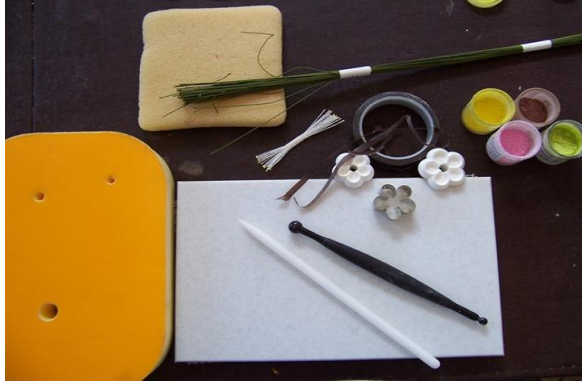


Gumpaste Cherry Blossom

By Tami Utley



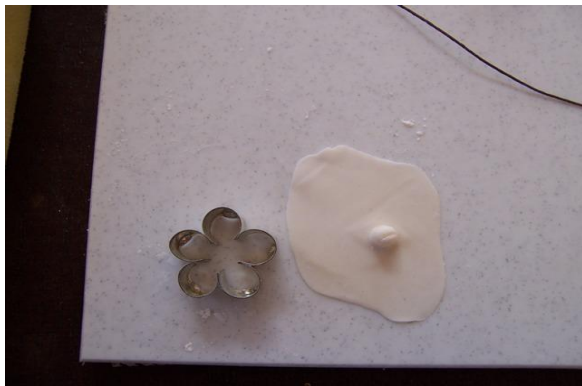
This tutorial is beginner/intermediate level but assumes you know a little about working with gumpaste. This is not a botanically correct blossom, just an easy one for people who don't want to pay an arm and a leg for me to make the really time consuming ones. Also so I didn't have to buy the cutter, this will work for most blossoms. Start out with basic gumpaste tools. You'll need 32g green paper covered wire (the cloth wire is too thick so I prefer paper).



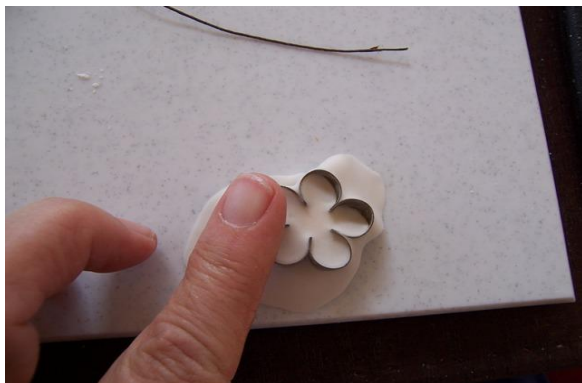
Take 5 to 10 small stamens and fold in half. Wrap the wire around to the folded section as seen on the far left. Bend the wire straight down as seen in the middle. Then bend the wire over. Now take a small piece of brown floral tape (1/4 width) and tape around the stamens and wire and continue on down to the bottom as seen on the far right.



Roll out a small piece of gumpaste over the medium size hole on the coated side of a yellow cell pad. It's best to coat the area with a small amount of shortening before rolling so it releases easily. If you don't have a cell pad, you will have to make a mexican hat or 'game piece' shape. You can see the shape we need in the picture below.



Remove from the pad and place onto your board with the knob side up. I usually roll the flat portion again to get it nice and thin. Use a small blossom cutter (about 1" across, 5 petals) to cut out.



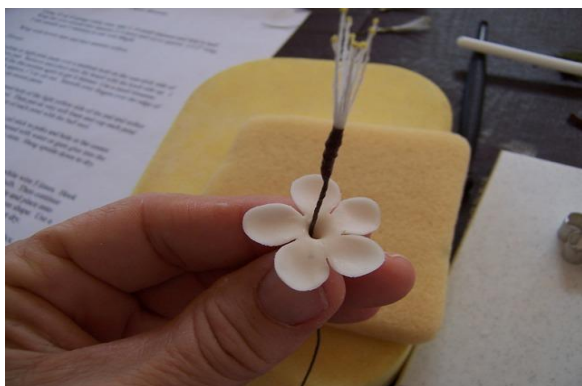
Smooth the edge of the cutter with your finger to remove any fuzzies. And the flower should fall out, if not use the the ball tool or end of a paint brush to help it out.



Place the knob part into the middle hold of the light yellow side of the cell pad and soften the edges with the ball tool. If you don't have a cell pad you can just place the flower onto a firm but flexible foam with the knob facing up and soften the back of the petals.



Now place onto a very soft foam (like upholstery foam) and press each petal with the ball tool to cup it. Then use a toothpick or pointed tool to poke the center of the blossom.



Moisten the tape on the stament and insert the bottom of the wire into the center hole you just made.



Mold around the base of the throat. I roll it between my thumb and fore finger, or between my two fore finger knuckles to make it attach firmly. Hang it upside down to dry.



Dust the center with a little yellow. The dust the edges a light pink. Make sure to dust the front and back of the petals, being careful not to break the petals. I also use 2 different pinks to get a more varied color. Dust the base of the flower dark green and brown where the paste meets the wire. Sometimes I will also use a lime green and brown if the flower is more closed.



I will tape 3 flowers and 3 buds together onto one 'branch' of 24 G green wire and give the wire a bend so it's more branch like. The steam to set your colors. The buds are just small pieces of paste with 5 lines marked in them to represent closed petals.

