

Candlemaking with Beeswax

Southeast Indiana Beekeepers Association

Tyson Hermes

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Introduction

- Tyson Hermes
 - Erlanger KY resident
 - Married to Julie, with 3 children
 - 15 Hives between 2 locations (Erlanger & Florence)
 - Beekeeping since 2010
- This is my method of making candles from a mold. There are hundreds of ways it can be done.

Beeswax Basics

- Melting point of 145 degrees
- Flashpoint of 400 degrees
- Precautions:
 - Never leave melting wax unattended
 - Have baking soda, fire extinguisher, or large lid handy
 - You may want to use a candy thermometer until you get used to the process.
 - If you are married, use wax paper or parchment paper to cover the surrounding area.
- Beeswax will melt and run if the candle is left unattended.

Candlemaking Supplies

- Silicone candle molds
- 60 ply wicks for larger candles
- 2/0 ply wicks for most candles
- Large pot/pan (Pot roast pan)
- Melting pot (Old sauce pan)
- Pouring container (Old percolator)
- Cheesecloth/ t-shirt/ canvas
- Clothespins

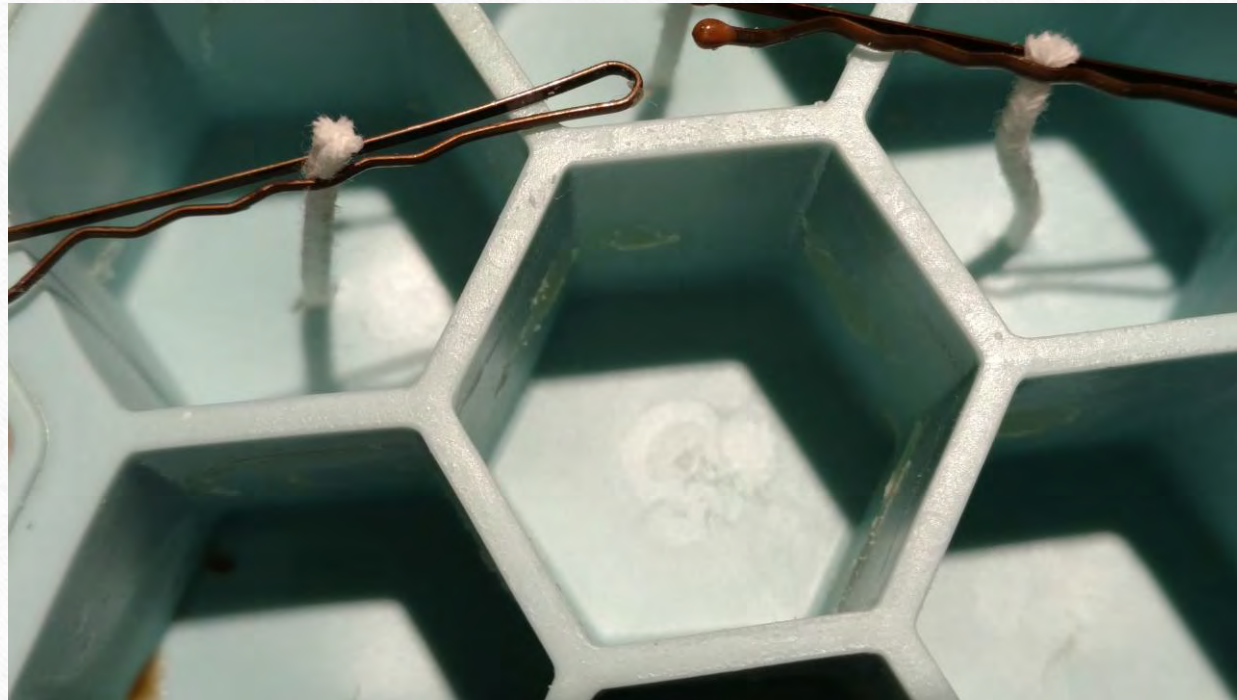


Prepping the Wax

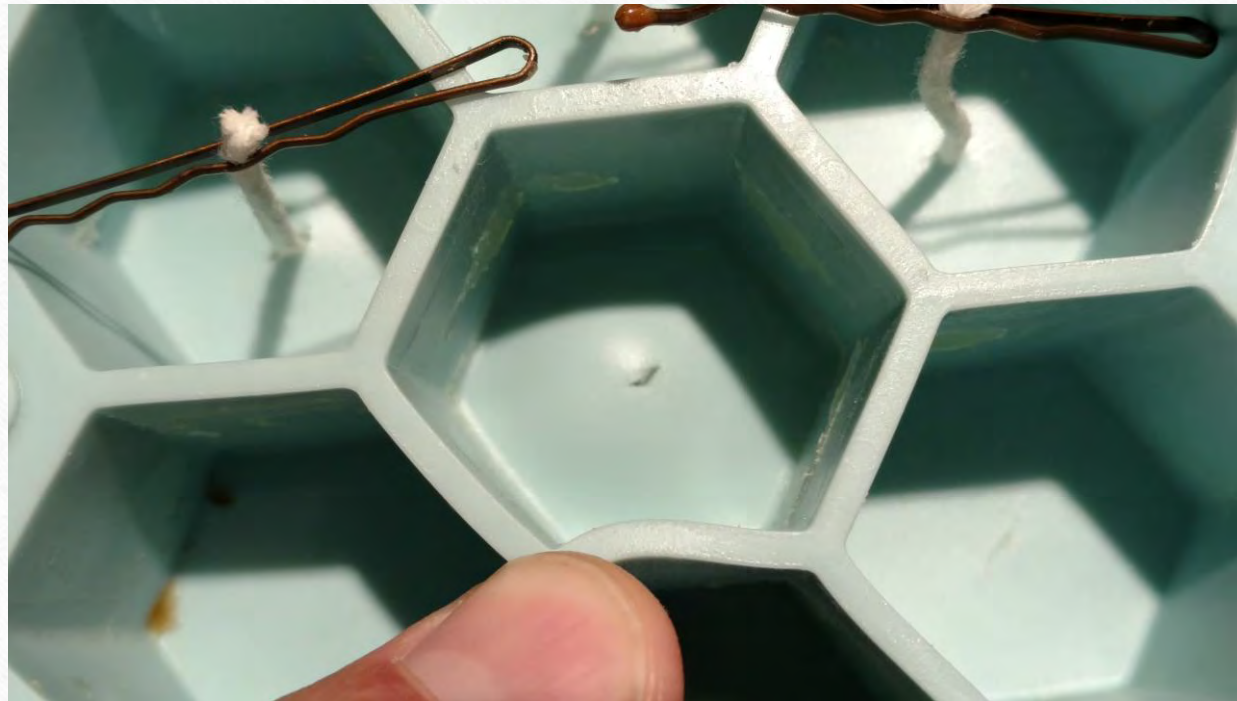
- Solar melter is preferable to save time. Use a terry-cloth towel
- Wax cappings are better than wax from culled frames.
 - New burr comb is also good.
- Melt it down and filter out the solid debris
 - Sauce pan in a larger pan of water to avoid hot spots & fire



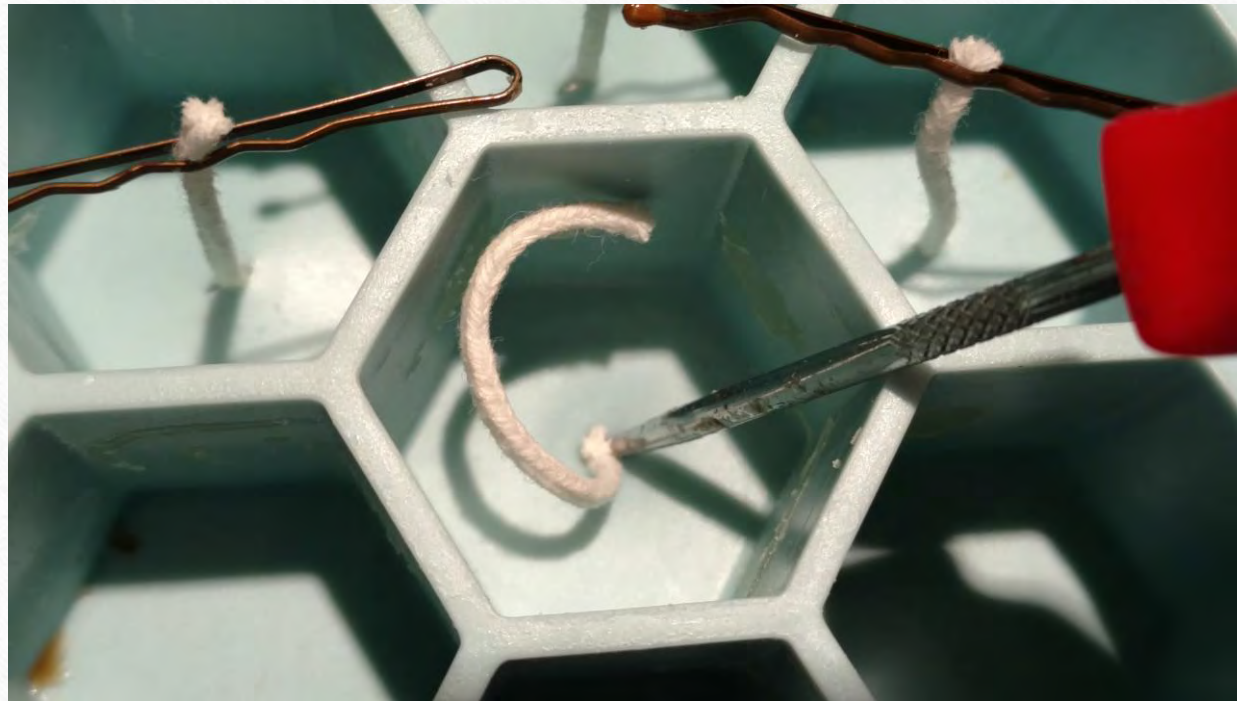
Prepping the Molds



Prepping the Molds



Prepping the Molds



Prepping the Molds



Candlemaking

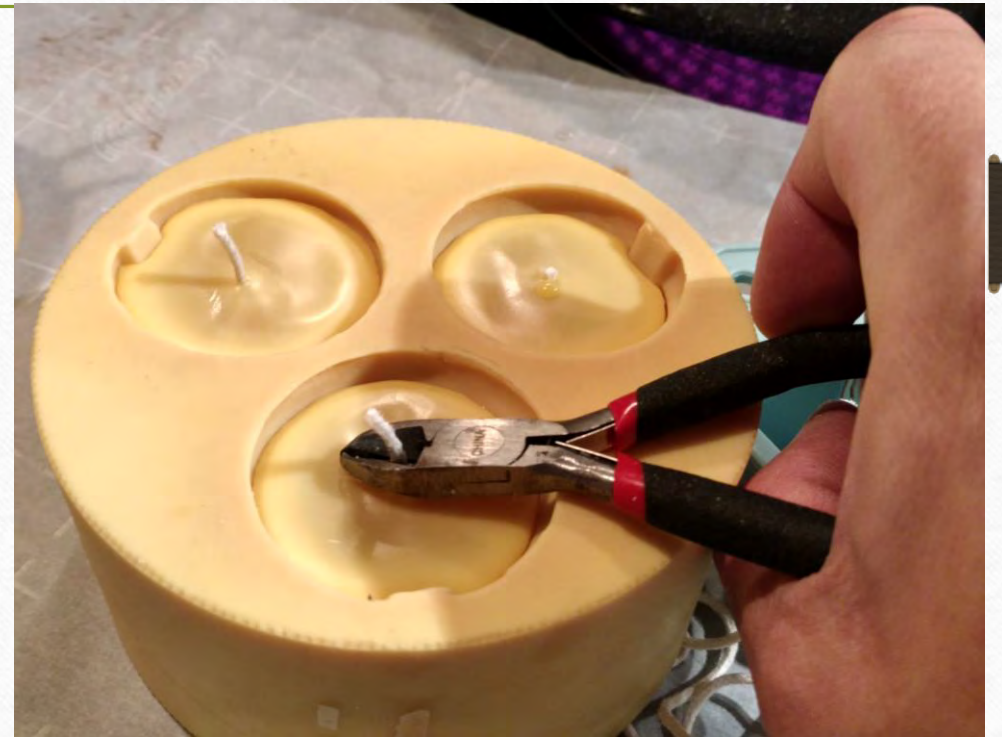
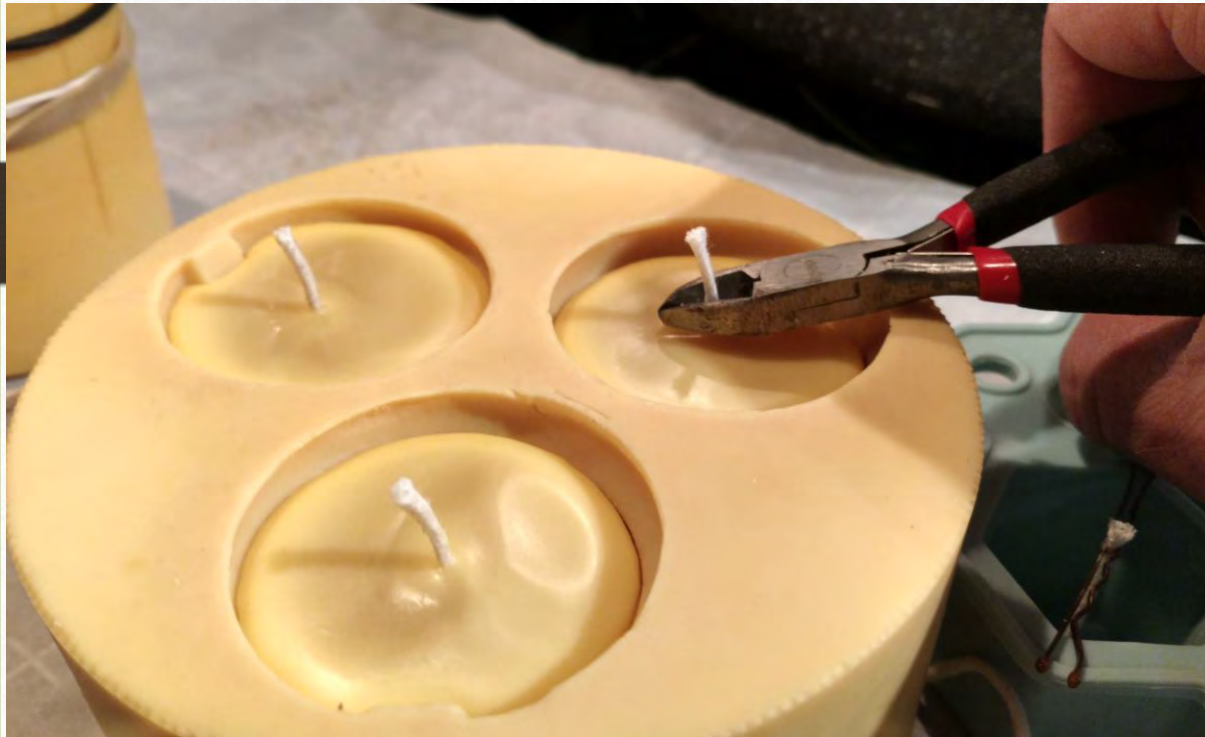
- Pour, and wait.
 - Cool at room temperature
 - Wax will shrink and crack if it cools too quickly



Candlemaking



Candlemaking



Candlemaking



Side Note: Foundationless Frames – 3 steps

- Michael Bush Theory
- Easy Foundationless Frames
 - Frames with a groove
 - Tongue Depressors



Foundationless Frames – Step 1

- Dip 2 tongue depressors in wax.



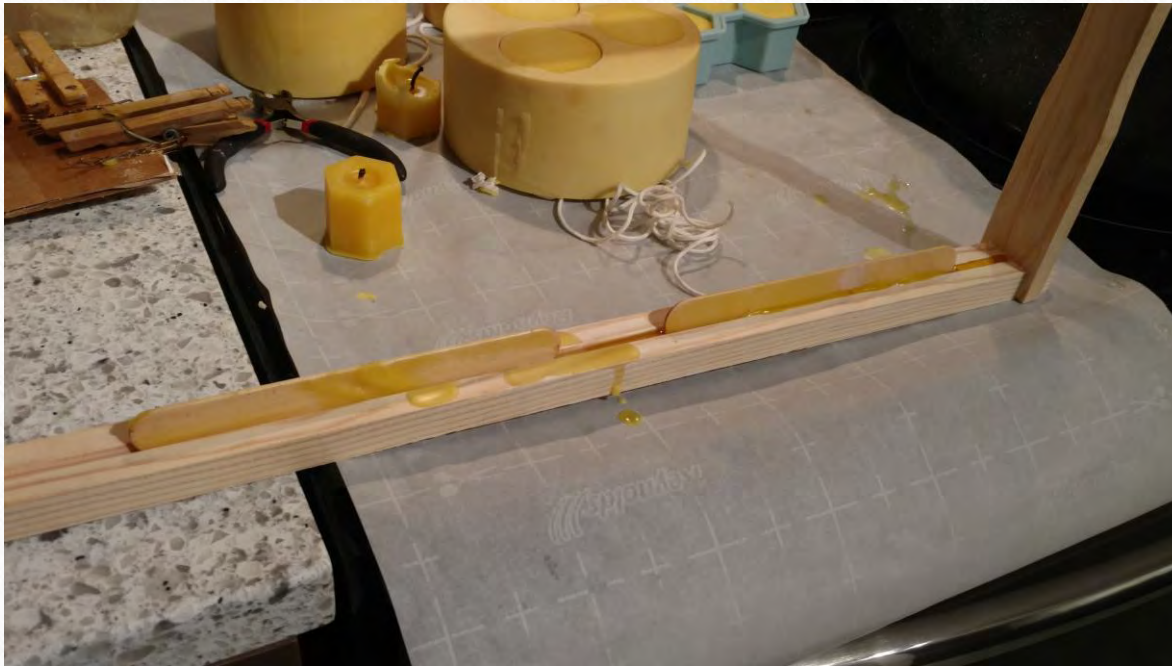
Foundationless Frames – Step 2

- Pour wax in groove.



Foundationless Frames – Step 3

- Insert tongue depressors in hot wax.



Foundationless Frames

- Good idea to mark the frame.



Foundationless Frames

- Pros
 - Cost
 - Natural
 - Decrease in Varroa?
- Cons
 - Careful handling
 - Hard to harvest unless it's comb honey.

Cleanup

- My key is using equipment that I don't use for cooking
- Wipe out water and wax while the pots & equipment are still hot.
- Hot water & towel.

Next Morning...



Trimming & Priming Wicks



Trimming & Priming Wicks



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Questions?

