

ESTHERS MINIATURES



PAINT YOUR OWN FOUR ARM 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 ESTHERSMINIATURES

Esther's Miniatures (previously Magic MiniaturesP) 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 I have made a painting video, an assembly video and a wiring video all with voice over. I hope I am clear.

Your kit will comprise of the following:

1. Tiffany style Chandelier dome with attached arms and built in wiring channels.
2. Chandelier stem with hollowed central wiring channels.
3. Four Tiffany style light shades.

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

Chandelier Assembly

It's good practice to test fit your pieces when you receive your kit. You should check your wiring channels as well to ensure you will be comfortable with the coming steps.

The chandelier stem has been designed to click fit into the dome section without the requirement of any glue. I design my pieces this way to make re-wiring easy should the need arise.

Take a quick look at this [short video](#) which will show you how the various parts are assembled and fit together. You can then separate them as shown and proceed with your painting.



Chandelier 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 chandelier has the raised areas that simulate Tiffany “leading” incorporated into the dome and parrots. 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.

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. You can now start painting the parrots using the same technique as above.

After your glass paint is fully dry, you can start priming the "metal" parts of your chandelier such as the arms, the rim and the base of the parrots. 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.

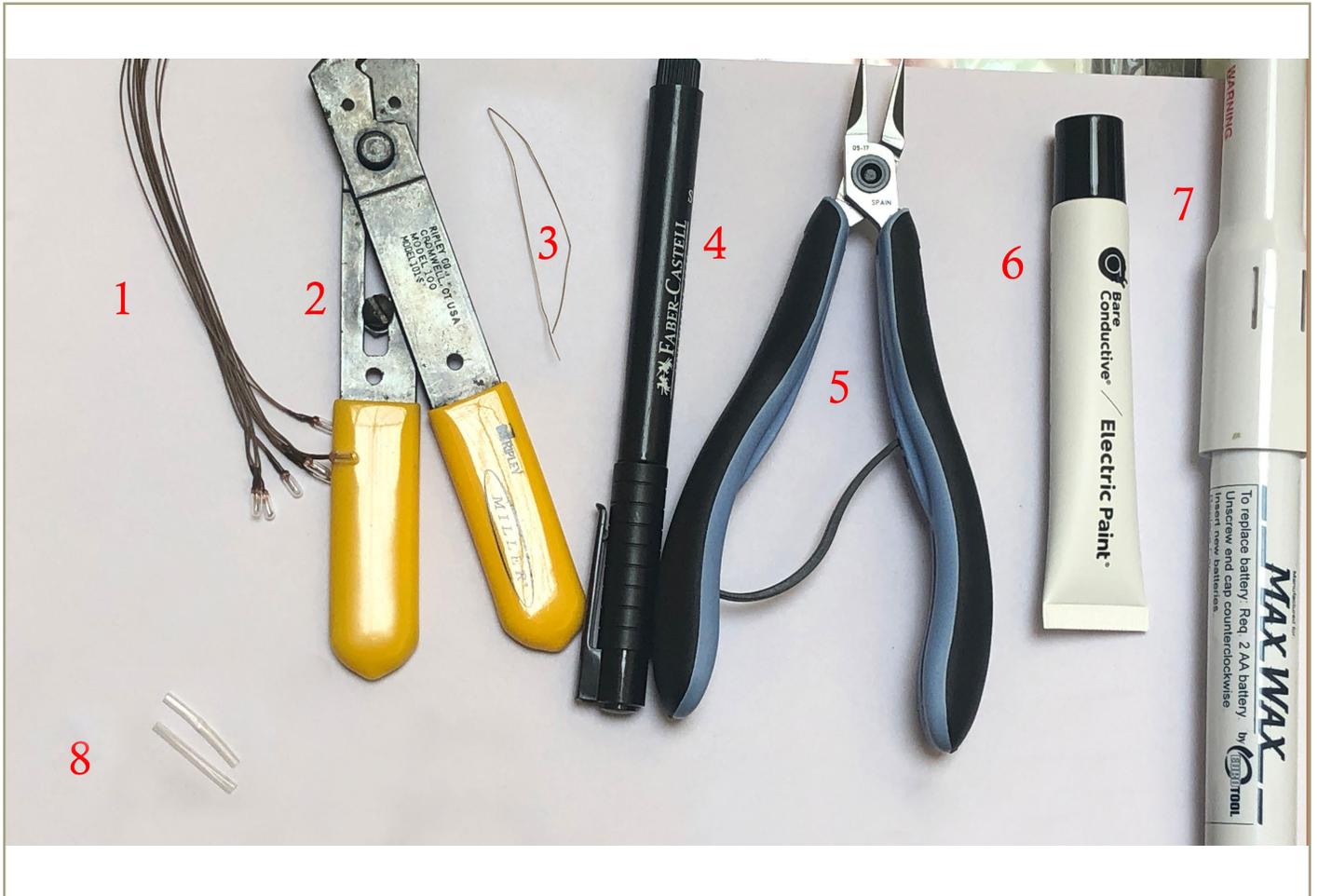
NOTE: In my other finishing instructions for lamps, I suggest using a product called ProtectaClear. It is a transparent air drying coating suitable for protecting metal from tarnish. Additionally it can smooth over scratches, sanding marks and scuffs, bringing back the transparency of your shades. Everbrite Coatings makes it. I use it on the underside of the shade only. However in this case, the dome of the chandelier is partly covered by the wiring channels so it will be difficult to access the inside evenly. You can safely skip this step. To compensate, I have used minimal supports on the inside of the dome so you will have a perfect finish regardless.



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

Wiring your Chandelier

The chandelier 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 parrot’s body, and does not burn too hot will work.



The image above will give you an overview of most of the tools needed to wire the chandelier as follows:

1. Five Cir-Kit grain of rice bulbs available [here](#).
2. Wire stripper
3. Assist wire (any stiff but flexible wire, like bead stringing like softflex, accuflex etc will work great)
4. Marker (good for precision and marking wires before cutting and stripping)
5. Pliers
6. Electric Paint (optional but useful to have on hand for miniatures in general)
7. Heat tool (Or a soldering iron)
8. Heat shrink tubing

Additionally, scissors, tweezers, tape etc. are always useful

The entire wiring process is easily demonstrated in this [wiring video](#). I feel having a video with voice is a better way forward and I will be adopting this approach for my future tutorials as well. Though I am by no means an expert in the video making department, you should get all the information you need to successfully wire your chandelier. Sometimes photos are not very clear and text is not adequate to explain things as they are happening. So for my more complex pieces, I feel this is a good approach.

NOTE: You may want to pay attention to the following tips to ensure your wiring success:

- 1. Take care to ensure that no bundle of wires contains two wires from the same bulb. If you are careful about this your chandelier WILL definitely light up. In case it does not, this is the step you want to check again.**
- 2. Look up a product called “bare conductive”. It’s a paint/glue hybrid that has conductive properties. I took some on a toothpick and covered twisted wire bundle with it completely. I waited 30 mins or so for it to dry and then put the heat shrink tubing over. The bare conductive will secure and protect your wire joint, increasing conductivity and preventing it from coming loose. If you have soldering skills, I recommend soldering each set of connected wires. Again be careful not to touch the resin bits with the soldering iron. Bare conductive can be used in conjunction with soldering for additional protection. It can also be used instead of soldering if you are daunted by soldering.**
- 3. If you plan to use different bulbs, please test fit them to ensure the wires fit inside the wiring channels and the bulbs seat themselves fully within the shades.**

You can finish your chandelier 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. You could also use a ceiling rose painted to match.

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.

Though the shades are held in place by the bulbs, they tend to wobble around a little. You can lift them up a wee bit (there is enough slack in the wire to do this) and add a tiny dab of tacky/museum wax on the underside and re-seat the shade.

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!