

DIY Project - Bottle Lamps



Step by Step Instructions & Helpful Tips

Learn how to make beautiful Bottle Lamps from recycled glass bottles.

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Disclaimer - The steps and processes described in this eBook are our own. We have made many lighted bottles following these steps. All shopping links are to Amazon.com.

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DIY Project - Bottle Lamps

Learn how to make a bottle lamp from recycled glass bottles.

Thank you for downloading our free ebook on **DIY Bottle Lamps**.

Hi, my name is Nick and I have been making bottle lamps from all sorts of different, recycled glass bottles for several years now. So far I have used regular shaped wine and liquor bottles, tequila bottles, growlers and mason jars among others.

Note: If you are receiving this eBook from a friend or family member, make sure you watch our 'How to make Bottle Lights' video as well:



The video can be found on our home page: www.bottle-lamp.com

The video offers a visual guide, it also gives you a sense of how long it takes to drill a bottle with a hand held drill. Usually the whole process using a hand held drill, from start to finish, takes me about 45 minutes to 1 hour.

I first got interested in bottle lamps when I saw them displayed at a local arts & craft show in our home town, Alexandria, Minnesota.

The bottles were neatly displayed on a handmade shelf and added a warm touch to the showcase. I was immediately drawn to the lighted wine bottles on display and became interested in how they were made.

After conversing with the people displaying the bottles (a very friendly older couple) for a while, we walked away and I told Silke “I can do that!”.

I thought they would make excellent gifts and it would be fun to personalize the bottles for the people we wanted to give them to. By selecting my own bottles I would be able to do just that.



My wife Silke and I give a lot of our finished bottles away. We give Bottle Lamps to many different local fundraising events, as gifts to family, friends and neighbors. We also sell our lighted bottles online.

So, without further ado, let's get started on making a Bottle Lamp.

Here is a list of items you will need:

Empty Glass Bottle
Hammer or Rubber Mallet
Electric Drill
Glass Cutting Drill Bits
String of Lights
Lamp Shade (optional)
Lamp Kit (optional)
Safety Glasses
Gloves



DIY TIP: It is best to start out with a cheap, throw away bottle until you get the hang of how much pressure you should use when drilling.

Drilling Process:

Find the area where you want to drill your hole, then take the smallest drill bit you have (I use my $\frac{1}{8}$ " bit) and with a hammer lightly strike the bit against the bottle. This will create a divot point that will allow you to start drilling without having the drill bit slide all over the glass and create a bunch of scratches.

Insert your smallest drill bit into your drill.



DIY TIP: Use an electric, corded drill. I found that my cordless drill doesn't have enough power to complete the project.

Put on your safety glasses and gloves, make sure you have a sturdy surface to work on and begin the drilling process.

Start out slow, you can't drill glass fast as the drill tip will heat up and cause

the glass to crack. I have found that a slow and steady speed works best. Hold your drill straight up and down over the bottle and with your other hand hold the bottle firmly in place.



If you feel the drill wanting to pull away from you then you know you're going too fast. You will have to slow down, remember this takes time. The first bit takes the longest, so be patient.

You will feel and be able to hear when the tip of your bit has gone through the glass. At this point you can switch the bit to the next bigger size, in my case a 3/16" bit. Be careful, the bit will be hot!

There is no need to drill all the way through, this will allow your smaller bit to cool off and you can take a moment to size up the hole you just made.

Now that your pilot hole is made you'll find that the drilling process will speed up a bit.



DIY TIP: By switching back and forth between the drill bit sizes, not only do you allow the bits to cool off but you also get a better fix on the hole you are drilling.

Again, use the same amount of speed and pressure that you used on the previous bit. Continue drilling and keep going up in drill bit sizes until the hole is the size you need for your lights to fit.

Note: This is a dry glass drilling process, if you're allergic to glass dust, a filtered face mask should be worn.

Now that you completed the drilling process, it's time to clean your bottle. The fine glass dust will have settled into the bottle and needs to be washed out.

Cleaning Process:

We found the best way to clean a bottle with labels still attached to it is to use a funnel to pour warm soapy water in it. This will keep the label from getting wet and causing it to peel off. Holding your thumb over the hole, shake the bottle vigorously, pour out the contents and let the bottle air dry.

If the bottle doesn't have any labels on it, then you can just immerse the bottle in a sink full of warm soapy water to wash away the dust.

Adding Lights:

After letting the bottle dry completely, you can begin inserting the lights into the bottle. I usually take the string set and plug them in to test them to make sure they work. It's a bummer to find out later the lights don't work.



DIY TIP: Regular strings of light are inexpensive, but they give off a good amount of heat. The green alternative is to use LED lights. They cost a little more, but stay cool to the touch therefore you can leave them plugged in for long periods of time.

The number of lights on a string that you use is determined by the size of the bottle. For a regular 750ml wine bottle I use a string of 35 mini lights.



The first bulb is uninhibited by wire and slides in fairly easy. The ones after that will need to be aligned with the wires in order to get them to fit through the hole. (A little man handling might be required.)

Adding Fill to your bottle:

Decorative fill inside your bottle can add another dimension to the look of the finished product. We have experimented with different fillers that help diffuse the light.



Crystal Fill - looks like crushed ice and adds a nice look, it's available at your local craft store or get it here: <http://amzn.to/HkDB3G>

Marbles - add a great dimension to the lights and give it a unique look.

You can get them at Walmart or click here: <http://amzn.to/GRGXw0>

Tinsel - inexpensive, especially after Christmas, and lightweight. Tinsel offers a nice reflective look to your Bottle Lamp.

You can use just about anything you like to fill your bottle as long as it still allows the light to shine through. Before adding your decorative fill I take my glue gun and seal the hole around the electrical cord coming out of the bottle.

With the marbles that might not be necessary, but with a smaller filler, like the crystal fill it's a necessity.

Optional Light Kit:

If you want to turn your bottle into a reading light with a light bulb at the top, you can do so by adding a lamp kit. The one I use can be found here:

<http://amzn.to/H5xRki>



A bottle lamp kit allows you turn your bottle into a functional lamp that can be used in any room of your house.

The one pictured here has both a set of white mini lights and the lamp kit in it. I had to splice the string of lights into the the switch. By adding a unique lamp shade you'll create a one of a kind lamp.

Optional Decorations:

Want to add a little pizzazz to the outside of your bottle as well? Tie colorful ribbons, clusters of grapes, Christmas or any other holiday ornaments around the neck of the bottle. You can let your imagination go wild here.

Instead of putting the same cork back into the bottle, add a fancy bottle stopper. These fun and fairly inexpensive stoppers can be found at any department store or online: <http://amzn.to/GTPUJX>.

You could also print a decorative label for your bottle with names and dates of special events.

Personalized bottles make wonderful gifts for:

Birthdays

Christmas

Anniversaries

Weddings

Birth Announcements

Graduation

New Home

Hostess

and many other special occasions

**Do you want to take your bottle drilling
experience to the next level?**

Try a Bench Drill Press, it will cut down on your drill time and give you a much cleaner hole in the bottle. Watch out for our upcoming video on how well this works.

We hope you found this DIY Project for Bottle Lamps informative and helpful.

Please send your questions and inquiries to: contact@jagerfoods.com

Best wishes,

Nick and Silke Jager
www.bottle-lamp.com

P.S. Send us pictures of your own Bottle Lamps.
We would love to see your finished project.