

# ***Large Roses***

**By Kathy Moore**

## **Skill Level 3 (of 4)**

A single large rose makes a stunning decoration for a cake top or as a combination with lilies, stephanotis freesia and bear grass.

The variety of colour and size allows the cake decorator to match virtually any colour scheme and occasion.

Large roses take longer to make than some other flowers and often use 23 petals to complete but the effort is worthwhile!



See [www.culpitt.com](http://www.culpitt.com) for the Freesia, Lily, Stephanotis and Rue "How Tos" to create this beautiful flower spray.

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Equipment and Materials			
	✓		✓
Non stick board		Dusting powders, Spring green, White, Foliage green, Champagne, Burgundy, Lustre pearl	
Non stick rolling pin		Culpitt paste colour- Foliage green, Cream (or egg yellow)	
Petal Pad		Dusting brushes & paint brushes	
Dog bone tool		Florist tape Moss green	
Dresden tool		Confectioners glaze, brush and cleaner	
White fat (e.g. White Flora)		Culpitt Large rose cutter set	
Edible glue and brush		Rose leaf cutters	
Scissors		Large calyx cutters e.g. Orchard RD11 or similar	
Wire cutting scissors		Large garden rose leaf Veiner (DP & M Co)	
Small fine palette knife.		Large rose petal veiner (optional)	
18# and 28# green florist wires		Formers for petals/leaves e.g. Jem flower supports or similar	
SFP (Petal paste) White, Holly/Ivy		Large ball tool	

## Method

### Make the Cone Centres

1. Colour some petal paste a deep cream colour.
2. Take 18# green wire and make a hook at one end.
3. Roll a ball of cream petal paste into a cone. Lightly glue the hooked end of the wire insert into the cone as illustrated and leave to dry.



### 1<sup>st</sup> Layer of Rose

1. Roll the cream paste out thinly on a non stick board.
2. Cut out 3 petal shapes using the middle size cutter.
3. Transfer to a petal pad and smooth round the edges. The paste should be very fine.
4. Lightly glue one petal all over and wrap around the centre cone so the cone does not show and there is only a pinprick size hole at the top after the petal has been wrapped around.
5. Glue halfway up the remaining two petals and attach them to the centre allowing the upper part of the petals to remain slightly apart from the first petal. Allow to part-dry.



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## Next Layer of Rose

1. Roll out and cut out three more petals.
2. Transfer to the petal pad, smooth and stretch the petals marginally. Using the ball tool, gently ball the bottom section of each petal until a gentle cup shape is obtained.
3. Allow your petals to become a little firm before attaching to the rose. This stops soft petals sticking too closely to the previous layer, and provides space between layers giving a more natural and realistic appearance.
4. Glue the bottom third of the petals and attach to the rose making certain the petals are marginally above the previous layer (otherwise a cabbage effect results!). Each petal should overlap the next.



## Next Layer of Rose

1. Start to dilute the colour in the paste for subsequent layers. Add 50% white to 50% cream.
2. Roll out the petal paste and using the largest of the cutters, cut out three more petals.
3. Smooth and shape in the same way, allowing them too become slightly firm before attaching.

## Next Layer of Rose

1. Dilute the paste a further 50%.
2. Cut out 3 petals and attach as before. Start to vein the petals, if you wish, from this point onwards.

## Next Layer of Rose

1. Dilute the petal paste a further 50%
2. Cut out 5 petals. Smooth, shape, and attach as before.



## Next Layer of Rose

1. Dilute the paste a further 50% (it will be almost white now)
2. Make 5 more petals. Smooth, stretch and shape the petals.
3. Allow to become slightly firm before attaching.
4. The outer petals do not always overlap each other and tend to be more randomly attached.

## Final Layer of Rose

1. The final layer of petals can be made and attached as above, or alternatively, the petals can be individually wired and left to dry completely before wiring onto the rose.



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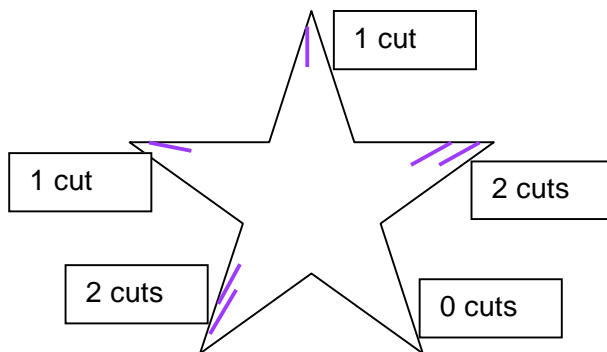
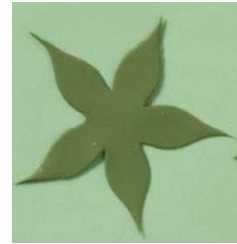
## Buds

1. Using the small and medium sized rose petal cutters make the buds in various stages of maturity, using three, five or for part open roses, 7 petals.
2. Remember buds tend to be deeper in colour than a fully open flower.



## Adding the Calyx

1. Before adding the calyx, use a very pale green mix of dusting powder and lightly dust the base of the rose.
2. Add some Foliage green paste colour to the Holly/Ivy paste to give a rich, leaf green.
3. Roll out the petal paste thinly and cut out a calyx using the Orchard R11D (or similar).
4. Place on to a petal pad and smooth the edges.
5. Use the dog bone tool to extend the sepals on the calyx. Make small nicks in the calyx as follows:-



6. Place the dogbone on the tip of a calyx sepal and draw the tool down, with a little pressure, to the centre of the calyx. This will curl the sepals. Repeat for the whole calyx. Dust the upperside of the calyx lightly with the pearl dusting powder.
7. Glue the base of the rose just at the centre and thread the calyx onto the stem. Allow the sepals to hang down.



For the buds use a slightly smaller calyx cutter appropriate to the size of bud made.



## Adding the Receptacle

1. Roll a small ball of green petal paste and attach to the base of the calyx as illustrated in the image. Leave to dry.



## Finishing

1. Dust the centre of the roses with the Champagne or cream dusting powder. This adds depth to the centre of the rose.
2. Steam the flowers carefully.

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## Making the Leaves

For each rose leaf spray you will need one large rose leaf and 4 medium sized rose leaves

1. Using the same coloured green petal paste as for the calyx. Roll out this paste thinly on a non-stick board lightly greased with white fat (White Flora or Trex).
2. Cut out a Rose leaf shape and vein using the rose veiner. Transfer the leaf to the petal pad and turn the leaf upside down.
3. Place the dog bone tool just on the inside edge of the leaf and draw the tool around the leaf.

## Wiring and Completing the Leaves (see image of Damson leaf below)

1. Turn the leaf over.
2. Having burnt off the paper from the top of the wire, lightly glue the end of the wire and lay it halfway down the leaf.
3. Fold the leaf over and press just where the wire is.
4. Pick up the leaf and pinch where the wire is - it should be right against the fold in the leaf.



5. Holding the leaf between your thumb and finger, use the Dresden tool to open the leaf out. If you want a curved leaf, gently bend the wire at this stage.
6. Transfer to a former or similar to dry, remembering to give shape and movement to your leaf.

## Finishing the Leaves

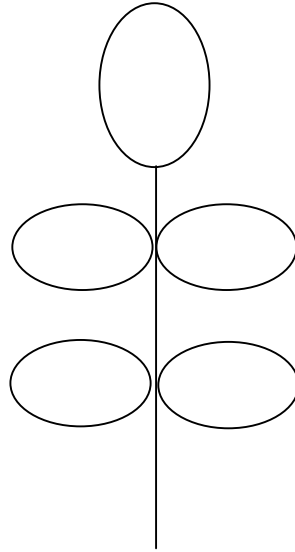
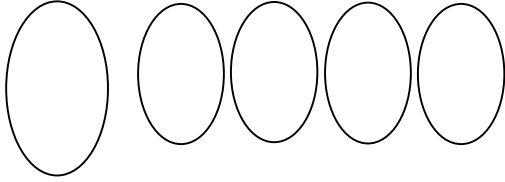
1. Dust a few of the very edges of the leaves with burgundy dusting powder and the centre from the base, a slightly deeper green.
2. Steam and then glaze using half strength confectioners glaze (half strength is confectioners glaze diluted with 50% glaze cleaner or Isopropyl Alcohol).
3. Tape up the large top leaf using ¼ width moss green tape.



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Wire up as follows:-



## Tips

The calyx on a rose hangs down when the flower opens. It is likely that by attaching the sugar calyx in the same way, it may become broken when wiring up. Using artistic licence consider making and attaching the calyx so the sepals are simply curved and follow the shape of the rose and not hanging down. *This is my preferred method when making roses to decorate a cake.*

*Kathy*