





# Essential Oil Solid Perfume

BY MELINDA BARNETT

After reading the label on my favorite perfume box, I decided it was time to toss it out and make my own perfume recipes. I literally did months of research, but here's the short version. In general, a well-balanced perfume will have three notes: a top note, a middle note, and a base note. The top note is often used as the "selling point" of a perfume, because it is the fragrance that hits your nose first. The sad thing about top notes is that they don't stick around very long and dissipate quickly. The middle note of a perfume is said to be the heart of the perfume, and normally makes up the largest percentage of the mix. The middle note is the second to dissipate. The bottom note is the longest lasting of the three, and will stick around long after the other two have left the scene, so it's very important to choose a bottom note you really like. Sounds easy, right? Well, here's where it gets complicated.

Doing research for solid perfumes, I discovered that none of the information out there is consistent. I love jasmine and wanted to use it in one of my recipes. Some sites list it as a top note, while others say it's a middle note, and still others say it's a base note. I also love ylang-ylang and found it listed as both a middle note and a base note. I came to the conclusion that perfume making is truly an art rather than a science, and scents are very, very personal. That said, I am sharing my recipes here, but it's also easy to make your own scents. One-note perfumes can be lovely too, particularly lavender or vanilla.

These are all light, fresh floral/citrus scents because that's what I like. I formulated them by opening the vials of essential oil and smelling them together. Because I did not find a deep base note that I liked with the light floral and citrus notes, I went with ylang-ylang for the base. Because ylang-ylang is more in the lower to middle range, these are not overly long-lasting scents, but to me they are perfect. If you don't like a light floral/citrus scent, I would encourage you to go to a place where you can smell essential oils together and make your own blend using the basic recipe below. Because perfume is an art rather than a science, there are no wrong answers, and experimentation is half the fun!

After settling on my essential oil blends, I moved on to the form the perfume would take. I loved the idea of wearing a solid perfume around my neck in a locket so I could refresh it throughout the day. While doing my research about solid perfume suspension mediums, I came upon an interesting fact: Beeswax, one of the main ingredients in a solid perfume, has

a relatively low melting point. It melts between 144 and 147 degrees Fahrenheit, and it discolors if it is heated above 185. This means it could catch on fire in the microwave, so I decided to use a melting pot, which I set to 180. (The flash point of beeswax is 204.4 degrees, which means this is the point at which it could catch on fire!) I guess the point here is use a double boiler or a melting pot, but don't microwave your beeswax. 🐝

## You Will Need

### PERFUME

- 1 TB. beeswax pastilles\*
- 1½ TB. sweet almond oil
- 25-30 drops essential oil\*
- Melting pot/Double boiler
- Pipettes/Droppers (1 per oil)
- Locket/Slide tins
- Spoon/Craft stick
- Glass measuring cup w/ pour spout
- Measuring spoon

### PACKAGING

- Cardboard gift boxes: small
- Chalk paint: Cascade, Glacier, Lilac (Plaid - Folk Art)
- Decoupage medium: fabric; ultra-matte (Plaid - Mod Podge)
- Embroidery floss
- Ink: African violet, white, wine (Plaid - Fabric Creations)
- Muslin bags
- Paintbrush
- Patterned paper
- Ribbon scraps
- Sewing needle
- Tissue paper
- Typewriter



## To Make

### PERFUME

Melt the beeswax. Once the pastilles are completely liquified, add the almond oil and continue heating for a few minutes. Pour mixture into a glass measuring cup and add the fragrance. Stir well. Carefully pour into lockets while the mixture is still liquid. Pour remaining perfume mixture into slide tins. ❧

### MOONLIGHT JASMINE

- ❧ 15 drops ylang-ylang\*
- ❧ 8 drops Litsea Cubeba
- ❧ 5 drops jasmine absolute\*

### ENGLISH ROSE

- ❧ 15 drops ylang-ylang\*
- ❧ 8 drops Valencia orange
- ❧ 5 drops rose absolute\*

### EN PROVENCE

- ❧ 15 drops ylang-ylang\*
- ❧ 6 drops lemon\*
- ❧ 6 drops lavender\*















## PACKAGING

Paint the lids of the tins with chalk paint. Allow to dry. Dab corresponding fabric ink onto the surfaces, wiping off excess. Finish with a few swipes of white fabric ink. Allow to dry again. Type the name of your perfume onto the tissue paper and carefully tear it out. Adhere it to the tin lid using ultra-matte decoupage medium, and then seal the lid with the same medium. For the ribbon band, cut out a piece of tissue paper that will fit around the tin or box. Glue the ends together with decoupage medium. Wrap strips of ribbon around the band, adhering them with fabric decoupage medium. For the outer bags, type the name of the perfume onto a piece of tissue paper and adhere it to a piece of patterned paper. Sew the label onto a muslin bag using embroidery floss. 🌿



## Notes

- If you're allergic to tree nuts, substitutions for the almond oil are grapeseed, jojoba, coconut oil, or even olive oil. Oftentimes carrier oils are chosen for their scent, so make sure the scent of the carrier oil matches the scent you are making.
- When filling the lockets, sometimes they leak a little. When this happens, wipe the excess off, let the perfume harden in the cracks, and then fill them again. There should be no leaks the second time.
- Fill your lockets first and then put the remaining perfume into tins or small cream jars. The lockets use up shockingly small amounts of the mixture, so always have something ready to hold the excess.

*Melinda Barnett lives in Stanwood, Washington, with her husband, horses, dogs, and guinea pigs. More of her work can be seen at [beesonpie.blogspot.com](http://beesonpie.blogspot.com). She welcomes email at [melinda.erickson@hotmail.com](mailto:melinda.erickson@hotmail.com).*







English Rose

En Provence

Moonlight Jasmine