



Give The Gift Of Ambiance: DIY Rolled Beeswax Candles and Modern Wood Candle Holders.

I'm not sure about you, but I love to walk into a candlelit room. There is something so cozy, warming, and intimate about candlelight, and I always feel at home while in the natural glow of candles.

Perhaps it's our inner "caveman" and primordial impulse that directs us to seek out more rudimentary splendors. Or, maybe it's our childhood memories of holidays past and all the beautiful candlelit moments we've experienced. I'm not sure why, but we humans love fire.

I'll be the first to admit, candles are definitely my thing. And, anyone who knows me knows I always have candles burning morning, noon, and night. My body just calls out for candlelight like it does for great music, great food, and great wine. Come to find out, my love of candlelight has created a healthier environment for my family. Every time I create natural light in my home, the wellness of my household increases and the stress and tension decreases.

This time of year, Pacific Northwest mornings can be just as dark and chilly as the evenings and, because of the great reduction of sunlight, gloomy.

When I wake up in the morning to gather eggs, feed our goats, and get breakfast going, it's always very dark outside. I have learned that lighting a few candles, right away in the morning, is one of the best things I can do for my mood, hormones, and for my body's natural rhythms, and, as you will read, for my boy's wellness too.

After my boys wake and come down to the kitchen, I can see how the candlelight and lower light helps them settle into their morning routines with greater peace. I can also see all of us acting a little more relaxed and tender hearted compared to when we scurried under the artificial light of full fluorescents.

Personally, I feel much more calm and happy without a flood of light in the very early morning. I find that the ambiance from candles helps my body feel more alive especially when followed by a beautiful sunrise. I love that natural transition from candle based light to sun based light.

Now that the holidays are here, I've made sure to create beautiful candle lit centerpieces, mantelpieces, and gifts that will also bring that wonderful glow and cozy feeling to all those I love. Don't worry; although the thought of making candles and candleholders might make you think of splattering wax and gaudy ceramics, this project entails neither hot wax nor cheap ceramics.

Believe it or not, rolled beeswax candles are one of the easiest gifts to make and so are the wood candleholders.

Both projects are also completely kid friendly. So kid friendly that I let my boys handle the entire candle making component as I chief the candleholders.

I've always loved to make candles from beeswax sheets because there is no mess involved and they don't give off any chemical fumes like store bought fragranced candles. This is a very good thing, especially if anyone in your household has sensitivities to certain chemicals or scents. Beeswax is also easy to work with because the candle wax comes in sheets, sheets that are simply rolled into shape. Naturally, there is a wick involved, but that's about it. Truly, all you do is lay a wick lengthwise on the sheet and roll.

Natural beeswax ranges from creamy yellow to light brown and can be purchased in a myriad of precut and vibrantly colored sheets at candle supply stores, craft stores, and other hobby and décor related shops. There

are many creative ways to roll combined sheets of colorful beeswax to create candles that resemble Christmas trees, logs, and even sushi rolls.

You will see, when you pair the rolled beeswax candles with my natural wood candle holders, the look is something between Pottery Barn shabby chic and Crate & Barrel modern. I designed the natural wood candleholder to look clean and modern, yet warm and woodsy.

For inspiration I went outside and studied our stacks of logs. I singled out a few with gorgeous rings and coloring and went to town. Literally, I drove to town to look at more wood. I even searched the scrap pile at the hard ware store.

I found what I needed and took my wood blocks home. I sanded the edges and, after I was satisfied with the smoothness of the blocks, I taped off the bottom 1/3 and painted them white. I left the top 2/3 of the blocks natural. This step beautifully combined the rustic and modern elements I was after.

Then, I drilled tiny holes into the tops of the blocks. Well, first I decided where the holes should be. The holes will house an upside down nail to hold a candle to the block. Some of the blocks called for a symmetrically placed hole, and others called for an offset hole or more than one. So, depending on the size and look of the block, I drilled my tiny holes accordingly.

Next, I filled the holes with super glue and fit an upside down nail into the hole. Yes, I wanted, and you will see why, the pointy bit of the nail to face the sky, not the head. The head of the nail is the part glued deep into the hole.

After the glue completely dried, I drilled a small hole in the middle of a candle cup, coated the bottom with wood glue, positioned it over the nail in the wood block, and let dry. Once the glue was completely set, I placed a rolled candle over the nail.

Voila! Secure. Safe. Beautiful. Modern.

Here's What You Need:

- Clean flat surface
- [Beeswax sheets](#) (one sheet makes two 8 inch candles)
- [Candle wicking](#)
- Scissors
- Wood blocks (varying shapes, sizes, dimensions, to your liking)
- Drill
- Nails (use 2 inch)
- [Candle cups](#)
- Crazy glue
- Wood glue
- Sand paper (varying gauge)
- Masking tape

- Paint
- Paintbrush

Here's How You Do It:

- Cut the beeswax sheets in half.
- Lay a wick at the edge of the cut sheet, making sure it runs the entire length and has at least an inch access on one end.
- Tightly roll the beeswax sheet into a candle.
- Make sure the bottom is flat and candle is evenly rolled.

Then...

Select your wood (I used a 2x2).

Place your wood into a vice and cut varying lengths according to your taste.

Sand and paint your cut wood blocks.

Drill holes approximately 1/3 inch deep into the wood and drill holes through the center of the candle cups.

Fill the holes in the wood with crazy glue.

Set a nail, head side down, into the glue.

Apply wood glue to the bottoms of the candle cups and place over the nails.

Let dry.

After your candles and candleholders are complete, simply place a candle over each nail. Wrap a ribbon around the center of the candleholder, add a thoughtfully drafted gift tag, and perhaps attach a sprig of Holly and a pinecone. Now your project is ready to be gifted to those you love.

Please remember to never leave candles burning unattended. Gently remind those you love to always keep an eye on their burning candles too.

Enjoy the light!