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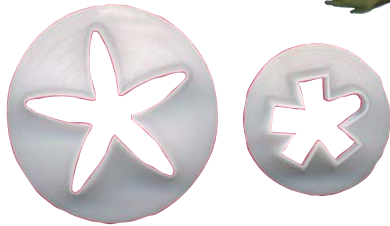
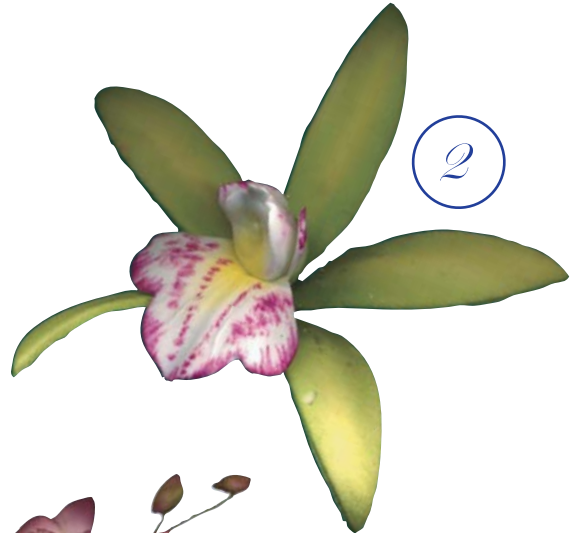
(see overleaf for instructions)

Orchids

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Poor Mans Orchid

Singapore Orchid



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Cymbidium Orchid



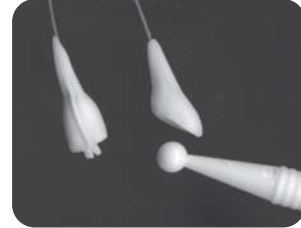
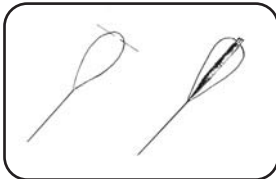
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Orchids

Orchids are one of the most adaptable plants and can be found literally from the North Pole to the South Pole. For the cake decorator they offer the advantage of a wide range of sizes, colours and the option for use as a single flower, a stem (spike) or as part of a spray or arrangement.

Basic Techniques

1. Begin by preparing the centre column, ideally in advance to allow it to dry before adding the lip.
Mould a small piece of flower paste (gum paste) into a smooth cone and attach to a hooked 28 gauge wire, using gum glue to secure. With a small Ball Tool, cup the end of the cone. Use a fine pair of scissors to cut 2 thin sections from the cupped cone. Snip the tiny section left in the middle into two (so that they look like two teeth). Make the impression on the top of the column using tweezers.
2. Roll out the flower paste finely and cut out the lip. Using a small knife make two small cuts either side of the shape, in between the first large and small scallop shapes. Vein, soften or frill the lip shape as required. Attach to the column by gently wrapping around the shape. Open the throat before allowing to dry.
3. All of the petals can be veined using the Veining Mat Set No 2. (5 - 8) Simply lightly dust the veiner with cornflour and place the cut out paste on top. Use the back of one of the other veiners to press firmly.
4. Petals can be wired by either rolling out the paste with a centre ridge, or by simply rolling out a slightly thicker piece of paste that will allow a white 28 gauge wire to be threaded approx halfway into it. Again there are many choices of finish.
5. Colouring - By working with a white or pale coloured paste it is a lot easier to achieve a gentle shading with powder colours. Additional detail can be added using food colour blended with clear alcohol. The powder colour will adhere easier if added before the paste has dried.
6. Assemble the petals and centre using 1/2 width florists tape, arranging into the style required.



Cymbidium Orchid

I have used this set to create a selection of orchids, by simply mixing and matching the cutters, styles, techniques and colours an enormous range can be achieved.

Orchid No 1 - Many classic orchids have this combination of two wide petals and three narrow ones.

Orchid No 2 - On this occasion I have used only the narrow petals and gently curved them from the back using a bone tool.

Orchid No 3 - By frilling the lip and wider petals the flower gives a finish more often associated with a Cattleya Orchid.

Orchid No 4 - This flower has been prepared using only the larger petal cutter and with all the petals veined and softened.



Singapore Orchid

This cutter cuts out all of the petals at once and other than preparing the column in advance the flower can be completed at one time.

1. Vein and soften all of the cutout shapes. Attach the lip with gum glue.
2. Attach the two wider petals taking care to ensure that they are assembled as a pair.
3. Thread the wire through the centre of the three petal cutter and gently pinch into shape. The wire should be at the back of the flower.



Poor Man's Orchid

This small orchid adds an exotic touch in a very simple way. I find that they are easier to prepare by making all of the centres first and then adding the petals.

1. Roll out a strip of paste, leaving one side slightly thicker. Place the smaller cutter onto the paste with the rounded petal set into the thicker part of the paste. Cutout. Soften all the petals except the thick one.
2. Thread a 28 gauge wire into the thicker petal. Use a veining tool to create a small hollow in this thicker section.
3. From flower paste rolled out fairly finely cut out the larger five petal shape. Soften the petals.
4. Thread onto the wire and gently pinch onto the back of the centre, securing with gum glue.
5. I have finished these flowers using a single green petal cut out using a rose calyx cutter and cutting each petal to separate.

