

Melting Snowmen

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Materials/Equipment:

- Ice Cream Scoop Molds:** (Jumbo*, Large*, Small*)
- Pouring / Dipping Pots**
- Thermometer **
- Needle-nosed pliers
- Drill with 1/8 inch drill bit
- One-pour pillar wax (I used IGI 4761). **
- Hurricane or translucent pillar wax (I used IGI 1313). **
- Assorted wicks (I used zinc core wicks, but there are a variety of wicks that will work well for this project, just remember to always test burn your candles). **
- Scent – if desired (make sure the scent you use is not discolored, otherwise you’ll end up with yellow or off white snowmen). **
- White Dye (Use your favorite type; block or liquid. You won’t need much if your wax is fairly white to begin with). **
- Craft Acrylic Paints – assorted colors (I used Black Licorice, White, Burnt Umber, Orange, Periwinkle Blue, and Berry Wine).
- Paint Brush (I suggest using a better “artist” type brush. They work so much better than the cheaper children’s brushes, and they also make the work go a lot quicker! I used a Plaid One Stroke Liner-1173C)
- Cup with water (to wash off brushes) and paper towels.

** Available at www.CandlesandSupplies.com

Directions:

1. Heat One Pour Wax to 200 degrees. Add dye and scent (follow manufacturers directions for scent amount, usually 1 oz. per pound of wax). Stir well. Pour between 195 and 205 degrees.
2. Carefully pour wax into Ice Cream Scoop Molds. There is no need to preheat the scoop molds. If you'd like to speed up the cooling process, use a fan to cool off the candles after a wax crust has formed on the top. Wax pieces can be taken out of our silicone molds before they are completely cool. Just be careful, as the centers may still be liquid and quite hot if you break the outer wax crust.
3. When candle has cooled, drill a wick hole in the center of the candles.
4. Place a tabbed wick in candle, making sure to leave wick long enough to grasp with pliers later when you over dip.
5. Now you're ready to paint! Use a piece of foil to squeeze the craft paint onto. I usually start with black; it helps to make the face first. You can refer to the picture or try your own ideas. Craft stores are loaded with books, patterns and ideas for making cute painted faces. Paint in the eyes and mouth using **Black Licorice**. Use **Orange** to paint a small sideways triangle for the nose. Use **Burnt Umber** to make the stick arms and hands. Use **Periwinkle Blue** and **Berry Wine** for the mittens and fur cuffs (of course you can use different colors; I'm just partial to these two ;-)
6. After the face is dried, go back and add **White** highlights to the eyes and **Black** shadows to the nose as pictured.
7. Let dry completely.
8. If you've made any painting mistakes, (especially drips and blobs), now is the time to correct them. The paint can be peeled off or cut off with a knife once the paint is dry. You can even trim any edges that might extend too far. The paint pulls off easily, so be a bit careful handling the candle at this point. The paint will stay on firmly once the candle has been dipped. Don't be concerned about gouges in the candle, it's got a grubby finish and over dipping will smooth out any marks from your knife.
9. Once the candles are painted and completely dried, they can be over dipped. I really love using the IGI 1313. It gives a clear shiny finish to the candles without clouding up the painting.
10. Heat 1313 (or translucent hurricane) wax to 185 and 195 degrees. The candles go in and out so quickly they don't really have time to melt, however if you use a lower melt point pillar wax, test a candle to be sure the temperature isn't too hot for it. Adding Vybar 103 will also help raise the melt point of your wax.
11. Grasp the wick firmly with the needle-nosed pliers. Make sure the wick won't slip! If the candle drops into the hot liquid wax it will splash and you might get burned, so be extra careful and make sure the wick is secured in the candle and held tightly in the pliers.
12. Dip the candle into the wax and pull out quickly. Let drip for a second or two and then place candle on a flat surface.
13. Let the candle cool, trim the wick, and enjoy!