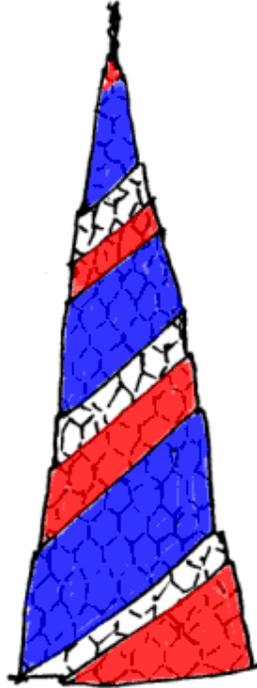


## Making a spiral candle



These candles can be made without melting the wax, so it is safe for you to do on your own. They are made from sheets of beeswax foundation which are thin wax sheets that have been embossed with a hexagon pattern. Beekeepers use it to

encourage the bees to build their combs in a frame which can be easily be removed from the hive. To obtain beeswax foundation look for suppliers on the web.

To cut the foundation, you should put it on a hard cutting board and use a sharp knife or, better still a pastry cutting wheel, which you draw along the edge of a ruler. The wax sheets will roll best if slightly warm. It is a good idea to put them in an airing cupboard or near a warm radiator for about half an hour before you start. A hair drier on its warm setting can be used to warm the wax but be careful not to over heat it as it will melt.

Standard beeswax foundation comes in the natural colour of beeswax. To make a **patriotic** spiral beeswax candle buy sheets of red, white and blue coloured beeswax foundation.

To make the candle, you need:-

One triangle of each colour (red, white and blue) beeswax foundation cut to the size shown in the picture.

An 18 cm. length of No.2 wick. This is suitable for a solid beeswax candle of 2,5 cm. diameter.

A British standard sheet of beeswax foundation will cut into four such triangles, so, with one sheet of each colour you could make four candles.

Stack all three triangles on top of each other keeping the straight edges flush. Place the wick about 3 cm. inside along the 20 cm. edges, and fold the edge of the top sheet firmly over the wick so that it is well embedded. Now fold the other 2 two coloured sheets in turn over this, so that you have a pencil shaped cylinder at the end.

Place your fingers firmly over this as shown in the picture, and roll the candle up, pressing the wax together gently as you do so. The layers of different coloured wax will separate forming a spiral.

You can make a pair of candles with the twist in opposite directions. This can look quite effective.

