

Altered *bits*

How to Create Wax-Topped Specimen and Apothecary Bottles



This is an extremely easy process and is both fun and super cool looking. To start, you will need:

- a bottle of any sort, filled with your specimen(s), or whatever you're using (there are lots of little bottles on the Altered Bits site).
- natural beeswax and something to melt it in
- acrylic paint (burnt umber is used above)
- a paintbrush
- a baby wipe or other moist wiping device
- some sort of scraper can be a carving tool, a super-sharp pencil, a thick needle, etc.

Once your bottle is filled and corked (or capped if that's what you'd doing), melt some beeswax. When thoroughly melted, dip the top of your bottle into the wax to cover it, and let it cool. Keep dipping the top into the wax and letting it solidify until you feel it's built up enough. I typically dip about four or five times. Set aside and let it dry for about ten minutes.

With your carving tool (or needle or whatever you've opted to use), carve some random scratch marks into the wax. Pierce it, puncture it, and carve it to give it an old or aged look. Remove all little waxy remnants.

Now whip out your paint and paintbrush. Brush it all over the wax, taking extra care to get it into the grooves and divots in the wax. Now wipe the paint off of the smooth parts of wax the paint will stay pooled in the scratches, cracks and divots and look really quite cool.

You're done!