Hello!

Thank you very much for your interest in Didacton’s Candle making course and for requesting your free sample lesson. You will find the example lesson after this introduction. We believe you will find it both informative as well as engaging, and that you will want to become part of our impressive group of students learning how to make your own candles. Whether you want to learn this as a hobby or for your business, our comprehensive, innovative training program will enable you to master the correct techniques within a short period of time.

Classes are available online, with options for self-tuition / independent study (a term that means you study on your own, without assistance of a teacher/instructor), or a course of study that includes access to instructor feedback. As a student, you have the freedom to choose the program that best meets your needs and you can study anywhere on your laptop, computer, tablet or mobile phone. You also have the possibility to print the course. Everyone can benefit from our detailed 20-lesson course with step by step guidance and explanations.

After exploring the elements of this sample lesson, we are certain you will want to become part of our widely respected Didacton-educated candle making community. With the knowledge you possess as a Didacton-trained student, you are going to impress your friends and family with your skills!
The Candle making course consists of the following 20 lessons:

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Equipment and setup</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dye, scent, wax and wick types</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tea lights</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mixing dyes</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Scenting candles with essential oils</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Make your own wax melter</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Solid and zoned taper candles</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Twist and braid tapers (the example lesson)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Jar candles</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Birthday candles</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We would like to help you achieve these skills. See the [course page](#) for all the details of the candle making course.

The example lesson is next. Enjoy reading it. Whenever you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

The Didacton Team
Lesson 8: Twist and Braid Tapers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.1 Introduction</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2 Ribbon candle</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3 Adding multiple colors to a ribbon candle</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4 Double wick twisted candle</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5 Double wick double color twist candle</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.6 Triple wick braided candle</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.7 Summary</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.8 Reading review questions</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.9 Reflective Questions</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.10 Exercises</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.11 Assignments</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.12 To Be Handed in for Grading</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Lesson 7, you learned the basics of hand dipping candles as well as a number of advanced techniques that can be used to add color for added visual appeal. Despite all these techniques, there are still many more ways to work with tapers. In particular, you can bend the candle into twists, braids, curves, and other interesting forms. This includes using multiple wicks, colors, and design elements. In this lesson you will learn how to create:

- a single wick twist candle
- a double wick twist candle
- a triple wick braid candle (that can also be made as a single wick candle)

**Tools and Materials**

- Wax melter
- Rolling Pin
- Candle cooling rack
- Knife
- Hanging clips for wicks
- Wax
- Candle wicks
- Wax dyes
- Tin foil or stencils
The Ribbon Candle is one of the easiest and most versatile twist candles that you can work with. In order to create the basic candle:

Step 1: Follow the steps in Lesson 7 for making a basic candle. Make the candle as thick as you wish.

Step 2: Hold the candle in the wax for 2 – 3 seconds. When you remove the candle from the wax, it should be easy to bend.

Step 3: Lay the candle out on a flat surface. You can cover the surface with a plastic bag or anything else that wax will not adhere to.

Step 4: Take a rolling pin and flatten out the candle as quickly as you can. If the wax is too cold, then cracks will develop. You can try to save the candle by re-immersing in hot wax; however you will be better off starting over. In addition, at first, you may have to push down on the candle as opposed to simply rolling up and down the candle. If you have too many problems, try flattening the candle out with your fingers before using the rolling pin.
Step 5: After the candle is flattened out, you are likely to see that the candle sides are not perfectly straight. Use a knife to straighten out the sides.

Step 6: If you see the wick running down the center on either side of the candle, pick it up and dip it in the wax as you would a normal round taper. Keep dipping the candle until enough wax builds up to cover the wick, however not so much that the “ribbon” becomes too thick.

Step 7: Once again, place the candle in hot wax for several seconds to soften up the wax.

Step 8: Remove the candle from the wax and use your fingers to quickly twist the ribbon. You can create any number of twist designs. This includes banana curls as well as twists that go in opposite directions. It is up to you to choose the direction of the twists as well as the tightness of it.

Step 8 Options: At this stage you can also simply push and pull on the ribbon to create a curved effect. This includes making “S” shapes and layered shapes that require bending along the flat planes. Needless to say, you may also want to try combining twists, curves, and all sorts of other variations. It should be noted that the wax may cool and harden before you are done creating a twisted design. In order to reduce problems as much as possible, try to work from the wick downward. At the very least, if you wind up having to re-immerses the candle in hot wax, you won’t have to immerse all of it, and thus risk losing or ruining work that you have already completed.
Step 9: Once you are done shaping the candle, you are bound to notice irregularities and other little imperfections. Simply dip the candle once or twice more in hot wax in order to soften those areas and help them blend in. You can also run your fingers over bumpy areas to smooth them out, and then dip back in the wax to create a uniform surface.

Step 10: Once you are done bending and twisting the wax, you should be able to hang the candle up to cool without worrying about it losing its shape. That being said, if the wax is very soft, then you may have to hold the candle for a few moments or dip it in cold water to make sure the wax cools faster.

8.3 Adding Multiple Colors to a Ribbon Candle

Chances are, you won’t want to spend all you time creating relatively drab single colored ribbon candles. Fortunately, creating multiple color designs is as easy as it was for creating multiple colored tapers. It should be noted that using zoned tapers will not work as well because there is no telling how the wax will split apart during the flattening process. On the other hand, using tin foil to shield certain areas from hot wax will most certainly work. You can also use stencils and tape to make additional shapes that will be demarcated by secondary and tertiary colors. Just follow the instructions in Lesson 7 for designer candles and apply them to the ribbon shape. In addition, if you haven’t used the Tea Light color testing system presented in Lesson 4, you may want to return to it and see if you can use it to create color combinations for your ribbon candles (and others covered in this lesson.)

A Note about Burning Ribbon Candles

If you visit your favorite department store, you aren’t likely to find a taper holder that will readily accommodate a flattened candle. Despite that, there are several options you can work with. My personal favorite is to take some tin foil and make a loose ball with it. Next, gently push the bottom of the candle into the tin foil. Finally, go ahead and form the tin foil around the base of the candle. Make sure that the tin foil base is large enough to prevent the candle from tipping over.

Once you have the base of the candle secured, you can use a votive holder, bowl, or even a candle plate for burning the candle. If you don’t like the sight of the aluminum foil, then go ahead and cover this area with pebbles, fire safe glass, or other non-flammable decorations.

Individuals that enjoy working with plaster may also want to make a base that can be used to accommodate ribbon candles. Just bear in mind that every candle will be a little bit different. In
addition, you would need to use fire retardant paint on the plaster in order to avoid problems as the candle burns at the bottom. Unfortunately, leaving plaster bare is also not the best option, since the wax from the candle will drip all over the plaster. While you may be able to remove some of it, the rest will stain the plaster and cause an unsightly mess in a short period of time.

Finally, it should be noted that I don’t recommend creating a wax plug inside a votive holder or a taper holder, and then simply sticking the completed ribbon candle into that. Using this method can create a very unstable candle because the wick will not extend all the way to the bottom. In addition, if the candle drips a lot, you can easily cause a wax spill or other problems that will pose a fire hazard.

8.4 Double Wick Twist Candle

Step 1: Follow Steps 1 and 2 for creating a Ribbon Candle.

Step 2: After you pull the candle from the hot wax, quickly grab the bottom of the candle and fold the entire candle in half.

Step 3: Grab the top and bottom of the candle in one hand.

Step 4: Use your other hand to twist the candle at the lowest part of the loop.
Step 5: Continue twisting the candle until the twists are evenly distributed throughout the candle. You can make the twists tighter or looser in accordance with what appeals to you.

Step 6: Dip the candle once or twice more in hot wax in order to seal up the candle and give it a more uniform appearance.

Step 7: After the candle cools completely, take a knife and cut the bottom of the candle so that it is flat. You should also cut away enough of the wick so that you see two separate wicks on the bottom of the candle. Allowing the wick to stay connected at the bottom can pose a serious fire hazards. At the very least, when you cut the connection between the two wicks, each side will burn down to its own melt pool instead of crossing over the wax.

Notes for Burning the Double Wick Twist Taper Candle
It is very important to realize that the Double Wick Twist Taper Candle has two wicks that run the entire length of the candle. If the wicks are too close together, it can cause the two flames to unite and produce a fire hazard. Therefore, when working with this design, you should carefully research the wax type you are using. In particular, make sure that you know how large a melt pool will be made based on the wick type that you plan to use. From there, you can use that information to determine a safe distance between each wick, and also how thick each section of the candle needs to be.
Unlike finding a suitable holder for Ribbon Candles, you will find it fairly easy to use a standard taper holder for Double Wick Twist candles. All you will need to do is trim the bottom section of the taper so that it fits snugly into the holder. When trimming, try not to take away material that acts as a buffer between the two wicks.

**8.5 Double Wick, Double Color Twist Candle**

Step 1: Start off by completing Step 1 for the Double Wick Twist Candle.

Step 2: Dip the lower half of the candle in a different colored wax.

Step 3: Immerse the lower half of the candle in the second wax color and bend the candle in half as soon as it is soft enough.

Step 4: Quickly remove the candle from the hot wax and immerse for 1 – 2 seconds in cold water. The objective here is to stabilize the second color so that it does not shed off due to excessive heat. Make sure that the candle remains bent in half.

Step 5: Place the top half of the candle in hot wax that is the same color as the upper half. At the same time, place the lower half of the candle in hot wax that is the same color as the lower half. You will need to place the two cans as close together as possible in order to preserve the bend in the middle of the candle.

Step 6: Let both halves of the candle sit in hot wax long enough to make the wax pliable.

Step 7: Remove the candle from both cans of wax and quickly twist the candle as you would for Step 4 and 5 of the Double Twist Taper Candle.
Step 8: Unless you want to create a candle with a frosted look, you will not be able to immerse the candle into wax for a final seal. It is better to twist the candle a bit tighter so that you do not lose the colors.

Step 9: If the wax is too hot, you may notice that some of each color will rub off on the other side of the candle. After it cools completely, use a knife to gently scrape off these unwanted bits of color. Typically, they won't actually damage the surface of the candle. They should also peel right off with a minimal amount of difficulty.

Step 10: After the candle cools completely, take a knife and cut the bottom of the candle so that it is flat. As with the Double Wick Twist Candle, don't forget to cut away enough of the wick so that you see two separate wicks on the bottom of the candle. Allowing the wick to stay connected at the bottom can pose a serious fire hazards. When you cut the connection between the two wicks, each side will burn down to its own melt pool instead of crossing over the wax.

8.6 Triple Wick Braided Candle

There are two different ways to create the Triple Wick Braided Candle. The first method will result in three separate wicks remaining in the candle. The second method will leave you with just one wick. You will need to decide which option you are going to use so that you can create the appropriate overall thickness for the candle. It should also be noted that you can use this method with just two wicks in order to create twist candle with just one wick.

Method 1:

Step 1: Hand dip three separate candles as you would for the basic taper in Lesson 7. As with the Double Wick Twist Candle, make sure that the tapers are thick enough to prevent flames from each wick from combining with the others.

You can use different colors or make each of the candles the same color. Remember that these candles will be woven into a braid, so make sure that the colors will complement each other. That being said, it is highly recommended that you start off with just one color. As you become more comfortable with braiding tapers, you will find it much easier to work with multiple colors.
Step 2: Take each candle and hold it in hot wax for a few seconds. The wax should be pliable enough to bend easily, but not so soft that the entire candle falls apart. (Usually I like the wax to be just a bit softer than what I use for Ribbon and Double Twist Candles.)

Step 3: Lay out all three candles on a surface that will not allow wax to adhere to it.

Step 4: Squeeze the top of the candles together so that the wicks are as close together as possible.

Step 5: Work quickly to form the braid. This part is no different from braiding yarn, string, or hair. Just bear in mind that the wax will be very greasy. Keep a towel or rag on hand to wipe your hands so that it does not become too frustrating. During this process, you may need to re-immers the tapers back into the hot wax. Hold the tapers and support the completed areas as best as you can so that the braid does not become undone.

Step 6: After you form the basic braid, go back over each section to tighten the candle up as much as possible.

Step 7: If you are using just one color, dip the candle once or twice more into hot wax to seal off the candle and also smooth out any bumps.
Step 8: After the candle cools completely, you will need to trim the bottom so that the candle can be placed in a taper holder. If the candle is on the thick side, you may be better off placing it in a votive holder or use a temporary aluminum foil base as you would for a ribbon candle.

Method 2:

Step 1: Once again, you will need to start off by dipping three separate taper candles. You can use the same process as you would for a basic taper in Lesson 7 for one of the tapers used in this braid. Bear in mind that this candle will only have one wick, so you only need to create a candle that is 1/3 the normal thickness. After you complete this candle, set it aside on the cooling rack.

Step 2: (For the other two tapers used in the braid). You will need a wick that is about twice as long as the one used for the first candle. (As you gain experience with this method, you may be able to use less wick material). Hold the wick so that it forms a loop where the bottom would go.

Step 3: Dip and cool the candle 3 – 5 times.

Step 4: Lay the candle down and straighten out the wick. Remove wax from the lower portion (the area that is not meant to be part of the candle).

Step 5: Fold the wick back up and repeat Step 3.

Step 6: Repeat Step 4

Step 7: By this time, the candle should be thick enough so that you have a good bit of wax built up on the wick.

Step 8: Lay the candle back down, and gently grab it in the center region.
Step 9: Grab the wick from the bottom of the candle and pull on it. The wax should still be warm enough in the central region to enable the wick to pull through.

Step 10: Once the wick starts to move, gently pull it all the way to the bottom of the candle and out. Set the wick aside so that you can re-use it to create the final taper for the braid.

Step 11: Continue dipping the now wickless taper until it is the same thickness as the first taper for the braid.

Step 12: Follow Steps 2 through 11 to complete the third taper. When you are done pulling the wick out from the final taper, you can set it aside and reuse it for another candle or simply keep it on hand to make more braided candles.

Step 13: Once all three tapers are complete, immerse them all at the same time in hot wax. Each of the tapers should be pliable enough to bend and braid easily. As with method one, I tend to prefer the tapers to be a bit softer than what I would use for a Ribbon Candle or Double Wick Twist Candle.

Step 14: Lay out all three tapers on a surface that wax will not adhere to. This time, pinch together all three tapers in the top region. You will only have one wick, so try to form the wax so that all three are evenly distributed around it.

Step 15: Follow Steps 5 – 8 for Method 1. Since this candle will be much thinner than the form for Method 1, you will most likely be able to trim the bottom down enough to fit into a standard taper holder. Just make sure that the candle does not wind up being top heavy.

A Note About Burning Candles Created Using Method 2:
Since the braids can become unstable, I recommend burning the candle with a large enough plate under it, or at least some sand so that any pieces that happen to fall will not land on a flammable surface.
Alternative Braid Designs
If you do some research, you will find that there are many different ways to generate a braid. As long as the braid does not require knots or more than 5 – 6 strands, you should be able to turn it into a candle. That being said, you will most likely need to use Method 2 for anything more than three strands or tapers. Just remember that each taper will have to be thinner based on the melt pool generated by the combination of the wick and wax type. For example, if you are braiding 4 tapers, each individual taper would be 1/4 of the total thickness. It should also be noted that thinner braids will require less softening time prior to braiding. You may also find that a slightly less pliable braid will be of some use as you approach 5 and 6 braids since the thinness of these braids will make them more prone to falling apart during the wick removal and braiding processes.

Designer Braid Candles
Even though the Braided Taper Candle does not have as smooth a surface as other dipped tapers, you can still add a good bit of style to it. This includes using tape instead of aluminum foil to create a range of patterns. Since this candle will have a relatively wide surface to work with, you can work with stencil designs as well as the classic striped patterns. In addition, if you find that an area needs to be smoother to accommodate a pattern, you can use a knife to smooth it out. Even though this may interfere with the overall braid pattern, it may still suit your overall artistic goals or the theme that you are working on.

8.7 Summary
In this lesson, you learned how to take a basic taper candle and shift it to a whole new level of creativity. Twisted and braided candles offer a whole new arena of exploration that can give you plenty of room to develop your candle making skills as well as develop a range of signature designs. From themed birthday tapers to romantic dinner candles, you are sure to find many places where a twist or braided taper will add just the right accent.

8.8 Reading Review Questions
1. If you are going to create a braided candle with 5 tapers or “strands”, what fraction should each of the tapers be in relation to the total thickness of the candle?

2. What are the Pros and Cons of creating multiple-wick tapered candles?
3. What is the main difference between Method 1 and Method 2 for creating braided candles?

8.9 Reflective Questions

How many times have you looked at ordinary tapers and found yourself wishing they had a slightly different shape or color pattern? Which techniques presented in this lesson would you use to make tapers for these occasions?

8.10 Exercises

Consider a situation where you are planning to throw a surprise party (not necessarily a birthday party). What colors or themes are you planning to use for the party? Choose three of the main colors and think about how you can use twist tapers to represent both the theme and the color scheme.

8.11 Assignments

Dip at least three tapers. Take each one and practice figuring out when the wax is pliable enough for twisting and braiding. Experiment with at least two other different wax types and make note of your observations. You should hand dip a total of five candles to complete this assignment.

8.12 To be handed in for Grading

Personal Research Essay:
Do some research on braids and twist designs. You may use rope braid patterns as well as those used in hair braiding. Choose at least three different braid patterns. In your essay, define each braid pattern and indicate why you think it can be used to generate an appealing taper candle. Your essay should also include pictures of yarn based practice braids that you create on your own using the braids of interest to you.

Image Essay:
Choose at least one twist taper technique and create at least three dipped tapers using it. Next, choose one taper and use designer techniques to add stripes or other patterns. Your pictures should include step by step images to show how you developed the candle from start to finish.