will want to put on your candle. If you are using flowers and leaves, make sure they have been pressed. Take the paint brush and paint some melted wax onto the candle where you wish to place the flower. Place the flower on the wax before it hardens. The wax will harden quickly, securing the flower in place. Repeat this step for the leaves as well.

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Another great idea is to place a picture on the candle using the method of painting the wax onto the candle. You can use many different things, but they must be flat.

After placing all your flowers and leaves onto the candle, we will need to seal the. The wax in your pot may have hardened some, so heat it on Medium Low to get the wax melted again. Brush the entire candle with wax. This will seal the flowers in place and give it a smooth finish. You might have to apply several coats. But if you use a picture, do not brush over it, this will ruin the picture and you will not be able to see the picture clearly.

Last you can tie a ribbon around your candle to top it off. Another idea is to use the melted wax and paint small metal beads onto the candle for further embellishment.

This project can be done in many different ways, using anything from flowers, herbs, pictures to beads

and glitter. But keep in mind the safety of your candle. We recommend not burning candles with flammable materials on them. If you do decide to burn these candles, use large pillars, as the sides of the candle tend not to burn down. Have fun and Enjoy.

This Article was written by Michelle Gauthier -

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Expressive Candles offers Scented Hand Poured Candles and a growing collection of Candle Decorating and CandleScaping articles.

### **Dried Flower Wreaths Keep Nature's Beauty Alive**

**By Dawn Keadic**

There are few things more beautiful than a flower. Floral decoration is a mainstay because of this unrivaled natural beauty. Drying and preservation techniques allow one to decorate their home with true flowers instead of sometimes—inferior silk and artificial alternatives. Dried flower wreaths provide a spectacular way to keep nature's beauty alive for several years.

Often, wreath makers rely on artificial leaves and flowers for adornments. After all, plant life tends to wither, along with its beauty, when left to its own devices. However, flowers can be carefully dried or otherwise preserved in ways that allow their use in spectacular decorative wreaths.

Some flowers can be dried on the plant. Generally this requires a period of hanging in a relatively dark, dry space. The end result is often delicate (petals can break away easily, for instance), but the beauty of the flower is preserved.

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Other flowers respond better to being dried in a silica compound. Silica, which is something akin to completely dry sand, can draw out the moisture in a flower while leaving it completely intact and in retention of its natural beauty.

Inserting the stems into a glycerin solution dries other flowers. The flower absorbs the glycerin, resulting in a completely preserved, yet pliable decorative item.

Dried flowers are then used to make some of the most stunning wreaths imaginable. By using real flowers, a wreath maker can produce a wreath that not only mimics nature's beauty. Instead, the final product is actually a lasting example of flowers' perfect beauty.

Dried flower wreaths will never be as durable as artificial varieties. As such, it is recommended that those hanging dried flower wreaths try to keep them away from significant foot traffic and direct sunlight. However, if well maintained, a natural dried flower wreath can last years and provide unrivaled beauty throughout its lifespan.

Dawn Keadic uses dried flower wreaths to enhance her home's natural beauty. For more information on wreaths and wreath making, visit

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