

ESTHERS MINIATURES



PAINT YOUR TIFFANY 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 ESTHERSMINIATURES

Esther's Miniatures (previously 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



If you have purchased my other kits, you may already be familiar with the painting instructions. I like updating my information from time to time as well, so it's worth having a quick look at these instructions.

Your ceiling light kit will comprise of the following:

1. Tiffany style shade with raised leading.
2. Ceiling light stem with built in wiring channel.

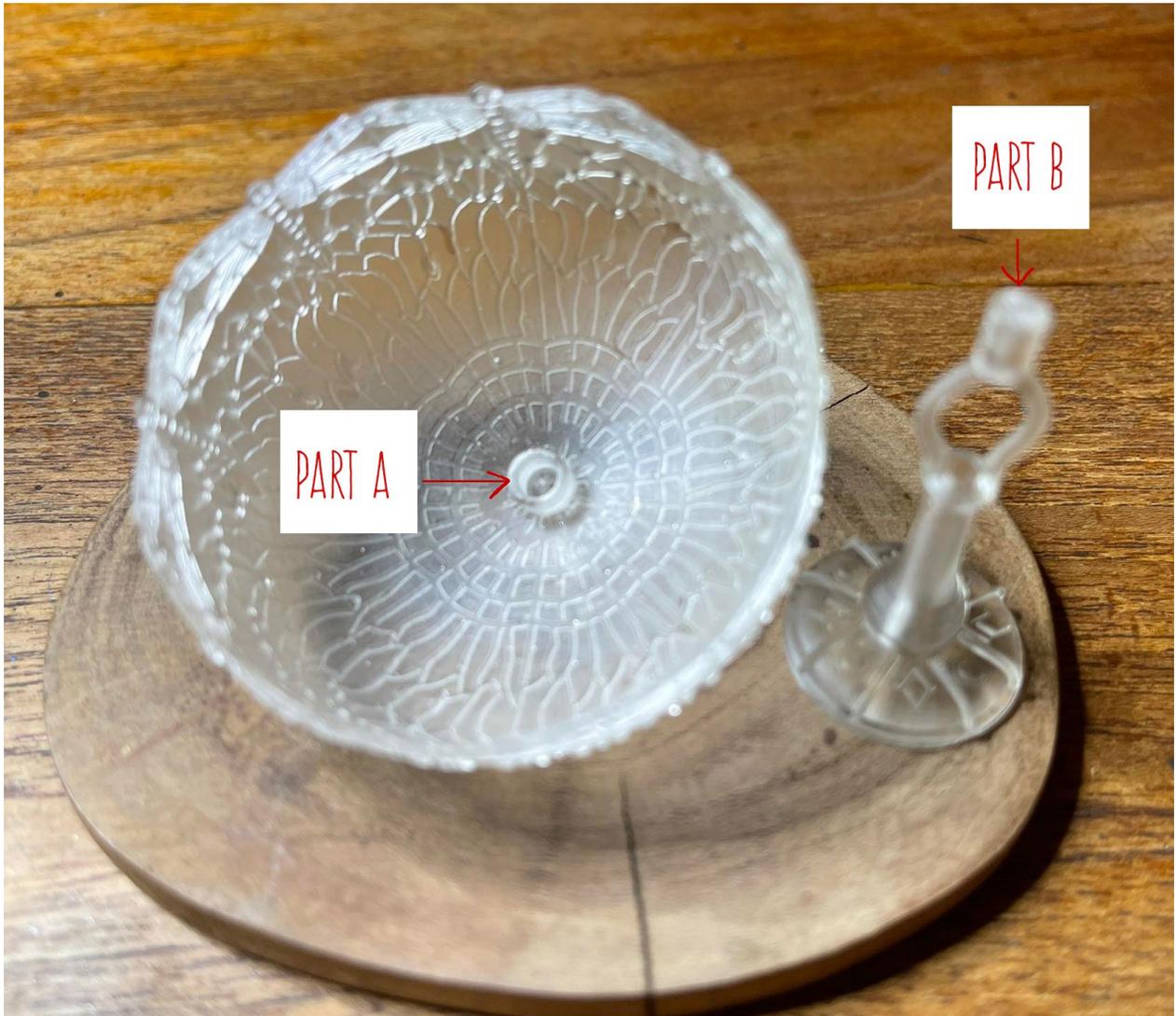
Parts are shipped in a separated form for safety during shipping and ease of painting. These can be assembled easily later for wiring.

Ceiling Light Assembly

It's good practice to test fit your pieces when you receive your kit. Extreme care has been taken to prepare your kit but it's easier to check open-ness of wiring channels and such prior to painting rather than after. Sometimes a wee bit of sanding or filing may be required and this is a good time to do those steps.

After painting your pieces and after these are dry, you can assemble your lamp. Part B is designed to fit into Part A. The fit is fairly secure so you want to avoid putting paint or anything that will increase the thickness around the parts that fit. So leave the very top and a few mm below part B unpainted.

Use a superglue gel or two part epoxy sparingly on the center of Part A and or the tip of Part B and assemble the parts together. If you are using a thick glue or epoxy you may want to sand Part B just a wee bit to create space. Take a look at [this video](#) to show you how the parts fit together for assembly.



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 light shade has the 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. As this shade design has raised gemstone like sections, you are going to mess these up with your marker because they are in the way. To avoid this, it’s a good idea to mask them off using white glue. I tint the glue with acrylic paint so I can see where I have applied it and can easily remove it after outlining.

NOTE: I recently discovered Sakura PenTouch Calligrapher. I use the one with a 1.8 mm chisel tip and it’s fantastic! The flat yet sturdy edge of the chisel tip goes over the leading perfectly. The gold is the most true to “actual gold” that I have seen and the black is glossy and fabulous.

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.

The base and harp of the lamp are finished in a metallic finish, as is the finial on the shade. I usually prime the "metal" parts of the lamp prior to painting. I am partial to the Badger series of primers and use Badger's Stynlrez in Ebony, which is a lovely shade of brown. Once primed, you can enhance the base with metallic paint, wax or gilding to simulate aged metal. Products that are outstanding in this regard are "Gilders Paste" "AK Interactive True Metal" 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 find it easy to learn visually, I have made the following [YouTube video](#) showing you briefly the painting steps. This includes how I mask off the raised gemstones on the shade as well. Whilst the video does not cover the priming and metallic painting bits, I have other videos for this on my [Facebook group](#)

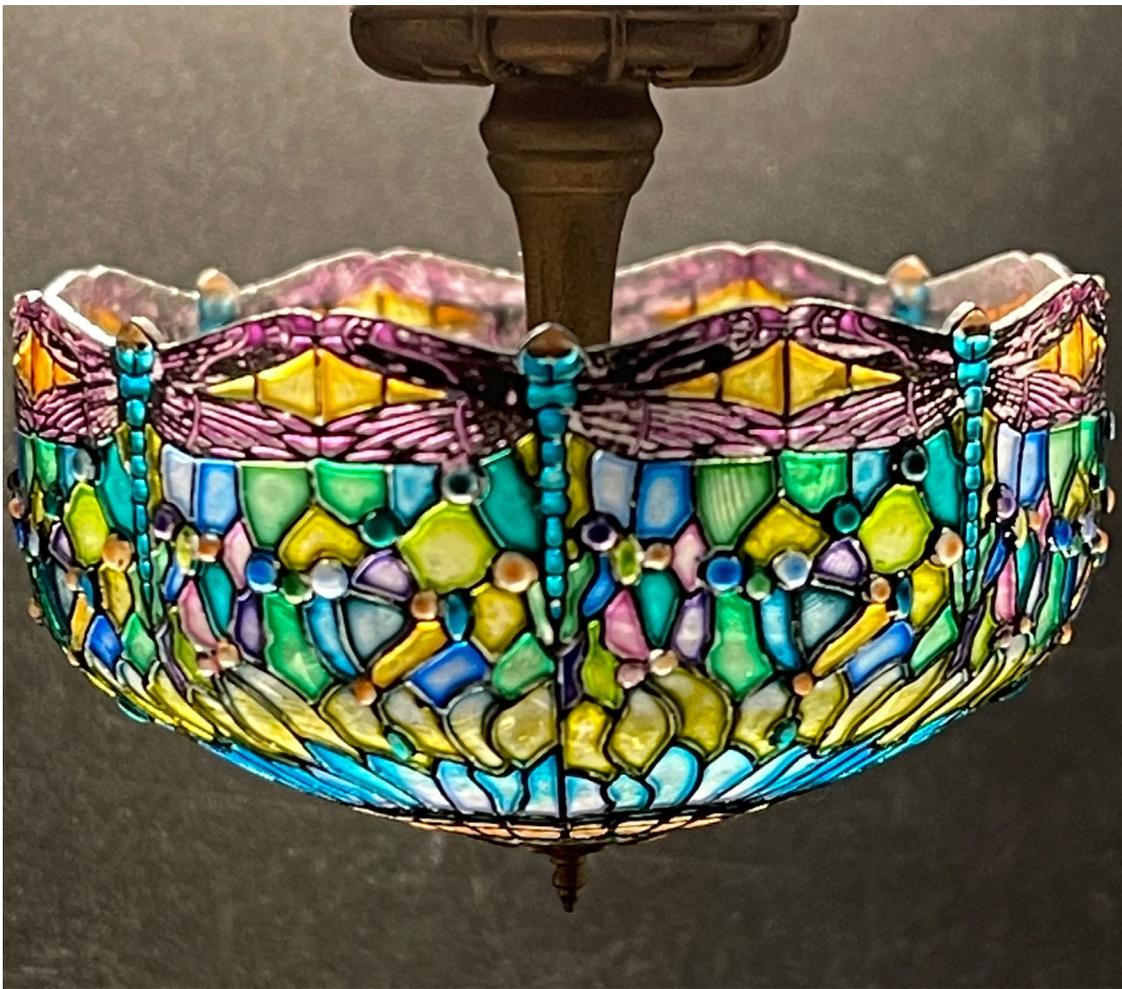
I'd love to see my kits finished with elements of "you" in these so don't hold back on experimenting. I am always available to you for those of you that need more specific information.

Wiring your Ceiling Light

The lamp is designed to be fully compatible with the “grain of rice” [CK-1010 bulbs from Cir-Kit](#). That said, any suitable small bulb or LED that fits the inside of the harp and does not burn too hot will work. The wiring is extremely straight forward and demonstrated [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.

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!