

# Thanksgiving Chocolate Plaque Engraving Tutorial

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**By Kelly Ledbury**

## Tool List

- Card blank chocolate mold 3 ¼” x 2 ¼ “ - #14090
- Toothpicks
- Clear flat bags 4x6 - #408
- Sandwich bags
- Paper towels
- Spoon

## Ingredient List

- 450 g bag Cocoa lite Easymelts - #421
- Icing sugar - #505
- Quins - Autumn leaves - #4321
- Dusting colours
  1. Primrose #986
  2. Autumn green - #739
  3. Pumpkin pie - #847
  4. Cherry pie - #936

## Optional

- Pumpkin chocolate mold 1” - #2330
- Parchment paper - #6758
- Dusting brush
- Nylon gloves - #3164
- 450 g bag White Easymelts -# 17943
- Quins - Pumpkin and bats - #4068 (seperate pumpkins)
- Sprinkles - #7762 (seperate red, green, yellow and orange)

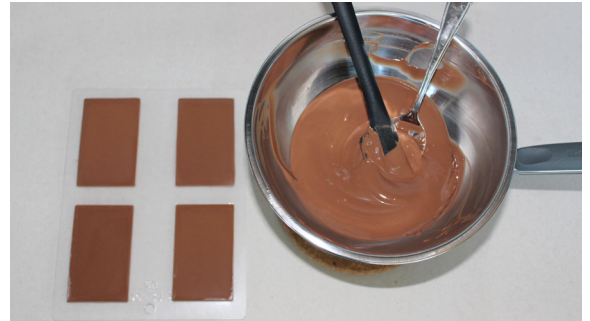
Makes 10 Bars



## How to engrave chocolate plaques

### STEP 1

Melt 450 g of Cocoa lite Easymelt wafers. Pour into plaque mold and set aside to cool. Once cooled, the plaques should shrink away from the edges of the mold easily. Remove plaques and repeat until you have enough, keeping melted-chocolate warm while waiting.



### STEP 2

Put 2 Tbsp of icing sugar into the zip lock bag and add some powdered colour. Seal bag with some air inside and shake bag to mix colour. Let air out and reseal, then massage icing sugar through the bag to break down any colour clumps. Repeat with the other 3 colours. You can also colour the icing sugar with gel paste, just massage the colour into the sugar with your hand, (best to wear a glove) and let dry. Once the powder is dry you should sift it to make sure there are no sugar clumps.

### STEP 3

Put a plaque on to a piece of paper towel, which keeps the plaque from sliding around and catches the shavings. Lightly scratch in your wording and/or image onto the plaque, keeping in mind where you'll put your decorations. Go over the letters/image again, this time scratching in a little harder. Then work on one line at a time, trying not to scratch deeper than a quarter of the plaques thickness. Brush away shavings as you go.



# How to engrave chocolate plaques

continued

## STEP 4

Change piece of paper towel or clean off shavings. Take some of the coloured icing sugar and spread over the engraving. Use your finger to push the icing sugar into all of the grooves, making sure to fill all the lines. Carefully dust off the excess sugar, making sure not to remove any sugar from in the lines.



## STEP 5

Dampen a piece of paper towel (there should be no water dripping off), and wipe off the top of the plaque to clean off the extra sugar, and lock in the icing sugar. If you use more than one colour of icing sugar to fill in the lines on the plaque, start wiping from the lighter colour to the darker.



## STEP 6

Time to embellish, adding more colour and finishing off the plaque. Melt a small amount of the Easymelts and fill a parchment cone (or you could use a toothpick). Put a small dot of melted Easymelts on the plaque and attach quins, sprinkles, or a pumpkin chocolate (made using white Easymelts, coloured orange with the powder colour, with the pumpkin mold). Package plaques in bags and finish off with an autumn coloured satin ribbon. You could also just set a plaque on each of your guests' plate.



## Completed chocolate plaques

These plaques are great for Thanksgiving dinner. Make one for each of your guests, wishing them a Happy Thanksgiving, or engrave their names and use them as place cards. They would be great to make at Halloween, or even Valentine's Day, for students to give to their friends. Engraving into the plaques are fun and easy, you can get the kids to make them themselves (with your assistance). If you wanted to make a lot of these for a wedding or other large event, it shouldn't take too much of your time, as they are a pretty quick and cute treat to make.



### TIPS & HINTS

- The safest way to melt the wafers is with the double boiler method, as you tend not to overheat and burn the wafers.

#### Double-Boiler Easymelt Wafer Melting Method

- Heat water in the bottom of the double boiler. Do not let the water get too hot. If it is too hot for your hand, it is too hot for the chocolate or compound coating.
- Place the top pot (or bowl), with a small amount of easymelt wafers, on top of the pot with the hot water. The water should not come in direct contact with the coating.
- Stir until melted; continue adding Rainbow coating until the desired amount of coating is melted.
- Warm hands will melt the plaques and could leave finger prints behind. To help with this problem you can wear nylon gloves, which helps keep plaque clean.
- If you don't trust your free hand skills, or to help transfer a line drawing, print something you like from the computer, and trace it onto a piece of parchment paper. Set the piece of parchment paper on top of the plaque, centering it where you want, and hold lightly in place. (If adding on the chocolate pumpkin, off center the word happy to leave room.) Using a toothpick, go over the lines on the parchment paper pressing hard enough to leave a mark on the plaque, but not so hard that you dig into the plaque. Continue on to step 3 using a different/clean toothpick to scratch into the plaque. Two images attached are for you to print which were used in this tutorial.

# Stencils

