



Cake & Sugar Art

POPPY

WIRE:	#22	#20	#28
LENGTH:	27 cm	27cm	12 cm
HOOK:	none	none	none
FLOWER CUTTER:	large rose petal (JEM B23)		
FLOWER FORMER:	shallow cupped former		
COTTON:	yellow, black for red flower		
PASTE:	colour of flower, Ivory / Spruce Green, Spruce Green		
DUST:	several shades of the colour of the flower		
PAINT:	black for red flower		
POLLEN:	Sugartex Mimosa, Sugartex Black Magic		

WIRES

Two #22 wires and one #20 wire form one stem and will be referred to in these notes as 'the wire'.

All wires to be treated in the following manner (specifically for competition work).

Attach . split green florist tape, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way down the wire. Tape to the bottom of the wire and then tape up the wire to just past the starting point and break the tape. Start taping again from above the break point and tape to the bottom of the wire and then up again, ending just past the start point. Repeat a third time but this time tape all the way to the top of the wire on the return. The thin end of the tapered wire can now be bent into the required hook.

For commercial work tape the 3 wires together and fatten the stem with cling wrap.

BUD

Roll a fat size #10 ball of green paste to an oval.

Glue wire and insert into one end.

Secure onto wire.

Use the Blade Tool to mark into thirds.

On two of the marks make snips with sharp tipped scissors, to resemble hair. Work from base to tip.

Allow to dry completely.

Roll flower paste thinly and cut one petal shape.

Roll petal wider with a Veined Frilling Tool, allowing the petal to frill slightly. Ensure the tool is used like the blades of a hand fan.

Glue un-snipped section of bud and fit petal into the gap to resemble a bud about to open.

Bend bud over to life-like position.

SEED HEAD

Roll a size #8 ball of Ivory / Spruce Green paste to a rugby ball shape.

Glue wire and insert into one end. Secure onto wire.

Form a size #5 ball of light brown paste into a plate shape. The plate should be slightly larger than the top of the cone. Use the toothless tweezers to pinch in 8 'spokes'. Indent the side of the 'plate' –between the spokes with a Dresden tool.

Glue the top of the cone and attach plate to it. Push a small ball tool into the middle of the spokes, to form an indentation. Cup the plate over the cone.

Add a hip by pushing the Blade tool around the base of the seed head and then molding to look natural.
Bend stem into a natural position.

FLOWER

Bend one of the #28 wire in half and twist to form a thickened section 1.5cm long, with two ends. Bend this over to form a small closed hook.

Wrap cotton 60 times around your thumb.(or 10 times if you are using 6 strand embroidery thread)

Place the wire, formed above, through the loop of the threads and twist to secure the threads.

Use another un-twisted #28 wire at the opposite end of the thread loop.

Cut the loop in half between the wires, so as to form two stamen centers. Cut the threads to about 2 cm if needed.

Tape the stamens formed above at right angles to each other and then to the previously prepared wires.

Roll a fat size #7 ball of green paste to a ball and then with toothless tweezers, pinch 8 'spokes' into the top of cone. Continued these 'spokes' 1/3 of the way down the sides of the cone. Attach it, with glue, to the wire protruding from the center of the stamens.

For the red flower version, paint the cone black except for the 'spokes'. For other versions, glue the spokes and dip into the yellow pollen.

Apply appropriate pollen to the stamen tips.

Dust a flower former with potato flour.

Roll flower paste thinly and cut 2 large rose petals. Roll the petals wider.

Frill deeply with the Veined Frilling tool. Ensure the tool is used like the blades of a hand fan.

Place the first petal into the flower former a little way over the center.

Add the second petal, opposite the first, also a little way over the center, using glue to glue the petals together.

Repeat the above with two more petals. Lay one of the petals half way over the other and glue the base to join it to the lower petal.

Lay this set of petals at right angles to the first layer of petals.

Repeat the above steps, but lay this set of petals opposite the last set.

The red poppy only has four petals.

Glue the base of the stamen centre and poke a hole through all the layers with the broom stem and thread through to embed in petals. 'Supa-glu' made with let-down sugar paste is good for this stage.

Use cloud to prop the petals into a natural position.

Allow to dry completely.

Very carefully remove the flower from the plate.

Dust with appropriate dust colours, using the deep tones in the flower centre.

The red poppy has a large black spot at the base of each petal. In order to do this without getting black dust everywhere, blend a little vegetable fat with black dust and then "scrub" onto the petal in the correct place, both back and front.

Pass the flower through steam to set the colours.

Bend the stem until a natural look is achieved.

If making a large number of poppies for a display, have the petals dry at various angles so that the flowers look different from each other. You can also add a single calyx "petal" to some of the flowers as these drop off at varying stages of development in nature.

LEAVES

The leaves can be made using a template of a real poppy leaf.