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**The Lost Art Of Hand Candle Crafting**

**By Will Reece**

I am from Missouri. The state supprises me the more I explore her. Tonight I am staying in a hotel in Branson, Missouri. Many of you are probably familiar with the city, I am not. Evidentally I was here at the age of 5,... but to be honest, if I can remember something that happened 10 years ago, I am doing pretty good... let alone 27 years ago!

Anyway, enough rambling about my memory condition.

Many folks have visited Silver Dollar City. For those of you that don't know, SDC is a theme park modeled after the way of life in the hills of the Ozarks. The visitor will witness many craftsmen / craftswomen, one of these are the old-tyme (purposely misspelled) chandlers.

You may see an old man with a long white beard dipping wickes in a vat of wax heated by a fire. To someone who has been making candles for several years, this was an incredible sight. Obviously to the average candle burner, not to great of a spectacle unless that casual candle user has not idea how candles are made... in large factories in China.

Seriously though,... a lot of work goes into hand made candles. Of course many candle companies are born out of a basements, garages, spare rooms, and kitchens. Back in the olde (purposely misspelled) days, convieniences were a rarity. Candle distributers where unheard of, and they definately couldn't import candles made in foreign countries buy the container full!

The wax was heated over fire... someone manually dipped the wicks. A lot of work, compared to today's standards, went into making a candle!

Ok... by now you are asking me to get to the point. Next time you purchase a candle or candles (soy or paraffin), do you local chandler a favor and try a truly handmade / hand-dipped candle and check out the difference. Not only the way it looks, but the way it burns, how long it burns, and how it smells. You might be suprised, and you may change your preference in candle purchasing. The subtle differences in the wax alone will amaze you!

## The Lost Art Of Hand Candle Crafting

Your local chandler puts a lot of time, effort, and love into the candles they hand make. They take pride in their product. They are forced to produce a super high quality product to stay competitive in the marketplace. Sure, they may cost a little more, but as they say in the hills of the ozarks, "Ya pay fer what ya git!"

Visit us online at

<http://www.soywaxcandles.org>

for more information!

Will Reece owns and operates several websites related to candles and soy candles. Get into soy candle making by visiting his website,

<http://www.soywaxcandles.org>

. There you will find easy-to-follow

instructions on making your first candle at home!

### **Try Crafting For Your Next Hobby**

#### **By Brent Shields**

Why should I or anyone for that matter get involved in crafting? Well...first things first, have you noticed how prices just keep getting higher and higher? Who can afford to give a decent gift to anyone nowadays? But...if you make the gift yourself it can be done for a fraction of the cost, not to mention the fact that everyone admires and wishes they could do the crafting themselves.

Well you can! All you have to do is try. Crafting is one area that creativity itself is often inspired by necessity. And amazingly enough new crafters usually find that they fall in love with crafting. Many people start out crafting because they have no choice, they needed something to give to someone or they could not afford to buy ready made things for their own home. In the process of learning how to save money they discover this amazing person inside of themselves, this creative and talented person that they never would have believed they could be.

You too can become more creative. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and each and every one of us has our own concepts of what is beautiful. Each of us has hidden talents just waiting to be accessed. Once you get started you will be amazed at how quickly your mind will become flooded with ideas for things you can make. Anything you see was crafted by someone. Why not you?

Where do I start?

Well, what do you need? Once you know why you need a gift then you can look for something to fit the person you want to make the gift for.

## The Lost Art Of Hand Candle Crafting

I needed a gift for my friend who had just bought her first home and I wanted it to be something special as a housewarming gift. She has always used tons of candles in her home so I found a log that had an interesting shape and cut it so that it was about six inches high by ten or twelve inches around. I cleaned the wood and sanded it top and bottom then carved out an area in the middle to pour the wax, that I had colored in green to match her new living room. The wax was a green apple scent and I poured it into the area I had carved out of the center of the log. A little polish on the top and I had a gift that I was proud of and she really enjoyed it also.

Crafting is anything you make yourself! And there are all kinds of crafts that you can choose to do. There's needle work such as embroidery both hand embroidery and machine embroidery, crochet, cross stitching, smocking and knitting just to name a few.

There's jewelry making such as beading, wire twisting and silver smiting (silver smiting is not as hard as some people think).

There's wreath making for all kinds of holidays.

Candle making can be even more creative than you think.

Painting both with oils and water colors.

Then there's the junk art that has become so popular and is made from things you find in and around your own home.

There are many more forms of crafting that have not been mentioned here and I'm sure even more are being created as we speak, so have a great day and happy crafting!

About the author, Brent is a regular writer for

<http://www.home-n-family.com>

– for more home and

family related information please visit our website.



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