



Cast Beeswax Ornaments

Beeswax ornaments are beautiful painted or unpainted. Either way, they have a wonderful faint honey smell.

Supplies:

Beeswax

Vegetable oil

Cookie mold

Pastry Brush

Old electric skillet or double boiler

Ladle, preferably with a lip

¼" wide ribbon

Palette knife or butter knife

If you will be painting your ornaments you will also need:

Acrylic paints

Brushes (Be sure you use brushes that are for non-food uses.)

Procedures:

Most of our cookie molds will require building a dam higher than the edge of the mold to contain the wax. This can be done with 3 folded layers of aluminum foil secured with rubber bands (or tape for irregularly shaped molds such as hearts) around the outside edge of the mold.

Heat the wax in an old electric skillet using the lowest setting, or in an old double boiler just until it is melted. Do not heat the wax directly over a burner as it is flammable. (If wax catches fire, DO NOT throw water on it. Instead cover the flames with a lid to cut off the oxygen.) Allow the wax to cool a bit, but not so much that it starts to harden around the edges of the pan.

Using a pastry brush, lightly oil the cookie molds with a little vegetable oil. With a lipped ladle, pour the wax into the cookie molds and set them aside to cool. Use one continuous motion to fill cookie mold dam to prevent layering of the wax. The wax will shrink slightly as it cools. Remove the casting before the casting is completely cool and still slightly flexible.

Cut ribbons to desired length. Heat the pallet knife or butter knife over the burner of the stove. Turn the wax ornament face down and press the hot knife into the place where you want to attach the ribbon. It will melt the surface of the wax. Quickly position ribbons, then press them into the back of the ornament with the hot knife. If you decide to paint the ornaments, use acrylic paints available at any art store.