

# MAGIC MINIATURES



PAINT YOUR OWN TOUCAN LAMP

# Designer

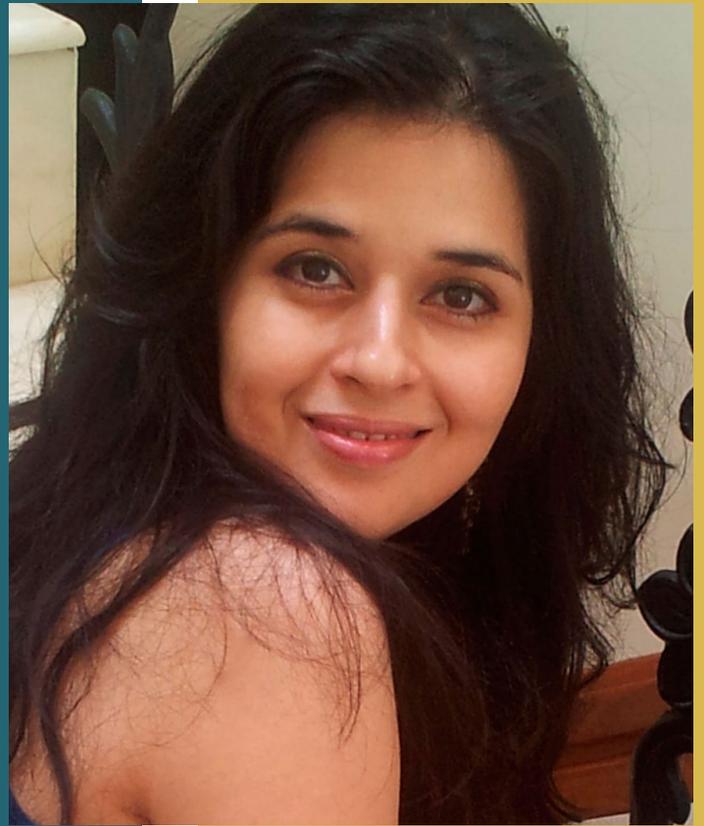
TIFFANY LAMPS HAVE FASCINATED ME FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER. THESE GORGEOUS COLORFUL LAMPS ARE ARTISTIC MARVELS AND I HAVE ALWAYS LONGED TO DUPLICATE THESE IN MINIATURE.

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 the painting instructions. With each new kit I launch, I try to give you a little something extra, so I have done a more extensive painting video for this lamp. You can use the information in the video and adapt it to the other lamps as well.*

Your kit will comprise of the following:

1. Main base with wiring channels built in.
2. Low base with space to hide the wire connections plus a hole for wire exit.
3. Three Toucans with hollow bodies.

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

**NOTE: Due to the fragile foliage and branches, be very careful with unpacking your kit.**

# Kit 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. In case a leaf or two has come off it's branch it can be attached with superglue gel followed by uv resin glue.

Your lamp 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.

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. I sometimes also use an X-acto knife to scratch away minor marker smudges.**

Once the birds are 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. While it is drying you can work on the painting of the base.

Begin by you can start priming the following:

1. Fully prime the main base
2. Fully prime the lower base
3. Prime the lower rim of the birds that will be fitting into the perches, including the raised parts there.

I am partial to the Badger series of primers. Their "ebony flesh" primer works really well. If you plan to use a different primer, that is also fine, just make sure it is a 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" 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. Recently I have discovered AK Interactive's True Metal. It is a wax based finish that works beautifully for my lamps. The pigments are fine and the coverage wonderful. It can be used with Gilders Paste and Goldfinger. There are several other paints and products out there that work equally well so use what you have on hand if necessary.

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

Products used in the video are:

Sharpie permanent marker in black for the leading

Pebeo Vitrail glass paint for the birds

Badger Stynylrez in Ebony Flesh to prime

AK Interactive True Color in the color of your choice. I am partial to their old bronze, copper and brass.

Acrylic paint for the branches

Vintaj Patina or any acrylic paint for the leaves

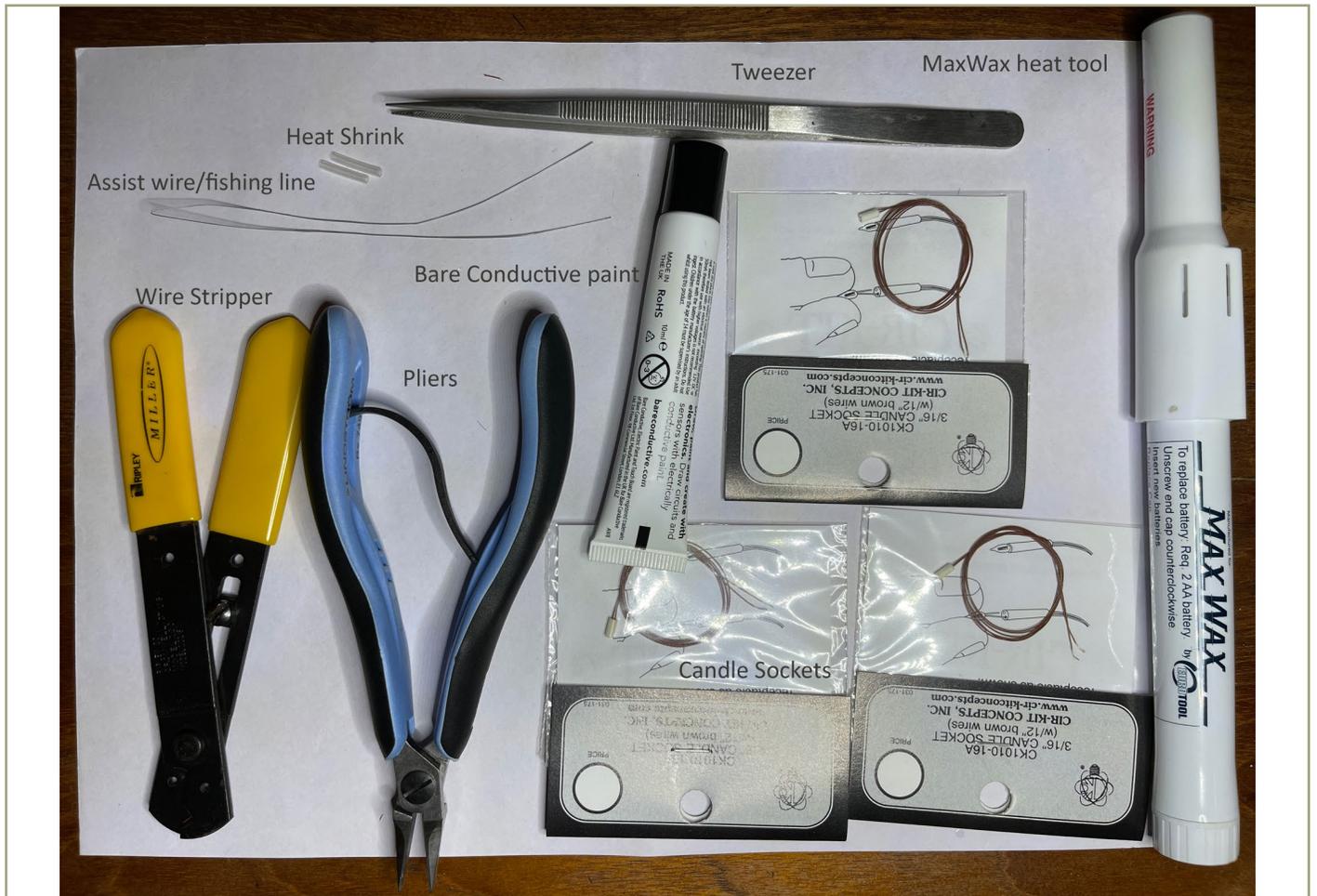
Vintaj Glaze to seal any parts where Goldfinger or Gilders paste is used as those tend to flake/transfer

Winsor Newton Sansodor to dilute thickened Gilders paste and make Goldfinger and True Metal more paint like. Sansodor is also awesome to dilute thickened Pebeo Vitrail glass paint.

**NOTE: If you give the entire base a really good coating of brown primer, you don't have to worry as much if you miss a spot here and there on the foliage. The primer in an earth color will still enhance the look of the base. If you opt to paint the wiring channels metallic, you will likely touch sections of the foliage. You can always paint over these with your acrylic paint. When painting, start from the most inaccessible sections and move towards the accessible ones.**

# Wiring your Lamp

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 toucan’s body, and does not burn too hot will work. If you absolute hate the process of wiring, you can always use the 3/16 candle socket holders sold by Cir-kit and found [here](#).



The image above will give you an overview of most of the tools needed to wire the lamp.



Double your assist wire and pass it through one of the three channels from below until it exits from the perch on top as shown.



Use the assist wire to gently pull you main electrical wire through the channel. Repeat these steps for the other two channels.

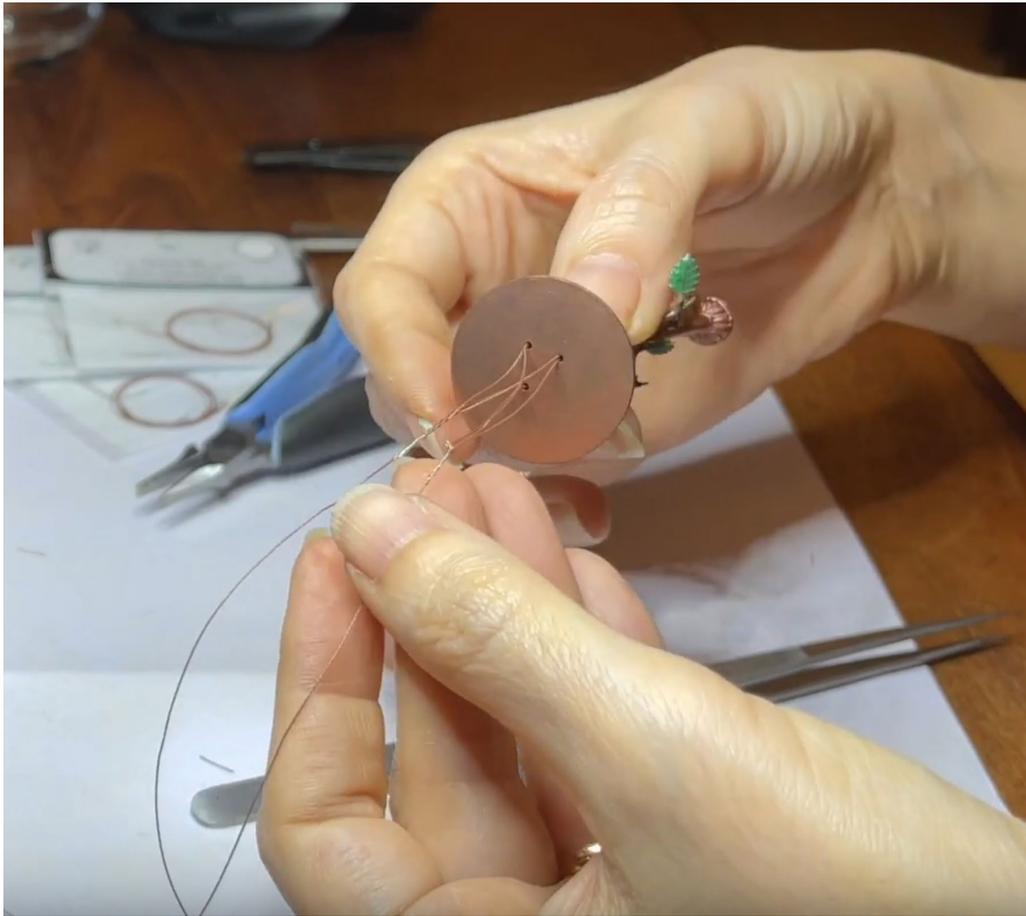


Measure (approximately) and cut the wires to a length of about 1 1/4 inch (3cm). Use your wire strippers to remove about 1 cm of insulation from the end.

Take one wire from each pair and form a bundle. Twist lightly. Take the remaining three wires and form a bundle, twist lightly. You should have two bundles comprising three wires each exiting from the base as shown in the photo below.

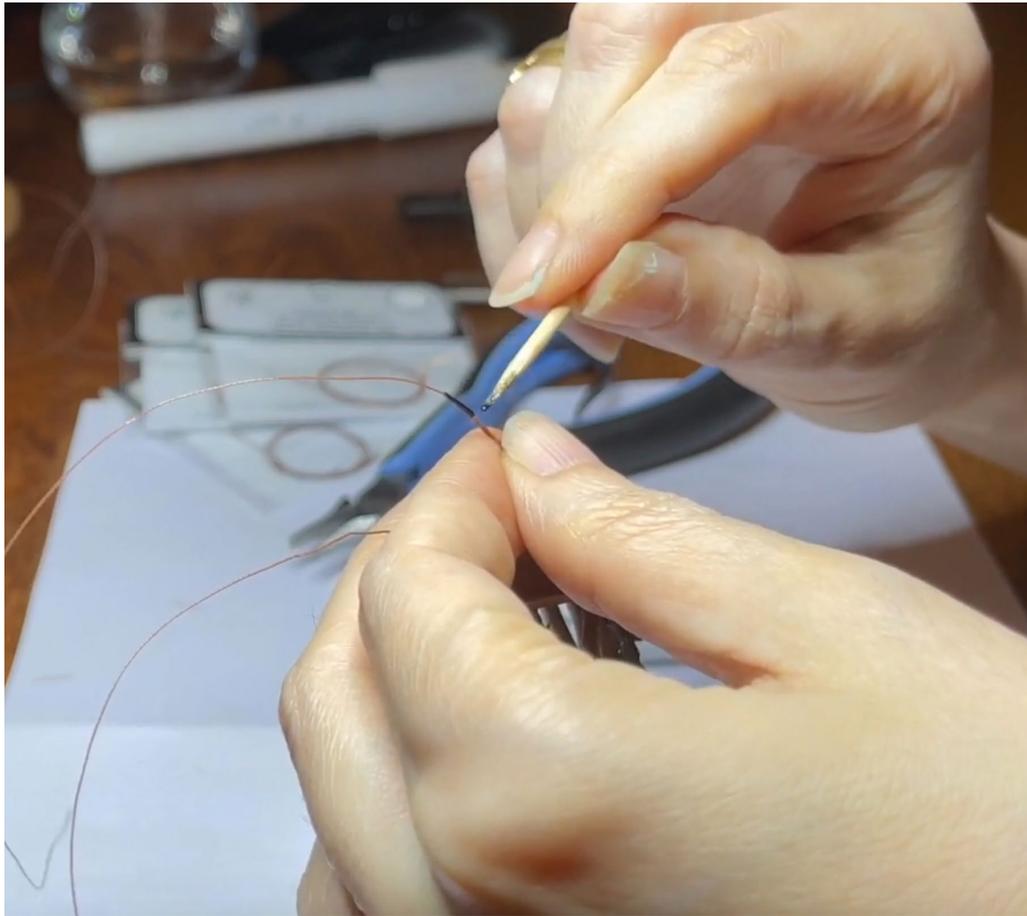
**NOTE: Take care to ensure that no bundle of wires contains two wires from the same bulb/holder. If you are careful about this your lamp WILL definitely light up. In case it does not, this is the step you want to check again.**





Take any two wires of the longer wires that you had cut off earlier and connect one to each bundle as shown. At this stage, you would want to test your connections by connecting to a 12V power source. If your bulbs light up then you've done great. If you are using candle holder sockets, you will need to insert your bi-pin bulbs into these now to test.

**NOTE:** Select a bi-pin bulb that slides in and out of the bird body easily. Cir-kit's CK1010-12 12V Micro-Flame Bulb w/wire terminals works well. You can find these [here](#).



Cover the exposed wire twisted joints with some bare conductive paint. Finally cover with heat shrink tubing and use a targeted heat source/thread burner to shrink the tubes. I have avoided using a heat gun because one cannot control the air and heat. If concentrated too long in a single area, it may warp the resin. If you do not have a thread burner, a soldering iron will work just as well. Make sure to stabilize the lamp and take care not to touch the heat source to any of the resin parts.

**NOTE: I love “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.**

You are almost home, all that remains is threading the two wires through the hole in the lower lamp base. The lower lamp base has a rim which fits the main lamp base. You should add a wee bit of temporary adhesive or wax to this section to keep the parts together. It is vital that you should have access to the wiring just in case a connection needs maintenance in the future.

If you prefer following a tutorial via video, I have put together a video for you as well. I think the video works best in conjunction with these instructions just in case something is not very clear in the video section.

You can view the video [here](#).



The final fun part is to seat the toucans on their perches and to turn on the lights. They fit reasonably well but I advise adding some temporary adhesive or wax for security.

Congratulations, you've made a fabulous lamp. I hope you enjoy what you have created.

# 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. I will definitely be adding different parrot themed lighting so you have other pieces to match your chandelier.

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!