

Clamshell Tart Making Kit Instructions

Start by gathering all the items you will need. The process will go much more smoothly if everything is readily accessible.

Items you will need:

Butcher Paper or Newspaper
Paper Towels
Utility Knife
Metal Spoon or Stir Stick
Sauce Pan
Pouring Pot *(Included in Clamshell Tart Making Kit)*
Thermometer *(Included in Clamshell Tart Making Kit)*
Wax for Tarts/Wax Chips *(Included in Clamshell Tart Making Kit)*
Fragrance Oil *(Included in Clamshell Tart Making Kit)*
Dye or Dye Blocks *(Included in Clamshell Tart Making Kit)*
Clamshell Molds *(Included in Clamshell Tart Making Kit)*
UV Stabilizer *(Optional)*

1. **Cover your work area with butcher paper or newspaper.** Spills or drips are most times unavoidable, and clean up is much easier if you don't have to clean wax off of your work surface.
2. **The amount of wax required should be weighed out.** Each cavity of the clamshell mold holds approximately .4 ounces of wax for a total of 2.4 ounces per mold. Cutting a harder wax such as a votive wax or tart wax can be a little tricky. It's best to score the wax with a utility knife. Then, apply pressure on the scored piece to help break the wax on the score. You may need to do this a few times to get the wax in small enough pieces to fit into the pouring pot. (Be careful not to cut yourself or smash your fingers while doing this.) The wax can be weighed in the pouring pot so you do not have to transfer it from a different container.
3. **The wax will need to be heated to 160° – 175° in a double boiler.** To create a double boiler, put about an inch of water in the sauce pan, and then place the pouring pot in the water. It is a good idea to add an inexpensive metal trivet or cookie cutter under the pouring pot to elevate it. Doing this ensures the wax is not receiving direct heat from any side. Adjust the heat to a medium-low setting. The water needs to be boiling, but it does not have to come to a rolling boil. If the water is at a rolling boil, it may splatter out of the pan. Check the temperature of the wax occasionally to make certain it is not getting too hot. Adjust the temperature as needed. While the wax is melting you can continue with the next steps, but make sure that the wax is never left unattended.
4. **Once the wax has reached the proper temperature, you are ready to add the fragrance oil.** (This tart wax included in the kit has a congeal point of 140°F). You can add 0.5 – 1.5 ounces of fragrance per pound of wax. It is most common to add 1 ounce of fragrance per pound of wax. The fragrance is most accurately measured by weight, but you can also use a tablespoon to measure it if the scale you have does not measure a small amount precisely. A tablespoon is equal to 0.5 ounce. Pour the fragrance into the wax and stir it.
5. **Next, add the desired amount of dye.** If using the dye blocks that are included in this kit, the block will melt into the wax more quickly if it is cut into small pieces. If using liquid dyes, just add the desired amount of drops. Since you can not remove dye once it has been added, it should be added sparingly, especially if you are trying to achieve a light color. You can always add a little more if it is not dark enough. After adding the desired amount, stir the mixture until it is blended thoroughly.

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6. **When you look at the liquid wax, it will usually look much darker than when it has completely cooled.** To test the color, you can drip a small amount of wax onto a paper plate or paper towel. Make sure not to drip the hot wax on your hands. Allow it to harden, and you will be able to see a more accurate representation of the color. You can then add more dye if desired.
7. **At this point, you can add UV stabilizer if you choose.** The addition of UV stabilizer will help keep the color from fading if the wax tarts are exposed to UV rays or fluorescent lighting. You would add about ½ teaspoon per pound of wax.
8. **Remove the pouring pot from the double boiler.** The handle of the pouring pot may heat up slightly, so be sure to use a hot pad or something to protect your hand. You may also want to set the pouring pot on a few paper towels to absorb the water from the double boiler. Stir the wax mixture occasionally. Let the wax mixture cool down to around 150°F-160°F before pouring.
9. **You are now ready to pour the wax mixture into the clamshell molds.** Slowly pour the wax into the clamshells making sure not to fill the cavities too much. If you pour too quickly, the wax may fill too quickly or splash up the sides of the plastic cavities. It is also important not to pour the wax mixture too hot as it will melt the plastic cavities of the clamshell molds. Recommended pouring temperature is 150°-155°F.
10. **The clamshell molds can now be left to completely cool.** It is best if you move them as little as possible so the wax does not slosh up the sides. Make sure there are no fans or air vents blowing directly on them since you do not want to accelerate the cooling process.
11. **When the clamshell tarts have completely set, you can close the lid on them carefully.**
12. **Now you can add unique labels to your finished product if you wish, including the fragrance name.** Although tarts do not require a wick like traditional candles, it still may be a good idea to put a label with specific burning instructions on the top or bottom of your finished product.

That's it! Enjoy!