

# MAGIC MINIATURES



PAINT YOUR OWN TIFFANY LAMP

# Designer

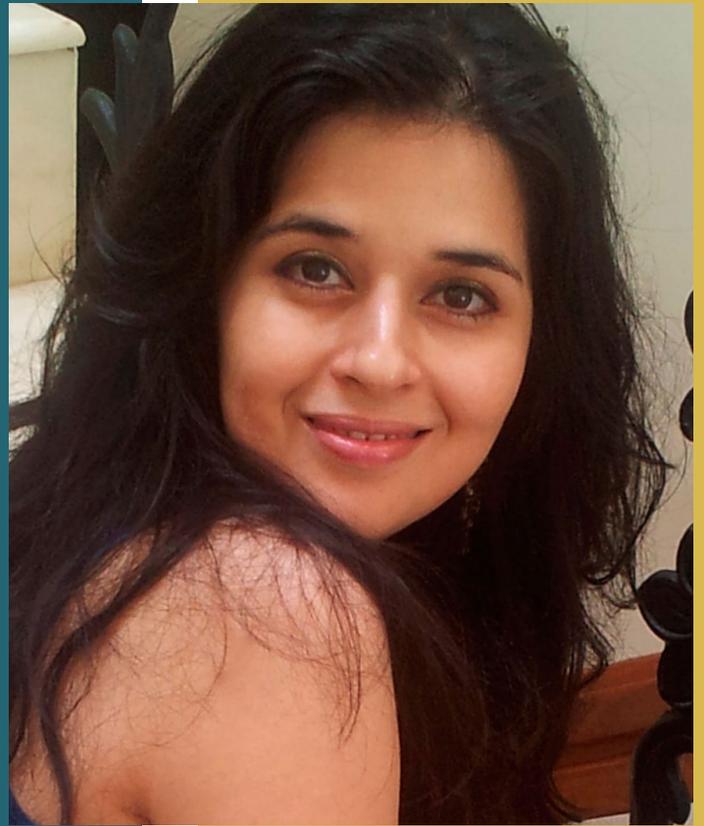
TIFFANY LAMPS HAVE FASCINATED ME FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER. THESE GORGEOUS COLORFUL LAMPS ARE ARTISTIC MARVELS AND I HAVE ALWAYS LONGED TO DUPLICATE THESE IN MINIATURE.

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



Your kit will comprise of a lampbase and a lampshade.

The lamp base has a built in lamp harp that supports the shade. It also includes a wiring channel through the middle that exits discretely from the back so as to not disturb the equilibrium of the base.

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

My designs are evolving and I am constantly looking for new ideas and styles whilst improving on my previous ones. I will be making these available to the community and I am always open to your ideas, suggestions and expertise on how we can make these even better.

**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 lampshade 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 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 whist 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 noticable 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 could use this time to work on the base.

I usually begin by priming the base. I am partial to the Badger series of primers. These work equally well via an airbrush or regular brush so use the method comfortable to you. Once primed, you can enhance the base 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 on your bases.

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. 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 Lamp

The lamps are 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 within the space of the lamp harp and does not burn too hot will work. The lamp is wired by inserting the wire from the hole in the harp section at the very top of the lamp, until it exits from below. It is then again inserted in other small channel in the base so it exits from the back without disturbing the equilibrium of the lamp.





If you have sockets/outlets in your dollhouse, you could finish your lamp by adding CK-1004. Alternatively you could look to adding batteries or any other fixtures that work with your lighting system.

The last step is to fit the shade over the base and you are done! The fit should be snug and not too tight. You may need to lightly sand the hole in the shade in some cases. A few sweeps with a round profile needle file should do the trick.

It's better to ease the shade over the harp by using slowly rotating it onto the base rather than pressing it down. The parts are fragile, so take care.

# 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!