

BE CRAFTY

MISCELLANEOUS

GIFT WRAP

Don't ignore the humble spud. Potato prints can be made with either a raised stamp or an incised design. Tempera paint works well. If you make wrapping paper consider the flexibility of the paper you start with.

COOKIE ORNAMENTS

You can make Christmas tree ornaments out of crisp cookies like gingerbread or sugar cookies. Make your own cardboard patterns to cut around and when they're baked paint them with food colouring added to an egg yolk which has been diluted with 1/4 teaspoon of water. Make bells, grinning children, piles of term papers, roach clips, ice packs—whatever Christmas means to you.

MOBILES, ORNAMENTS

If you get tangled up in the road map when you're travelling, don't even think of trying origami, Japanese paper folding. Those who are both dextrous and patient can make mobiles, Christmas tree ornaments, gizmos, gadgets and other groooooovy things. The best book for the novice is *The World of Origami* by Isao Honda (TT, 870, H77) on the fourth floor of Cameron Library.

CANDLES

what it takes:

- *paraffin wax
- *special candle colouring or wax crayons
- *wicking or a fairly firm string that you've soaked in wax
- *special wick weights or paperclips
- *purchased molds or empty milk cartons, jars, glasses, bottles which are wider at the lip than any where else, blown egg shells, glass tubing, etc., etc., etc.,
- *a double boiler for melting the wax — REMEMBER IT'S HIGHLY FLAMABLE
- *pencils or tongue depressors

hints:

To secure the wick, weight it at the bottom with a paper clip or a button or a pebble or anything heavy that won't melt and drop it to the bottom of the mold. Then put a pencil across the top of the mold and tie the other end of the wick to it.

Always save a little of the melted wax after you've filled the mold because there will likely be a depression around the wick when the wax hardens.

Try putting two shapes together to make one candle—a small glass and a cup might make a mushroom for example.

You can pour wax over crushed ice for a lacy effect.

Making striped or layered candles merely requires you to let one colour harden before you add the next. Try tilting the mold.

Even better (if you happen to have some tongue depressors or popsicle sticks) is to poke a hole in one of them with a compass and force the wick through. Or you can just tie the top end of the wick to a door knob or cupboard handle which is straight above your mold.



The purpose of all these manoeuvres is to prevent the wick from shifting and sagging when the wax is added.

If you are using crayons for colour mix the wax each time that you pour some into the mold. The pigment has a tendency to sink to the bottom.

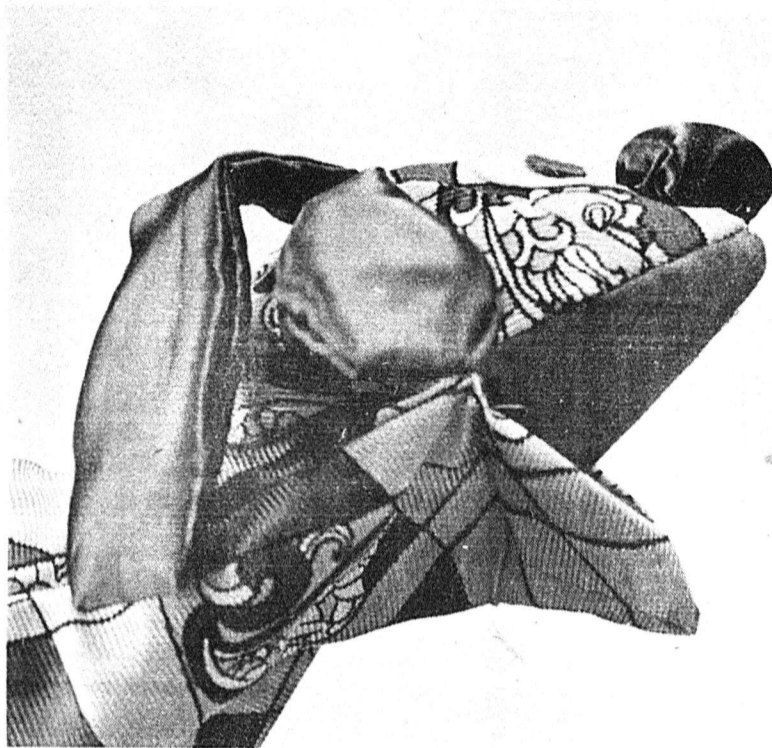
Pour the wax when it has just barely become clear. There's no need to have it hot enough to explode but if it's so cool that it's starting to thicken and cloud on the surface, it will probably be cloudily when it sets.

You can decorate the inside of your candle by putting cubes of coloured wax made in an ice cube tray into the mold and pouring warm wax around them. Put the mold in cold water so that the wax can set without melting the cubes.

You can decorate the outside of your candle by pushing a design into it: the end of a pencil and the end of a knife handle, for example, can be used to make a simple flower shape. If you are very patient and not very discriminating about the final result you can fill the depressions with "gummy" coloured wax that is just beginning to harden.

The talented and the bold can also do wax carvings. An x-acto knife might be useful.

LAZY BONES' SPECIAL: If you don't have the stamina to start from scratch, get a purchased candle—an ordinary long skinny one. Then, melt some wax and beat it with an egg beater until it is thick and white. Working quickly, use a kitchen knife to spiral the beaten wax around the candle. When you're done you can pringle "sparkle" on it. Tie a string to the wick of the candle and hang it up to dry. Otherwise it will droop and warp.



PUPPETS

(Downtown puppets like this cost between \$6 and \$10.) You need:

- *to know how to sew or to know someone who does
- *about 1/4 yard of a firm fabric
- *a little bit of stuffing material or some old stockings
- *felt for mouth and features.

Instructions:

Copy pattern on paper ruled in one inch squares. Leave a 1/4 inch for seam allowance.

With right sides together, sew A to B, B to C, C to D, D to E, E to F and F to A, stopping about 1/2 inch from the centre on each seam, to leave a hole through which to pad the head.

Then with WRONG sides together sew G to completed oval A-F.

Sew the "lower" curve of the red felt mouth piece to the curve of I. (right sides together)

Sew the "upper" curve to the front of oval A-F with right sides together.

Join the top of J to the back of A-F sewing right up to the edge of the mouth on both sides.

Right sides still together sew up the side seams joining I and J and then hem.

Stuff head lightly and "dress".

