

Wax On

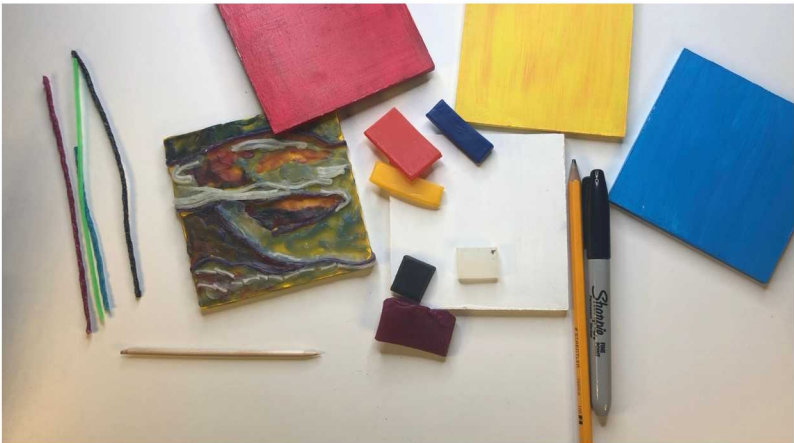
Easy Encaustics

Materials in this kit:

- Modelling wax (assorted colours)
- Primed masonite board
- Wood pick
- Wax dipped yarn

Materials you might want from home:

- Scrap paper
- Permanent black marker
- Pencil
- Seed beads or other small decorative items
- Hair dryer or a bowl of warm water
- Acrylic paint and a paintbrush (optional)



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Warm Up Modelling Wax

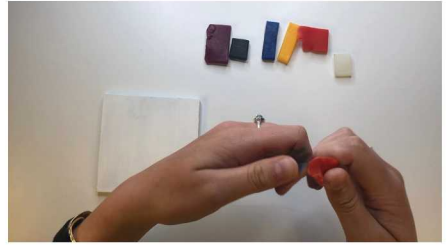
Try these methods to warm up the wax in your kit in order to start molding and manipulating it for your encaustic creation.

The wax will be soft and moldable as long as it is warm.

Revisit any of these warm up methods throughout your process.

Hand Working Method

Rip off a portion of wax and massage it with your fingers. Continue massaging and kneading the wax between your fingers until it has the consistency of chewing gum.



Hair Dryer Method

Use a hair dryer set to low heat and hold the dryer over a section of wax until it begins to warm up (this should take 10-15 seconds).

You can also place the wax on a covered surface instead of holding it in your hands. Once the wax is warm you can knead it in your fingers easily.



Warm Water Method

Drop a piece of wax into a small container filled with warm (not hot) water.

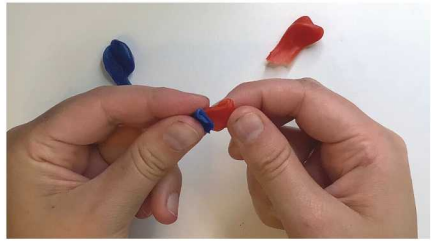
Leave it for 10-15 seconds and remove the wax from the water onto a paper towel to dab it dry. You can also hold the wax under running warm water.



Mixing Colours

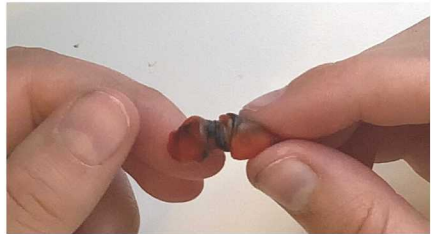
You can make more colours of wax the same way you would mix paint.

With wax, you mix colours together with your fingers.



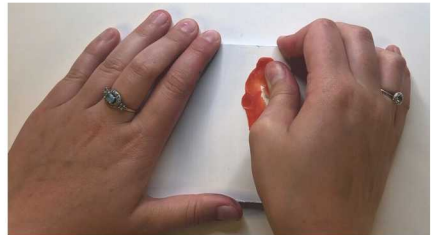
To mix colours you can warm up 2 small portions of different coloured wax and then knead them together with your fingers.

You can see while the different wax colours mix together they create a marbled pattern – if this is intriguing to you try exploring this effect in your creation.

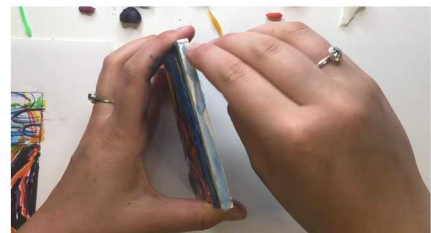


Applying Wax

To apply wax to the surface, use your fingers to smudge it onto the board. You will find wax is easier to apply when it is warm – therefore if you are having trouble applying the wax it may be because it needs to be slightly warmer.



When applying wax, you can also smudge it right over the lip of the surface to cover the sides of the board. Just make sure to keep wax off the back of the board so it doesn't stick to the table or whatever surface you're working on.



Wood Pick

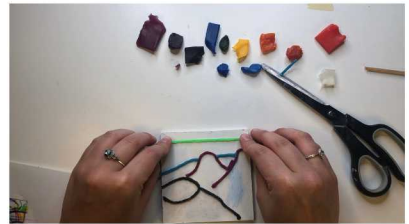
The wood pick in your kit has two different points on either end: a pointed end and a wedged end. Each point can be used to create various marks (textures, defined lines, and final touch ups).

Try creating stark highlights by scraping away the wax on the surface.



Wax dipped yarn

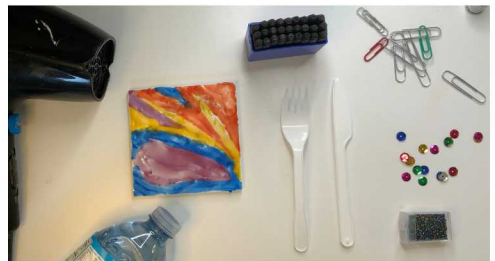
Wax dipped yarn can be cut easily with a pair of scissors and will stick directly to the surface with a little bit of pressure.



Other Materials

Don't limit yourself to using only the materials in your kit. Take a walk around your house and look for different objects and oddities that can be used as texture devices in your encaustic creation.

Objects like bottle caps, keys, cutlery, can be pressed into the wax to reveal patterns. Embed things like beads, sand, or sequines to create new surface textures.



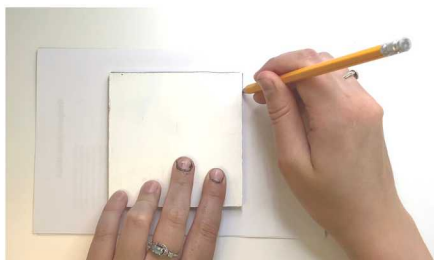
Composition



Each kit includes a primed piece of Masonite board. If you have access to paint, you are welcome to paint a base colour on your board. As you can see in the example pieces - the wax will take on an entirely new characteristic with a different base colour.



What will your composition be? Maybe you want to capture a landscape in wax? A self-portrait in wax? If you are inspired by something more conceptual you can try to capture a sound or a feeling in wax?



Use the back page of this booklet to trace your board, then sketch out your composition.

Once you have decided on a composition you can sketch it out onto the surface with a marker or try using the wax dipped yarn to create the line work.



A thin layer of wax will allow the marker lines to be seen through the wax.



For a bolder, darker colour use thicker layer of wax.



Store your finished piece in a cooler location. Avoid placing it on a sunny windowsill or near the stove or heater.

Want some more ideas?

Attach all of your wax dipped yarn together, end to end. Use them to create a composition made up of one continuous line.

Prepare your wax. Close your eyes and let your sense of touch guide the placement of wax on the board.

Place small sections of unprepared wax (not warmed) all over your board. Use a hairdryer to heat up your already placed wax on the board. Then use your fingers to smudge, mix and twist.

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