

ESTHERS MINIATURES



PAINT YOUR ELABORATE CEILING LIGHT

Designer

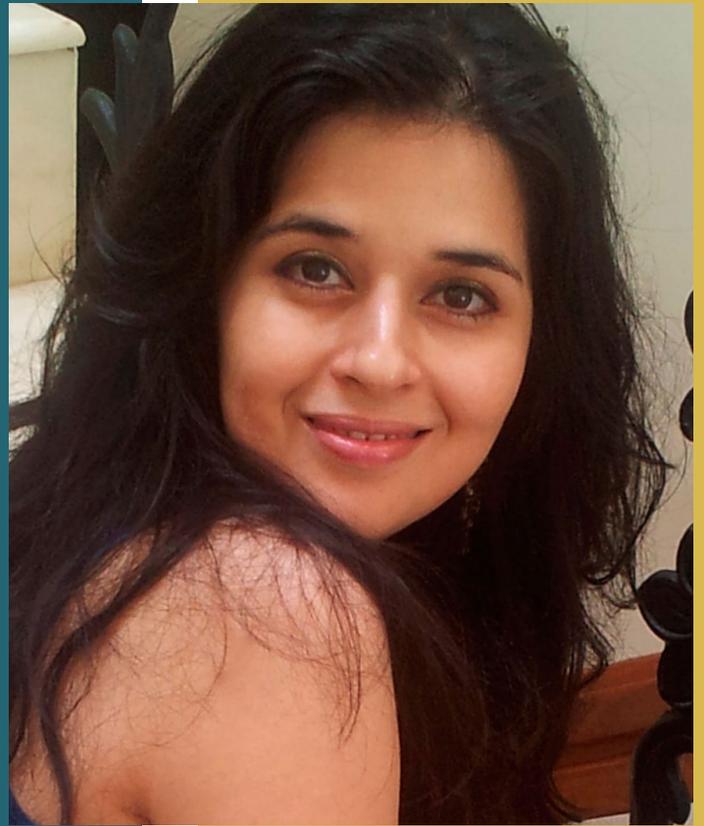
TIFFANY LAMPS HAVE FASCINATED ME FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER. THESE GORGEOUS COLORFUL LAMPS ARE ARTISTIC MARVELS AND I HAVE ALWAYS LONGED TO DUPLICATE THESE IN MINIATURE.

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 (now Esthers 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.

I got my IGMA Artisan Status in the category 3D Printing - Lighting in September 2021.

Kit Contents



If you have purchased my other kits, you may already be familiar with the painting instructions, so feel free to gloss over the painting steps. The wiring section is more important because even though it is straight forward, seeing the steps will help you finish your kit perfectly.

Your kit will comprise of the following:

1. Ceiling light dome.
2. Ceiling light stem with hollowed central wiring channel and built in arms.

The dome has raised leading built into the design. This makes it very easy for you to outline the raised parts and paint the recesses.

Ceiling Light Painting

I will be thoroughly cleaning, curing and removing supports from your kit. I will also be ensuring the wiring channels are open. 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.

Your ceiling light dome has the raised areas that simulate Tiffany “leading”, 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.

NOTE: If getting Pebeo, please get Pebeo Vitrail and NOT Pebeo Vitrea 160 as the latter needs baking to cure.



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.

Once your shade is painted, set it aside to dry. Based upon the paint used, it could take anywhere from between a few hours to overnight. Keep it in a dust proof area if possible.

While your shade/dome is drying, you can start priming the “metal” parts of your ceiling light stem and its attached arms. I am partial to the Badger series of primers. Once primed, you can enhance the base with metallic paint, wax or gilding to simulate aged metal. Two products that are outstanding in this regard are “Gilders Paste” and Daler Rowney’s “Goldfinger”. I use Gilders Paste sparingly with an old brush over the entire “metal” section. I then use the tiniest amount of Goldfinger on my finger to bring out the gold highlights. There are several other paints and products out there that work equally well so use what you have on hand if necessary.

NOTE: In my other finishing instructions for lamps, I suggest using 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 underside of the shade only. If you plan to use ProtectaClear, do so after you finish painting the dome of the ceiling light and before you assemble/glue on the stem section. With the stem and arms in place accessibility is a little more difficult and painting will require a little more care.



If you find it easy to learn visually, I have made the following [YouTube video](#) showing you briefly the painting steps.

NOTE: Although the video demonstration pertains to a different ceiling light, the technique used to paint is the same.

Assembly

The first step is to connect the shade to the base. There is a tiny channel in the very tip of the shade that the tip of the harp can fit into. I use loctite gel based superglue to connect these two parts together.

After this initial connection is made and the glue dry, I proceed with connecting each of the six arms to the shade, resulting in a very secure and permanent joining of these parts. I use a UV resin glue for this section. I like how it flows like solder filling up gaps and making a permanent bond when it is cured. Glue like this often comes with it's own UV light but you can use a nail lamp or similar to cure it as well. If you do not have UV resin glue, use a strong two part adhesive for this second gluing step. Clear is preferred but in case it is colored, you can always paint over it later. It is possible to wire and re-wire with the parts connected, so though these have been kept separate for safe shipping and ease of painting, there is no other reason to keep them separate.

The steps of assembly are demonstrated via [this video](#).

NOTE: I love loctite gel superglue because it has the strength of superglue but it is not runny or messy. Its consistency will give you a lot more control so you can apply it exactly where you need to and you have a few minutes to reposition your piece before it sets. Once it sets it's strong, durable and won't shift. The icing on the cake, is it can also be used on your shades without it causing any frosting of the clear resin parts. Just use care and apply sparingly. I use a pin or toothpick to apply. In the case of any superglue, less is more.

FURTHER NOTE: If you don't have the UV gel resin I use as shown in the video any strong two part epoxy or adhesive will also suffice. In a pinch, you can also use the loctite gel glue.



Wiring

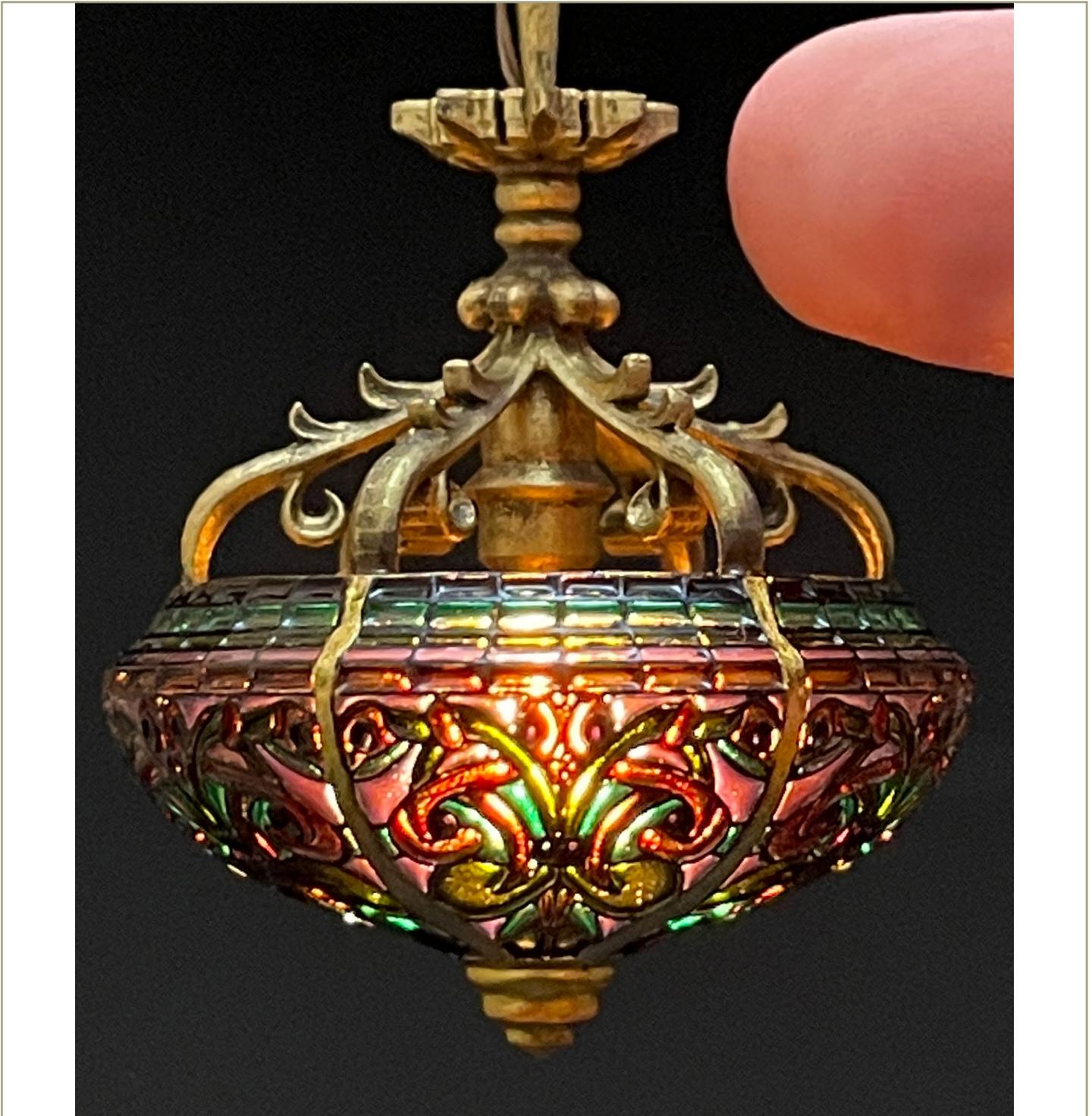


The ceiling light is designed to be fully compatible with the “grain of rice” [CK-1010 bulbs from Cir-Kit](#). Get the 12 inch wire version on brown wires. You will not need the extra length but it will come in handy for other wiring projects. If you cannot source a bulb from Cir-kit, any suitable small bulb or LED that does not burn too hot will work.

As shown in the video, you will need a few basic tools to assist in the wiring.

1. Assist wire. This is a sturdy yet soft and flexible wire that one passes through the channel initially. I use flexible beading wire. Companies like softflex or accuflex make this.
2. Cir-kit grain of rice bulb with a small silicone stopper attached
3. A pair of tweezers.

Wiring steps can be seen in the [video here](#).



You can finish your ceiling light by adding a fixture adaptor from Cir-Kit if your wiring system is compatible with it. Take a look at [this section](#) of their website to learn more.

Alternatively you can pass a small length of wire or a small eyepin through the central channel in the stem to form a hook or way to hang your light. This will keep it secure and prevent any fall damage.

Enjoy your new light!

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 different lighting styles and other designs to my [Etsy page](#), so keep checking back for more. I will definitely be adding different parrot themed lighting so you have other pieces to match your chandelier.

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!