

# Hanukkah Menorah

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following information comes from World Over Magazine, published by the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York).

With the start of Hanukkah on December 14th, windows in Jewish homes throughout the world will be enhanced by the glow of Hanukkah Menorahs. The Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York's World Over Magazine offers some background on the tradition of lighting the Menorah.

Each year, on the 25th of Kislev on the Jewish calendar, the Menorah or Hanukkah is brought out, polished and cleaned, and placed on the window sill for the neighborhood to see.

Although the original Menorahs were kindled with oil and wicks, today's candles are the more familiar source of light. The lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah, which is such a treat for children, will be even more of a treat when the candles are homemade. This candle-dipping recipe, which parents and children can make together, also comes from the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York's World Over

Magazine.

For the candle - dipping you will need:  
paraffin  
cotton string or store-bought candle wicks  
newspaper  
cooking pot  
tall tin can (should fit comfortable in pot)  
fork  
scissors.

1. Candle-dipping can be messy. Spread newspaper around where you will be working.

2. Fill the can about 2/3 full of water and place it in the pot. Fill the pot about 1/2 full of water and put over medium heat.

3. As the water in the pot and can begins to boil, add chunks of paraffin to the can until the can is nearly full. Wax is lighter than water, and as it melts, it will form a layer on top of the water.

4. For candle-dipping, the melted wax must be at just the right temperature; not too hot, or the wax will slide off the wick; not too cool, or the wax will be too thick for dipping. You'll have to find the right temperature by trial and error. In general, turn down the heat to a low setting once the wax has melted, or else turn it off. (If you turn the heat off, make sure the wax does not begin to thicken).

5. Cut a piece of cotton string or wicking material at least twice as long as the can is high, and weave the string between the prongs of a fork, leaving the ends dangling.

6. Holding the fork handle, dig the dangling wicks into the can until they touch bottom. As the wicks pass through the layer of molten wax, the wax will be deposited on them. Pull the wicks out of the can and wait for the wax to harden. Be sure to keep the two wicks separated.

7. Continue to dip, always letting the wax harden between dippings. After a few dippings, the wicks may need to be straightened, but as the wax builds up, the candles will become quite stiff and straight on their own. Dip the wicks quickly in and out of the wax until the candles are the thickness you want. It takes many dippings - sometimes fifty - before the candle is fat. (You may quicken the process by filling a tall pitcher with cold water and alternately dipping the candles between the wax and the water).

8. When your candles are complete, they will have the connecting wick between them. Snip the loop with a scissors and trim the wicks to about half - an - inch.

9. Now, LIGHT THE WAY!



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