

ESTHERS MINIATURES



PAINT YOUR OWN FOUR SHADE CHANDELIER

# Designer

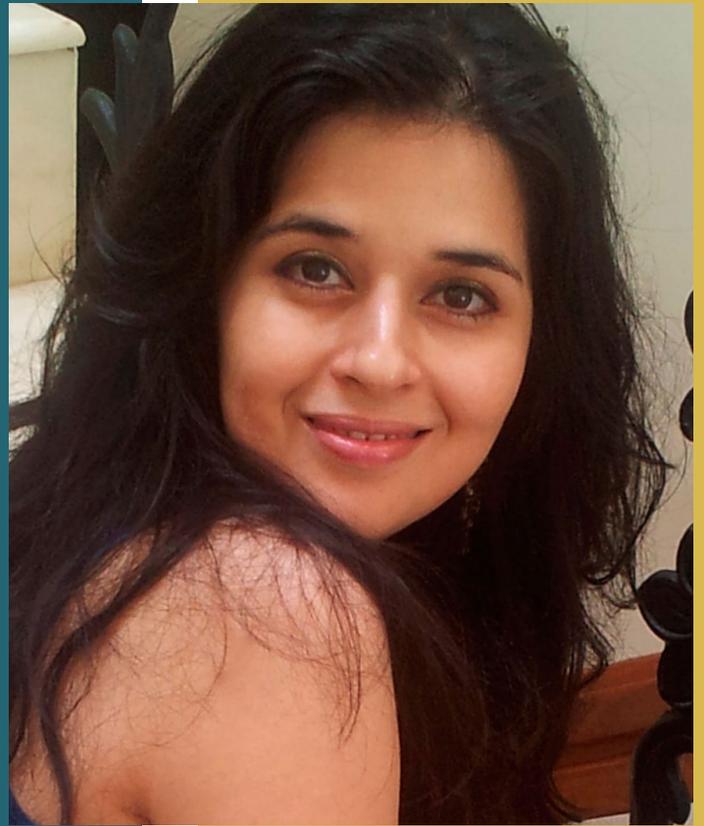
TIFFANY LAMPS HAVE FASCINATED ME FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER. THESE GORGEOUS COLORFUL LAMPS ARE ARTISTIC MARVELS AND I HAVE ALWAYS LONGED TO DUPLICATE THESE IN MINIATURE.

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.

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

# Kit Contents



Your kit will comprise the following components:

- Base with arms
- Stem
- 4xShades
- 4x Bulb Holder

The base has built in wiring channels and a box to hide wire connections. The stem fits over the box. The bulb holders are designed for easy bulb changes and need to be wired just once. Shades fit securely over the bulb holders.

My designs are evolving and I am constantly looking for new ideas and styles whilst improving on my previous ones. As this piece is different and explores several new techniques, I recommend watching all the videos and reading through this document in it's entirety before starting your project.

# Chandelier Painting

I will be thoroughly cleaning, curing and removing supports from your kit. I will also be buffing the inside of the shades 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.

The chandelier shades have faceted patterning. I wanted to create something to resemble cut glass. There are small faceted recesses around the shade that you could paint or leave clear. The light looks nice either way. What I think looks fabulous is painting the inside of the shades with glass paint. This gives it an overall transparent color that looks fabulous when lit.

In case you opt to explore the painting route, 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.

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. You could use this time to work on the other parts of the chandelier.



Any part that requires to be painting or finished in something other than glass paint must be primed first. This helps the paint or finish adhere properly to the resin. I am partial to the Badger series of primers and use Badger Stynlrez in ebony flesh. I brush it on ensuring I cover all parts. A single coat will usually be enough, but have a careful look at to and go over any sections you might have missed.

Once primed, you can enhance the other parts with metallic paint, wax or gilding to simulate metal or aged metal. There are a variety of products out there you can experiment with, including those that could give you a natural patina on your bases. I regular like and use Gilders Paste, True Metal by AK Interactive and Daler Rowney's Goldfinger. Some of my clients use Rub n buff and achieve amazing results with it. If you don't have these waxes/finishes. You can simulate an aged effect with paint. A combination of metallic paint and a thin black or deep brown wash looks fabulous.

**NOTE: Once thing to keep in mind whilst painting if you use metallic wax, is to be careful NOT to allow the wax to go over any section that will later be glued together. This will cause the part to be glued to not stick correctly and it will be the cause of numerous issues down the line. If you do get wax over a part you intend to glue, please sand it out or use a solvent like Sansodor to remove it. To avoid this, please look at all the videos, painting, wiring and assembly before starting any work on your piece.**

A comprehensive painting video can be found [here](#).

If you would like to see other videos of how I finish my bases, you can explore the kit documentation pertaining to all my previous lamps for FREE in my [Facebook group](#). All you need to do is request membership via the link above and once a member, explore the files section. You will have immediate access to a plethora of pdf documents, much like this one, that link to painting, assembly and wiring videos. Some are similar and some explore unique ideas and techniques. If you have a different idea as to how you would like to finish your lamp, don't hesitate to do it your way and share pictures in the group. You will always get awesome feedback from our community and we'd love to see pictures of your work.



# Wiring

With this lamp, I've devised a technique to make bulb changes easy. Wiring is done just once, and once a bulb reaches the end of its life, you can just remove and replace it with a new one. The entire piece does not require to be done again. Apart from wiring tools such as wire strippers, pliers, ruler, assist/beading wire and soldering iron, you will need a bi-pin bulb. I like using these [long life bulbs from CR2S](#) as the burn time is 16,000 hours as opposed to 5000. For wire, I've used the brown wire I've cannibalized from pre-wired Cir-Kit grain of rice bulbs. A good quality 32 gauge wire should be fine to use.

If you already have bi-pin bulbs, please use those as swapping them once they burn out is a breeze.

If you have wired any of my multi bulb chandeliers previously, this should be easy to do, but even for a beginner, if you watch the wiring video a few times and follow the steps carefully, you will be able to successfully finish your wire your chandelier.

The wiring video can be found [here](#).

# Adding Chains

Though this is a slightly fiddly process, I have simplified this to the best of my ability. Those of you that have dabbled in jewelry design will find this a breeze. Adding chains is optional but it does enhance the effect of the piece. If you remain undaunted, the step by step process can be found [here](#):

# Miscellaneous Supplies

Apart from what you would usually need and what I have specifically mentioned, for this particular piece, I have used the following:

1. Eyepin found in jewelry supply stores. 2 inches long made from 21 gauge wire
2. Silicone earring back also found in jewelry supply stores. Look for something small and cylindrical.
3. Peanut Chain or flat cable chain. Each link is about 3 mm.
4. Nails/Pins from any model supply or hobby store. Mine are 0.55mm thick and 12mm long. I had to cut to size. MicroMark should have this as well.
5. Dollhouse hinge nails/pins, sourced from [MicroMark](#).
- 6 Wire 32 gauge to connect chains to the chandelier stem.



The last step is to fit the shades over the bulb holders and you are done!

# 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 lamp and other 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!