

MAGIC MINIATURES



PAINT YOUR OWN ART NOUVEAU SCONCES

Designer

TIFFANY LAMPS HAVE FASCINATED ME FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER. THESE GORGEOUS COLORFUL LAMPS ARE ARTISTIC MARVELS AND I HAVE ALWAYS LONGED TO DUPLICATE THESE IN MINIATURE.

I've always been a creative person. Even though I spent several years as a Marine Lawyer, there was always an artist in there, waiting to get out. I've been recognized for my dollhouse miniatures and sculptures, and also dabbled in "Second Life" as a graphic artist.

When I discovered the joys of 3D printing, I tried to find a way to adapt this fascinating process to my workflow. An endless realm of possibilities opened up. I found I could use my knowledge of technology and the digital world to sculpt and model creations which could later be printed and brought into the real world. I am happy to now offer you 3D printed kits of my designs that you can paint, wire and use to decorate your dollhouses.

In these pages, I've put together tips on how you can paint and wire your Tiffany lamps. Feel free to experiment with color and a variety of finishes to make your own unique miniatures.

I wish you good luck and an abundance of creativity!



Esther Marker
designer MAGIC MINIATURES

Magic Miniatures is my personal brand and has been around since 2002. I make all sorts of miniatures for dollhouses. I've made Venetian masks, religious icons, furniture, dolls and more. Tiffany lamps are the recent addition to my store.

Although I sell my finished pieces online, I'm happy to share some of my digital files and my techniques so you can make your own unique miniatures.

Kit contents



Your sconce kit will comprise a pair of sconces.

These have built in wiring channels to make it easy to wire after it is painted.

The butterfly wings have raised leading so you can finish these to look like stained glass. Alternatively painting them fully metallic and giving it a patina could also look amazing. Play with it and importantly, have fun!

Lamp Painting

I will be thoroughly cleaning, curing and removing supports from your kit. I will also be buffing the inside of the shade with a polishing compound to remove any scratches. In case I have missed something, you may need to go over the area with some fine sandpaper. A few sweeps should sort out any minor issues that remain. I have found that using a polishing compound on the inside of the shades (especially if you plan to leave them unpainted as I have) helps smooth out any scratches that may occur due to support removal.

Some parts of the sconces have raised areas that simulate Tiffany "leading" incorporated into the design. These should be colored black, pewter or even a metallic color if you like. After driving myself absolutely crazy trying to figure out a way to do this without spoiling the recessed areas, I discovered the BEST solution is to use a permanent marker. These come in different styles with different tip sizes and shapes. You may need to experiment to find out which one works best for you. This would depend on how you hold the shade, the angle of your marker and how you tend to write in general. So there is no one size fits all here. Just get a marker that can do that job. Some of you would prefer a marker with a thin tip, others may prefer a chisel tip and still others may prefer a large broad tip. I am amongst those that prefers to work with a larger broad tip.

You would also need quality glass paints. I use the ones by the French company Pebeo, but any good quality brand would do. Some of you may prefer to work with water based colors and others may prefer solvent based colors. Just make sure you do not get anything that requires heat to set as the resin will not fare well when heated to the high temperatures required to cure some paints. Apart from the transparent Vitrail glass paint, Pebeo also has a range called "Fantasy Prisme" and "Fantasy Moon" that have a more opaque enamel effect. I paint with a thin brass toothpick that I source from "Spraygunner". Any pin would also work. The sections in the sconce are very tiny, so use something thin to prevent paint from spreading or getting into other areas.



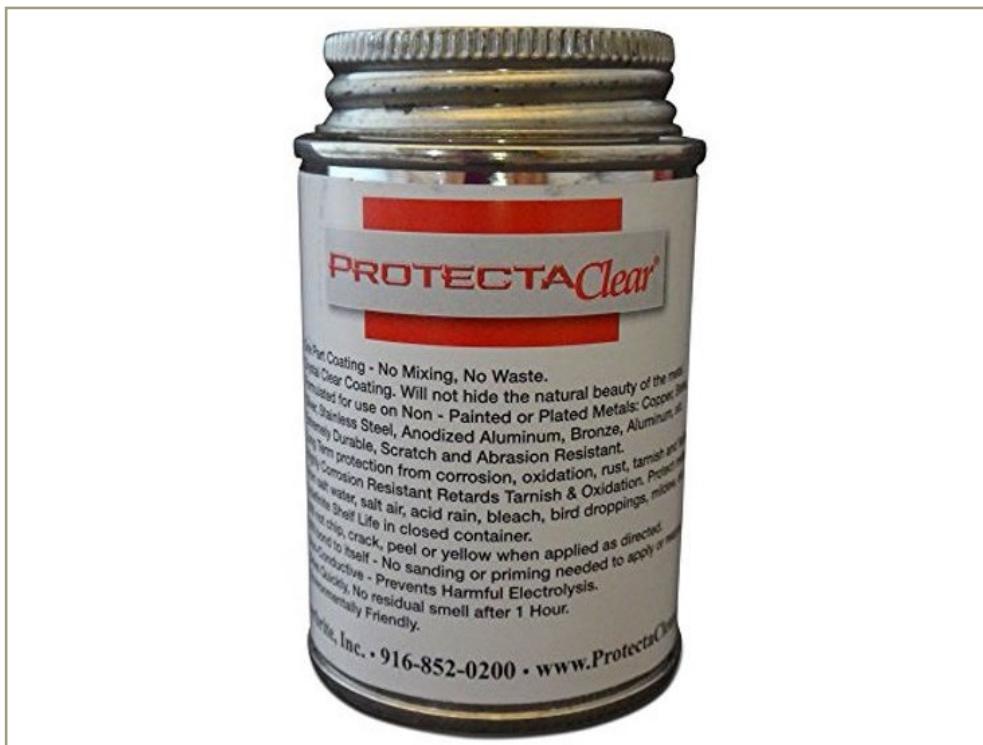
NOTE: If you mess up whilst using the marker and smudge an area you shouldn't, you can take a cotton swab dipped in a little isopropyl alcohol to remove it. It may create some further frosting on the shade but this will not be noticeable after painting. Washing it immediately under running water will minimize this frosting as well. You may need to do this a few times to get rid of the smudge completely.

If you decide to paint the leaded section first. depending on the paint used, drying time could be anywhere from between a few hours to overnight. Keep it in a dust proof area if possible. Once fully dry, you can proceed to prime the parts that will be finished in metallic. As the sconces are a single unit, you will need to be a little careful while priming and painting the rest of the sconce. A good quality paintbrush and magnification will be helpful. Work slowly and carefully. You could also get some masking fluid or tape to prevent you from accidentally priming and adding metallic finish to areas that do not require this.

For priming, I am partial to the Badger series of primers. Once primed, you can enhance these parts with metallic paint, wax or gilding to simulate aged metal. There are a variety of products out there you can experiment with, including those that could give you a natural patina. I love Gilders Paste, True Metal by AK Interactive and Goldfinger by Daler Rowney. Get what is easy to source where you live. I seal metal painted parts with Vintaj Glaze.

Optional: The shade is not fully transparent as due to the sanding and buffing, it tends to be more translucent. To bring back the transparency of the shade, I use a product called ProtectaClear. It is a transparent air drying coating suitable for protecting metal from tarnish. Additionally it can smooth over scratches, sanding marks and scuffs, bringing back the transparency of your shades. Everbrite Coatings makes it. I use it on the inside of the shade only in some of my pieces. The ProtectaClear smooths over these parts and improves the finish considerably. I use it after my shade is painted. If you don't have access to protecta clear, any clear coating should work or you can dispense with this step altogether.

Also Optional: Once the piece is fully dry, there are two tiny circles under the shade. These are the perfect size for inserting 1.4 mm flatbacks (or SS3 as they are sometimes called) Swarovski crystals. A quick dab of Loctite glue gel (not the runny kind or those will frost over the shine on your crystals) in the little cavity should suffice.



Wiring your Sconces

These wall sconces are designed to be fully compatible with the “grain of rice” CK-1010 bulbs from Cir-Kit. The ones I recommend can be found [here](#). That said, any suitable small bulb or LED that fits within the bulb space in the sconce and does not burn too hot will work.

Wiring the sconce is fairly straight forward. Just insert the wire from the top and out of the back as shown in the image below.





Pull gently on the wire and your bulb will fit into the housing/bulb holder provided. I have provided you with two holes at the back as well so you can fashion some sort of hanging mechanism to attach your sconce to the wall.



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You would finally need to trim your wires and remove a little of the insulation. Thread each wire to make suitable contact with the main wiring system used in your dollhouse. You may need to consult the wiring manual for this depending on the system you have.

Your wall sconces have tiny partially drilled holes at the back. You could drill these a little further and attach some wire with superglue and use this to hang your lights to your wall. This is an optional step as double sided tape or tacky wax works just as well to secure your sconce to your walls.

Conclusion



I hope this tutorial was helpful and you enjoy this fabulous new hobby. I wish you many hours of creative pleasure. I will continue to add more lamps and other lighting designs to my [Etsy page](#), so keep checking back for more.

Please consider joining my group on [Facebook](#) and following me on [Instagram](#) as I announce all new updates to my Etsy store there as well. My Facebook group is a community of artists that have purchased my finished pieces and kits and you can find inspiration, videos and tips in the group. I will be sharing my works in progress, new products used and discovered and much more to enhance your lamp making experience. You are welcome to add your finished lamp photos to the group as well to inspire others.

Thank you and have a fabulous day!