

INSTRUCTIONS: Concrete Candleholders

By Claudia Sieb

The first thing you want to do is see
<http://www.homemade-modern.com/ep11-bloktagons/>

This great post by Ben Uyeda was my inspiration and he provides wonderful directions and patterns. To make my candleholders, I followed his instructions for the Blocktagon, making 2 shorter versions (Frank) and one tall (Jessie) as shown. Be sure to tape and glue the seams of your forms to the OUTSIDE, and seal them tightly. Use card stock paper, nothing too porous or flimsy. The concrete is heavy and will want to push out the sides of your form, making your candles charmingly “puffy”.

I plunged a dowel into the concrete for my candle hole, but it held fast and it took a few days to “work it” back out. So I hear an actual candle is a better idea.

Don't worry that the tops are raw looking; use a rasp to file them down in about 3 minutes and a finer rasp to smooth out sides as desired.

I wanted a warm color for my candleholders, so I stained them in coffee! Pour about a pot of hot coffee into a stainless steel vessel and add a couple tablespoons of alum and salt to make a mordant. I'm not sure the alum and salt was necessary but thought it would likely help “hold” the coffee stain to the concrete. I left it for a few days, stirring occasionally, and it created this nifty color, that didn't wash out under running water.

Add your candles. That's it!

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