

HYDRANGEAS

Non Stick Board

Roller

Foam pad

Plastic flap (to cover cut out petals)

Cell stick or Ball tool

Covered wire (29 or 30 gauge. Enough to make 60 or 70 3-inch lengths)

Jem Hydrangea cutter

Small circular cutter (about an inch in diameter) that we will be bending into a different shape.

Some type of petal veiner (for texture)

Gum glue (Tylose or CMC mixed w/warm water)

Several shades of Blue petal dust

Needle nosed pliers

Small sharp scissors

Wire cutters or heavy duty nail clippers

Several assorted artist brushes (both round and flat)

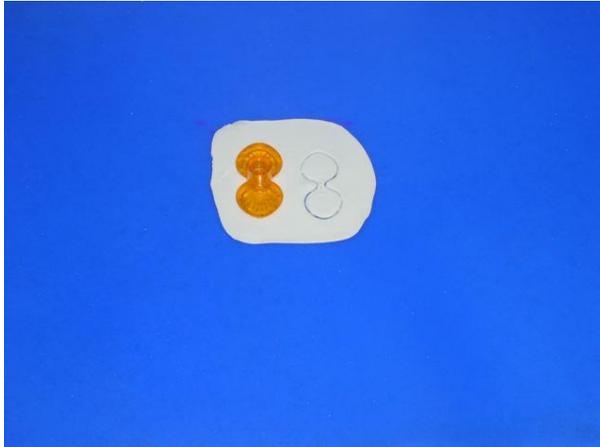
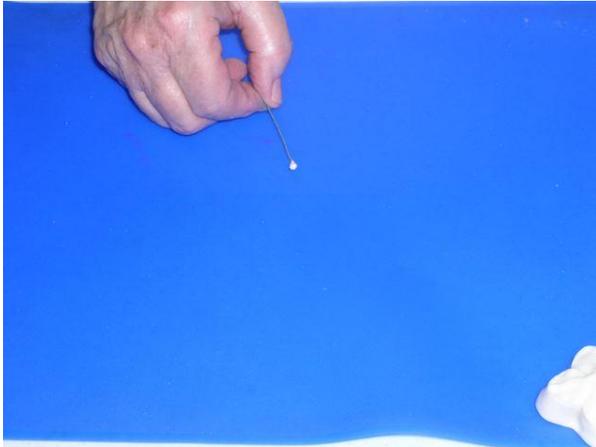
Florist tape (white or green)

Color gumpaste a light (avocado) yellow green.

Roll out to a medium thin consistency. It is better to have it slightly thicker than you might on some flowers to prevent the petals from breaking so easily. By thinning the outside edges of the petals you can "fool the eye" into thinking the entire flower is thin.

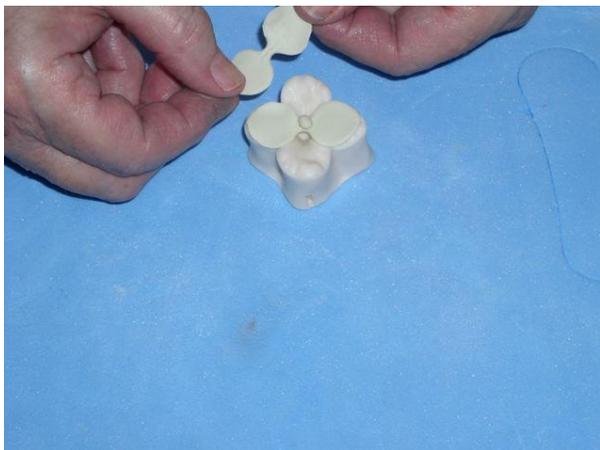
Cut covered wire into three inch lengths and bend one end into an upright circle. Dampen the circle and press a tiny ball of gumpaste over it to form the flower centers. Mark indentions on four sides of the center. Set aside to dry for a short while.

If you are using a one-piece cutter, cut multiple flowers, and if you are using the Jem cutter with two petals, cut out several sets of two and cover with a plastic flap to prevent them from drying too quickly. Only take out one flower each time, and keep the others covered. It is very important not to expose the cut out petals to air unnecessarily because this is what causes cracking around the edges.



Remember that as with all flowers, your hydrangeas should be in various stages of growth. To simulate this look, don't use just one cutter for all your flowers. You can make a cutter by squeezing the center of a round cutter with needle nosed pliers. It should look a little like a figure 8. Make some smaller flowers, and even some buds. The hydrangea bud looks just like the center of the flower. The immature flowers are usually more pale green than any other color.

Thin out the edges on a flower cut-out, then press with a veiner. The silicone veiner made by Sunflower Sugar Art is a good one, but others can be used as well. If you are using the two piece Jem, make a tiny ball of gumpaste and dampen it. Place between the two sections where the center will go before pressing together or placing in a veiner. This will reinforce a weak spot and help prevent breakage. Place the flower across your fingers (palm up), and after dampening the bottom of the flower center, guide the wire through the center of the flower. Lightly pinch the back of the flower around the wire to make sure it is secured. Place the flower in a tray of cornstarch that you have mounded or shaped into interesting formations. This will help the flower have a natural look.



Once the flowers are dry, you can color and assemble into sprigs or a ball, depending on the planned use. Using a soft brush, remove any cornstarch that might be clinging to your flower, and prepare for adding color. Most Hydrangeas start off green, but depending on

the amount of acid in the soil, turn colors ranging from pink, to blue to almost a lavender color. There are also snowy white hydrangeas. No matter what color they end up, you will almost always find a little green. To color, use a soft flat brush and layer your chosen color on starting at the outside edge of the petal and brushing toward the center of the flower. Try to leave a bit of the center uncovered with color for the most natural look.

If you want to make sprigs that can be combined to make an accent piece on a cake, or for placing between the tiers, wire flowers in groups of three or four. They can then be used as is, or again wired together to make a larger sprig. You can use groups of these sprigs as a topper as well.



To make a ball, you might want to cover a Styrofoam ball that you have hot glued a lollipop stick into with fondant. You can use the Styrofoam without covering it if you choose. Begin sticking the wired flowers into the ball at the top, then working your way around and down. Try to get the flowers as close together as possible so that the ball does not show.



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