

ENAMEL MUG CANDLE

fraser fir | fireside

Bring the coziness of a campfire indoors with this fun and simple enamel mug candle project. In this tutorial you'll learn how to determine wax weight, wick size and series, and dabble in some fragrance blending. These camping mug candles make the perfect holiday gift for friends and family and are a great addition for your holiday candle line.

MATERIALS:

Golden Brands 464 Soy Wax 10 lb Bag
CD 18 6" Pretabbed Wicks
Fireside Fragrance Oil 1 oz. Bottle
Fraser Fir Fragrance Oil 4 oz. Bottle
Wick Stickers Pro
Wick Bar 12 pc Bag
5 Inch Digital Thermometer
Warning Labels 2 Inch
Candle and Soap Scale
Small Pouring Pitcher

ADDITIONAL ITEMS NEEDED:

2 - Enamel Camping Mugs
Double boiler or hot plate
Metal spatula for stirring wax
Paper towels
Rubbing alcohol

DIRECTIONS

PART 1: DETERMINE MUG SIZE, WAX WEIGHT, AND WICK SIZE

This tutorial uses 12 oz. enamel mugs that we purchased from Amazon. Because we don't carry these containers, we need to figure out how much soy wax these mugs will hold. You can use this method with any candle container to determine how much wax you will need.

Place the empty mug on your scale, tare the weight, and pour water until it reaches the level you want your wax to reach. We generally recommend the wax fill level to be no less than ½" from the top of your container. The weight of the water is the weight you will need for your wax. For this particular mug, we need 11 oz. of wax.

To figure out the best wick series and size for our mugs, we consulted the Wick Guide www.candle-science.com/learning/wick-guide.

To use the Wick Guide, input the wax you're using and the diameter of your container. Our mug diameter measured at 3.25".

Select your wax and the range of your container diameter from the dropdown menu. We're using 464 soy wax and measured the mug diameter at 3.25", which falls into the "large" category. According to the Wick Guide, we need a CD 18 wick for our mug candles.



PART 2: MEASURE AND BLEND

In this tutorial, we're mixing things up a bit—literally! We decided to try a blend of two fragrances, Fraser Fir and Fireside, to get a well-rounded, outdoorsy scent with a hint of smokiness.

After testing our blend with blotter strips, we chose to use 75% Fraser Fir and 25% Fireside, or 3 parts to 1. We determined we need a total of 1.32 oz. of fragrance for our mug candles using this formula:

$$\text{(oz of wax using)} \times \text{(\% of fragrance oil you want to use)} = \text{(oz of fragrance oil needed)}$$

We're using a 6% fragrance load, but you can adjust up or down according to your preference.

If you're using our blend, weigh .99 oz. of Fraser Fir. (Feel free to round up to 1 oz.). Weigh .33 oz. of Fireside.

If you're only using one fragrance oil, weigh 1.32 oz. of your chosen fragrance oil.

PRO TIP: We recommend measuring these in separate containers in case you pour too much of your second fragrance. This makes it easy to pour back into the bottle without losing any oil to a botched blend.

Mix your fragrance oils together and set aside. This gives the oils time to incorporate before adding them to the wax.

PART 3: IT'S CANDLE TIME

Place the large pouring pitcher on your digital scale and tare the weight. Weigh 22 oz. of 464 soy wax in the large pitcher.

Begin to melt the 22 oz. of wax with a double boiler or on a hot plate.

While the wax melts, prepare the mugs. Wipe each mug out with a little isopropyl alcohol and a clean paper towel.

Center one CD 18 wick in the bottom of each mug and secure with a wick sticker.

When the wax reaches 185°F, add the fragrance you measured in Part 2 and remove from the heat. Stir gently but thoroughly for 2 minutes to make sure the fragrance binds fully with the wax.

When the wax has cooled to around 135°F, carefully pour it into the prepared mugs. Use a wick bar to center the wick while the candles cool. Allow the candles to cool completely.

PART 4: FINISH AND ENJOY

When your Camping Mug candles have set and cooled completely, trim the wick to a ¼" and add a warning label to the bottom.

Allow the candles to cure for 1-2 weeks before burning for optimal fragrance throw.

Congratulations! You just made your own Camping Mug candles with a custom scent blend. If you plan on displaying your Camping Mug candles in your home or giving them as gifts, add the special finishing touch of your own label. We designed this camp-inspired label in Avery WePrint—head over to avery.com/candle-science to get started designing your own and take 10% off your label order!

Did you make it? Show off your Camping Mug candles, and all your handmade creations, with the CandleScience community by tagging us @CandleScience and using the #CandleScientist hashtag on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We may feature you in our Stories or on our website!