

MAGIC MINIATURES



PAINT YOUR OWN TIFFANY LAMP

Designer

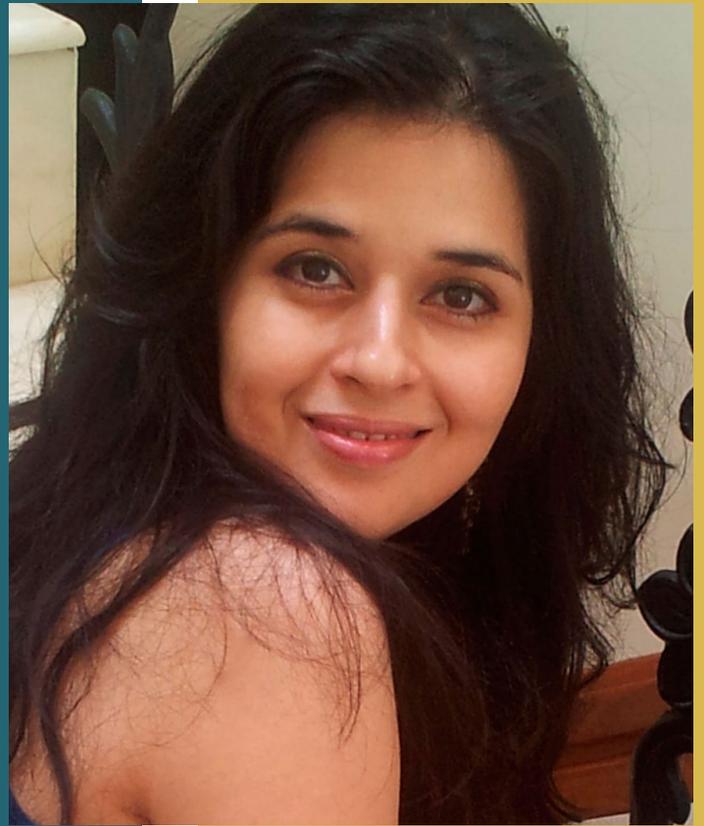
TIFFANY LAMPS HAVE FASCINATED ME FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER. THESE GORGEOUS COLORFUL LAMPS ARE ARTISTIC MARVELS AND I HAVE ALWAYS LONGED TO DUPLICATE THESE IN MINIATURE.

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 my digital files and my techniques so you can make your own unique miniatures.

Kit Contents



If you have purchased my other kits, you may already be familiar with these instructions, so feel free to skip these steps. It is important that you read the wiring section as it contains some helpful information specific to these sconces.

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 sconce shades have the raised leading built in to design. This makes it very easy for you to outline the raised parts and paint the recesses.

NOTE: Throughout these instructions, you may find photos of my other lamp designs. Don't worry, the instructions work across all designs as the technique used is the same. Adding the other shapes add variety to this document and lends visual appeal.

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.

Your sconce shades 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 with your lampshade 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 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. 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.

Excluding the stained glass parts, which includes the back of the wings, prime the rest of the sconce. I am partial to the Badger series of primers. Once primed, you can enhance these parts with 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.

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 underside of the shade only. In this case, the back of the wings. This is the part that is most effected by support removal, sanding and tends to look not quite as nice. The ProtectaClear smooths over these parts and improves the finish considerably. I use it after my shade is painted. If you want a fully transparent effect, you would need to use ProtectaClear before starting to paint. Wait for it to dry thoroughly before you begin and test compatibility between your paint and the ProtectaClear before using it over the entire shade. If you don't have access to protecta clear, any clear coating should work or you can dispense with this step altogether.



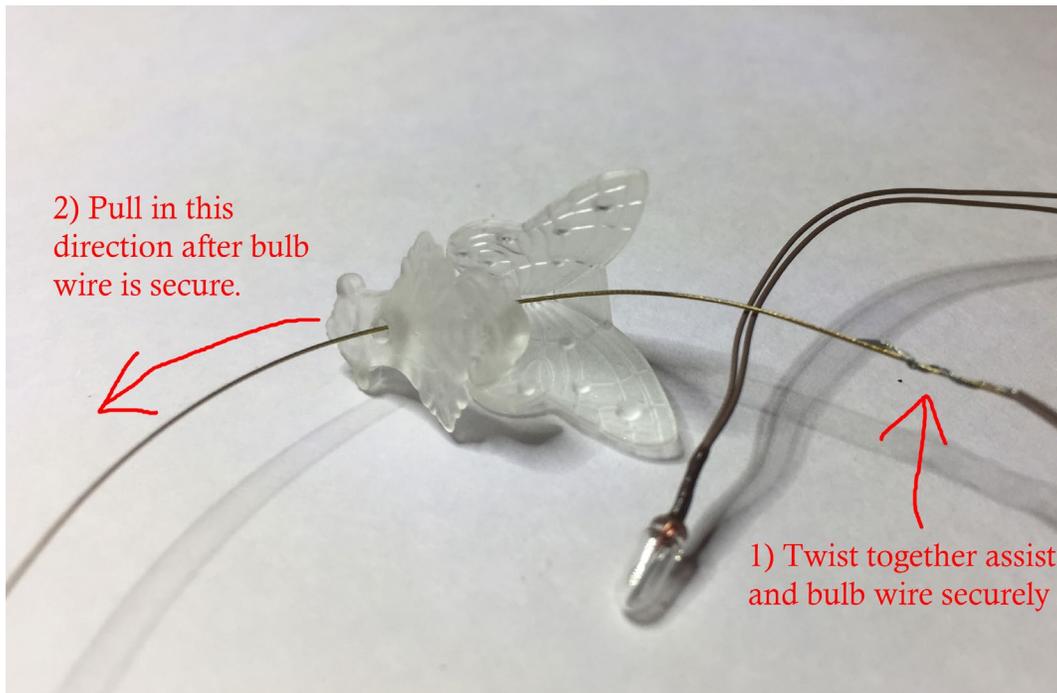
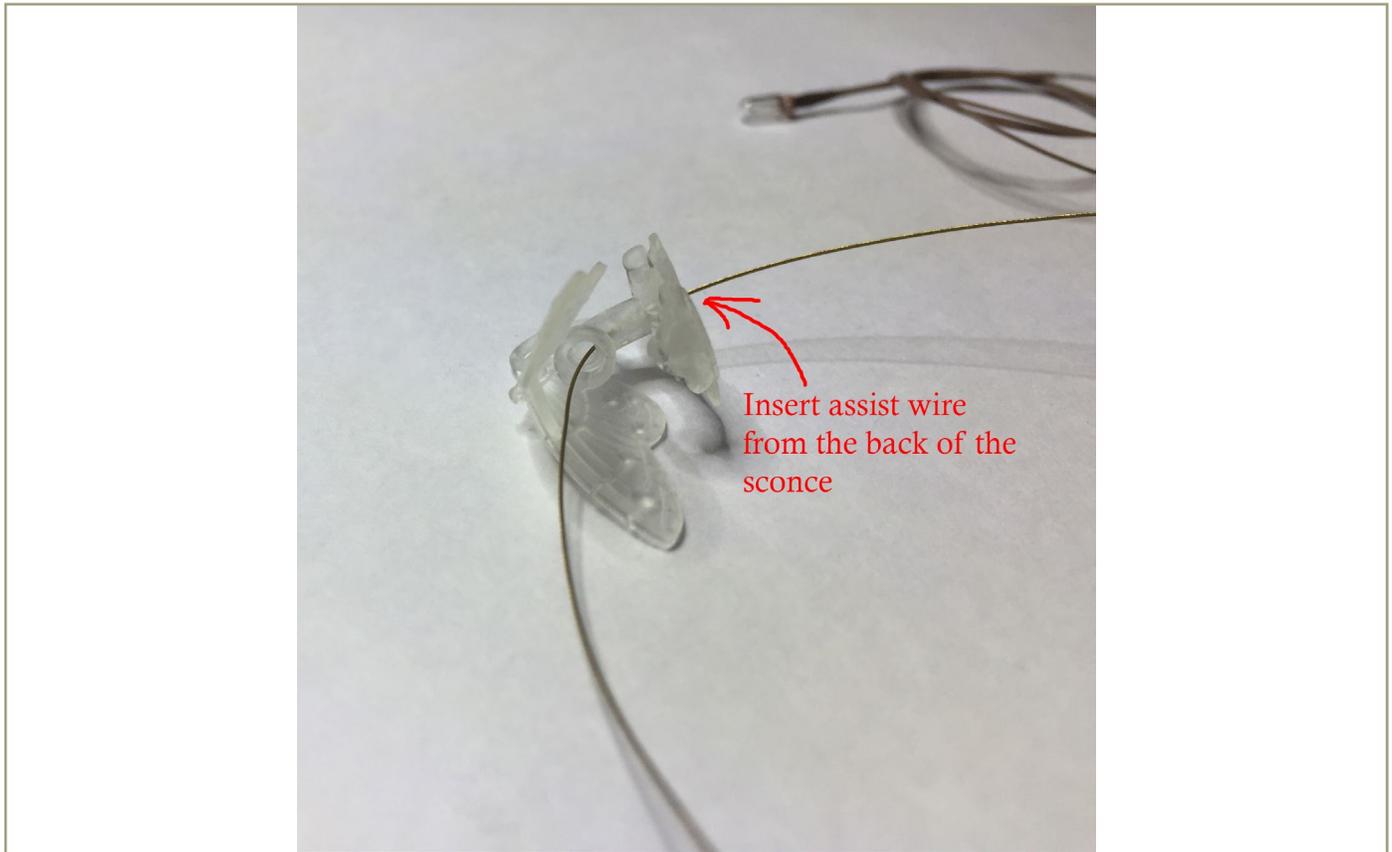
Wiring your Sconces

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.

As the wiring channel in the sconce has a small curve, the wire of the grain of rice bulb does not always pass through easily as it can get stuck in the bend. I find a length of flexible beading wire as shown in the demonstration photos below or even a large eye beading needle can be very helpful in this case. Of course, you may be lucky and your Cir-kit wire may pass through the channel easily. If this does not happen, please take a look at the photos and explanation below.



First insert your assist wire from the back of the sconce. I find it goes through very easily in this direction.



Twist your bulb wire with the assist wire as shown. Once the connection is secure pull from the back of the lamp. It's important that the assist wire is soft and flexible. Regular wire will not work. There are a variety of large holed flexible beading needles you can get to help you with the process as well.

Gently tug on the beading wire in the direction shown, to ease the bulb wire out of the channel.



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 opens 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!