

# Oak Court Creations

## SoapPetal Instructions

### Materials needed:

- ❖ Silk flower petals and/or leaves
- ❖ Clear Melt and Pour soap base\*
- ❖ Double boiler – suggested: Pyrex measuring cup in a double boiler or deep saucepan large enough to hold Pyrex cup, or a traditional double boiler able to be devoted to fragranced projects
- ❖ Dipping Tool – chopsticks or long-handled tweezers
- ❖ Soap-safe Fragrance Oil
- ❖ Wire cooling rack, parchment paper, or waxed paper
- ❖ Spoon large enough to stir soap base
- ❖ OPTIONAL – Cosmetic Glitter or Mica (to add sparkle)
- ❖ OPTIONAL – Soap-safe liquid colorant, if you wish to tint the soap base before dipping petals

\*A pound of base will dip at least 200-300 petals, depending on their size.

- 1) Melt soap base in double boiler on the stove (see above). Make sure larger pot holds enough water to come up past the level of soap base in the Pyrex cup. Bring water to a full simmer. OR Melt base slowly in the microwave using low to medium power depending on your oven's wattage (covered with vented plastic wrap) – then put the melted base into the double boiler to keep it at the proper temperature. OR Melt base in crockpot on low heat.
- 2) Add fragrance oil to melted soap base (we recommend approx. ½ ounce – or roughly 1 Tbsp.) of fragrance per pound of soap base, for very fragrant petals.
- 3) OPTIONAL – if you wish to add cosmetic glitter or mica (especially pretty on darker colors like burgundy and red!), do so at this point.
- 4) OPTIONAL – if you wish to tint the soap base (for example, if you'd like to dip white petals in base tinted to match a bathroom or bridesmaids' dresses), add soap-safe liquid colorant now.
- 5) VERY IMPORTANT – if you will be dipping several colors of petals in the same batch of soap base, ALWAYS dip starting with the lightest colors and work one color at a time, dipping in order of the colors from lightest to darkest. Some petal colors may bleed slightly into the soap base, so working from light to dark will avoid altering the color of the later batches of petals if that happens.
- 6) Add a handful (probably a dozen or so) of petals to the melted soap base and stir gently – vigorous stirring will make lots of bubbles in the soap, which aren't very attractive on the finished petals. 😊
- 7) Using your chopsticks or tweezers, remove one petal at a time from the soap. Allow the petal to drip off as much liquid as possible – you want only a thin, sheer coating of soap on the petal to give it gloss and give enough soap for one hand washing. Too much soap base on the petals will result in unattractive drips and flat spots, also.

- 8) Once the petal has stopped dripping, drag the petal very lightly against the edge of the Pyrex cup (or the spoon handle, or the edge of the crockpot) to remove as much excess soap base as possible. If you find petals that have stuck together after they've already hardened, just put them back into the soap base – they'll melt apart and you can re-dip them. There's no waste making SoapPetals ... any mistakes can simply be re-dipped.
- 9) If you notice lots of extra soap base hardening on your dipping tool (or the spoon handle, or the edge of the crockpot), just scrape it back into the Pyrex cup and let it re-melt. If the container of soap base forms a skin on the top, push it aside and continue dipping. If the skin consistently re-forms, this is a sign that you need to bring the soap base back to a higher temperature (by turning up the stove heat or putting the lid back on the crockpot for a few minutes) – it's getting too cool to dip well.
- 10) Lay finished petals gently on a wire cooling rack, cup side up, to dry. If you don't have a cooling rack, you can dry them on a sheet of parchment paper or waxed paper – you'll just have more flat spots on the backsides of the petals (and who looks at the backsides, anyway???). As they're drying, if you see any large gloppy drips, use a fingernail or grapefruit spoon to pull them off and drop them back into the melted soap base.
- 11) As soon as petals are completely dry and cool enough to handle safely, loosen them from the wire racks (yes, they may tend to stick a little). Allow to cool completely.
- 12) Store finished petals in an airtight container or zip-top plastic bag until you package them - soap base attracts moisture from the air and tends to "sweat".
- 13) If you stop dipping for any reason (for example, if you've filled your racks and the first petals aren't completely cooled so you can bag them), make sure to cover your melted soap base with a piece of plastic wrap. This helps to prevent the formation of a "skin" on top of the melted soap base.

#### **Packaging ideas:**

- Pretty glass jars or canisters, or even candy jars with a lid!
- Glassine envelopes
- Cello bags, folded over with a header card stapled on the top
- Transparent plastic boxes – available from various sources, including Oak Court Creations

**To order supplies:** visit [www.oakcourtcreations.com](http://www.oakcourtcreations.com), or phone Oak Court Creations at (877) OAK-COURT