

## Easy Candles with Candlesticks

By Fran Casselman

When I was growing up, one aspect of my mother's decorating style was to have candles in almost every room in the house, including the bathroom. If asked, she would say it was a practical idea: if the power goes out, candles are conveniently available. True enough, but also a good reason to collect candlesticks. Can you ever have enough?

### What You'll Need:

- Thumbtacks (goldtone or silvertone)
- 1/8" eyelets (in matching metal)
- 4mm jump rings (matching)
- Cotton swabs with slender, hollow plastic shafts (white if possible; can be painted as the last step if desired)
- Monofilament fishing line or plastic clothing tag
- Clear fingernail polish
- Matte white dimensional fabric paint
- Black permanent marker
- Multi-material white glue (Weldbond or Crafter's Pick Ultimate, must include metal in the bondable materials list)
- Craft knife
- Tweezers



1. Coat the shaft (pin) of a thumbtack with clear nail polish; let dry. (Do not skip this step.)
2. With the craft knife, cut a cotton-swab shaft to length for the candle. Popular sizes for real candles are 10" and 12", in scale that's about 13/16" and 1", respectively. Cut straight across for a "new" candle; cut at an angle and shorter for a "burned" candle.
3. Check everything for fit: put the eyelet, flange up, over the thumbtack shaft; slip the candle into the eyelet (it should fit snugly).
4. Disassemble, then put a small drop of glue at the base of the thumbtack shaft. Put the

eyelet in place. From the bottom end, squeeze fabric paint into the candle leaving approximately 1/8" empty. Put the candle in place on the thumbtack; wipe tip if necessary. Add a tiny dot more paint to create a rounded tip, if desired.

5. Cut a length of fishing line or clothing tag for the wick. Blacken it with marker for a "burned" candle. With tweezers, gently put the wick into the center of the candle. The exposed length can be trimmed later if necessary. Set aside to dry. Your candle and candlestick are complete.

Option: For a chamberstick, glue a jump ring on edge so that it contacts the thumbtack base and the eyelet. Let dry.

### Candlestick Variations:

Use a small household tack (nail) instead of the thumbtack, add a beading end cap as a base and a decorative or crystal bead below the eyelet for another look.

The eyelet will fit into the hole of a small pony bead for a chunky, contemporary style.

With a hand drill or reamer, the hole in a plastic bead can be enlarged to accept the candle without the eyelet.

Use a 3/16" eyelet, flange down, for a base; the 1/8" eyelet, flange up, will slip inside. ■

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