



Use Instruction for the J. Herbin Supple Sealing Wax sticks

J. Herbin's Supple Sealing Wax is a flexible, strong sealing wax that is safe to mail. The sticks are wickless, which we think is easier to use. You don't need a fancy set-up to use this style of wax stick.

Wickless sealing wax gives you a few options for melting.

First, you can use a wax-melting spoon (or a normal metal spoon, though you will want to dedicate it permanently to your wax). Cut a chunk off of the end of your wax, and place it in the wax melting spoon. Apply heat to the spoon until the wax is melted, and carefully pour it onto your envelope flap to make your wax puddle.

Second, you can apply fire directly to the wax stick. This is our preferred method, as it dirties fewer tools and, in our opinion, gives you more control. You can use fireplace matches, a lighter, or a barbecue lighter. We use a standard lighter, but a barbecue lighter is a little safer and some find it easier to hold. Once you've chosen your preferred method of fire, hold the wax stick in your other hand, directly over the part of the envelope you want to seal. Apply the heat, and make a small puddle of wax, approximately the size of your seal in diameter (if you are using a wax seal).

Once you've melted your wax and placed your wax puddle, it's time to create the impression. J. Herbin Supple Wax (and most sealing waxes) are a little sticky, and need encouragement not to stick to your seal, whether it's metal, plastic, clay, or any other material. The best way to achieve this is to create a "moisture barrier" between the seal and the wax puddle, and there are a few ways to do it: breathe on the seal, dip the seal in water immediately prior to creating the impression, apply oil to the seal, or rest the seal on ice between impressions.

Please note that it takes some practice to get good at quickly and effectively using wax to seal envelopes. If you have a big project, we recommend practicing a bit beforehand to get the hang of it. There is no "guaranteed" number of impressions per stick; this will vary based on the size of wax puddle, and size of the seal you're using.

Tip: To get the most out of each wax stick, when it has been reduced in length to a nub, you can skewer it on an unbent paperclip to help keep your fingers distanced from the fire.