



# Cake & Sugar Art

## BEARDED IRIS

WIRE:	#28 white	#26	#20 green
LENGTH:	7cm	7cm	18cm
HOOK:	sm. closed	sm. Closed	none
FLOWER CUTTER:	Metal Set and the stamen cutter from the Patchwork Clematis Set		
VEINER:	Poppy petal - lrg		
FLOWER FORMER:	Wilton half tubes – adapted, pipe cleaner former		
PASTE:	white, pale Eucalyptus, very pale ivory		
DUST:	3 or more colours for the flower, including a luster as the lightest colour, Sage, Moss Green		
PAINT:	to suit flower		
FLORIST TAPE:	Nile Green, Mint Ivory		
IMAGES:	<a href="http://www.impressiveirises.com.au/iristerminology.htm">www.impressiveirises.com.au/iristerminology.htm</a>		

### BUD

Tape 1 #20 wire and 2 pipe cleaners together. Make a closed hook in the wire  
Roll a size #10 ball of white paste until smooth and then form into a cigar shape, to fit inside the length of the broad petal.  
Glue the wires and insert into the shape. Allow to leather dry.  
Roll white paste and cut 3 broad petals.  
Using the veined frilling tool to texture each petal  
Glue each petal in turn and attach to the cigar shape, enclosing it completely.  
Allow the last petal to open slightly.  
Allow to dry completely.  
Roll a #8 ball of Eucalyptus paste to a cone. Glue the base of the flower and slightly down the wire.  
Pierce the fat end of the cone and slide up to the petals. Mould to the wire and petals. This will often stabilize any wobbly petals. Mark 3 deep groves on the ovary, between the petals.

### FLOWER

#### Standard Petals

Roll white paste thinly on a grooved board. Cut out a broad petal.  
Vein with the poppy petal veiner, taking care not to squash away the groove at the base of the petal.  
Fringe the petal with a JEM veining tool, following the directions of the veins made by the veiner.  
Double fringe the very edge of the petal with a cocktail stick.  
Place the petal on a soft sponge with the groove uppermost and drag a Dresden tool from the base of the petal to the center of the petal several times to cup it heavily. Be careful not to thin out the groove too much at its base or you will have trouble inserting the wire.  
Glue #26 white wire and insert into the base of the petal.  
Lay, with the grooved side down, over the curve of the medium flower from tube. Ensure the lower

edges of the petals are well curved up away from the former as this allows them to interlock better. Allow to dry completely. Repeat the above steps twice more.

### **Fall Petals**

Roll white paste thinly on a grooved board. Cut out a broad petal.

Vein with the poppy petal veiner, taking care not to squash away the groove at the base of the petal.

Frill the petal with a JEM veining tool, following the directions of the veins made by the veiner.

Double frill the very edge of the petal with a cocktail stick.

Place the petal on a soft sponge with the groove against the sponge and drag a Dresden tool from the base of the petal to the center of the petal several times to depress it heavily. Be careful not to thin out the groove too much at its base or you will have trouble inserting the wire.

Glue #26 white wire and insert into the base of the petal.

Lay, with the grooved side down, over the curve of the large flower form tube and ensure the depression made by the Dresden tool is between the ridges on the former. Allow to dry completely.

Repeat the above steps twice more.

### **Style Crest**

Roll white paste medium thin on a grooved board. Cut 1 fork ended petal.

Using the veined frilling tool as a rolling pin, roll the petal **slightly** wider down its entire length.

Increase the indentation of the fork by 5 mm.

Use a veined frilling tool to roll and frill the petal at the fork end. Double frill the very edge of the petal with a cocktail stick.

Place the petal on a soft sponge with the groove uppermost and drag a Dresden tool from the base of the petal to the center of the petal several times to cup it heavily. Be careful not to thin out the groove too much at its base or you will have trouble inserting the wire.

Glue #28 white wire and insert into the base of the petal.

Lay, with the grooved side down, over the curve of the pipe cleaner former and rest the forked petals up the former. Allow to dry completely.

Repeat the above steps twice more.

### **Colouring.**

If you require an exact copy of a named Iris, I would suggest that you copy from a good picture or even better the real flower. If all that is needed is an Iris, then my suggestions are to cover all petals with the base luster colour and then layer on the shades from the outside of the petals to the inside, until you are happy with the results. The style crest is often a different colour than the rest of the flower.

### **Beard**

The beard is applied after the dusting but before the flower is assembled.

Roll white paste until thin and cut 2 strips of approx. 17mm wide. Cover any un-used strips with plastic while you work on one piece at a time.

Shred both long edges of the strip with a cutting wheel, leaving a solid piece down the center. Gather and pleat this strip down its length until it is approx 2.5cm long. Fold in half, lengthwise, and pinch the folded edge to set the gathering.

Apply glue to this pinched area and stick onto the fall petal, from the wire end of the petal in towards the center of the petal.

Paint the tips of the beard with suitably coloured paint.

### **Completion**

Attach ½ width Nile green florist tape to #20 wire and add 2 pipe cleaners. Tape the 3 standard petals to the wires back to back so that they form a trefoil shape.

Very carefully tape the style crest petals in between the standard petals, so that they are at 45° to the standard petals. Tape the 3 fall petals under the style petals so that they bend away from them.

Thicken and strengthen the stem as needed.

Roll a #8 ball of Eucalyptus paste to a cone. Glue the base of the flower and slightly down the wire. Pierce the fat end of the cone and slide up to the petals. Mould to the wire and petals. This will often stabilize any wobbly petals. Mark 3 deep grooves on the ovary, between the petals.

### Sheath

Roll ivory paste VERY thin and the two sheath shapes. Use the poppy petal veiner to imprint. Ball the edges to soften.

Lightly glue the less shaped inner edge of one sheath shape and attach to the other to form a little "pod".

Glue the base and attach just below the ovary of the Iris, so that it emerges from the "pod".

## FORMERS

### Standard Petal

Medium Wilton Flower Former Tube

Roll a #9 ball of blue tack to a sausage 3.5cm long. Form into a trefoil and attach to the concave side of the tube at 5cm from the edge of the tube.

Repeat with another ball and position it at 14cm and another at 23cm.

Place double sided tape on either side of these "lumps" and then attach cloud to the tape

### Fall Petal

Large Wilton Flower Former Tube

Roll a #6 ball of blue tack to a sausage 3cm long. Attach to the concave side of the tube at 5cm from the edge of the tube.

Repeat with another ball and position it at 6.5cm.

Repeat this double formation at 14cm and 23cm

Place double sided tape on the outside side of these "ridges" and then attach cloud to the tape.

### Style Crest

Cut 2, 15cm pieces from a pipe cleaner. Fold each in half and twist the cut edges together, leaving a 2cm loop at the top. Twist the two pieces together for 3cm and then open the loops to form a fork to match the forked cutter. Arch the twisted portion of the former.

