

Poppy

By Kathy Moore

Skill Level 3 (of 4)

Poppies offer stunningly beautiful colouring and are often best presented in the simplest and most natural form to show them at their best. Even the buds have a lot to offer with their shape and textured outer covering and in the spray shown here.

Only the simplest additions have been made, bear grass and Wild Oat Grass, so as not to detract from the natural beauty.



Please read through instructions before beginning, to make sure you have everything you need to produce the Poppy.

You may also like to print the “how to” for “Making Leaves using the Cut and Pinch Method” to give you more detailed instructions for the Poppy Leaves.

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Equipment and Materials Poppy		
	✓	✓
Non stick grooved board		Dusting powders, Spring green, White, Foliage green
Non stick rolling pin		Culpitt paste colour- Foliage green, Liquorice, Red extra
Petal Pad		Dusting brushes & paint brushes
Dog bone tool		Jem veining tool (tool 12)
Dresden tool		Stemtex, natural
White fat (e.g. White Flora)		Florist tape Moss green
Edible glue and brush		Small dull head stamens - black
Scissors		Confectioners glaze, brush and cleaner
Wire cutting scissors		Culpitt poppy cutter set
Small fine palette knife		Large Poppy Veiner (DP & M Co)
		Culpitt Poppy leaf veiner (or suitable veiner)
18# and 24#, 28# green florist wires		Formers for petals e.g. Jem flower supports or similar
SFP (Petal paste) Poinsettia, Holly/Ivy		Small white stamens (for Wild Oats)
Long tweezers		SFP – Cream (for Wild Oats)

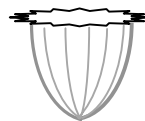
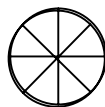
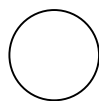
Method

1. Preparation

1. Add 'Red extra paste colour' to the petal paste bringing it to a realistic poppy colour.
2. Add 'Foliage green extra paste colour' to a small amount of SFP Holly/Ivy paste to give a richer leaf green colour.
3. Leave for a few hours, or overnight, for the colours to develop fully.
4. Cut some green 26# wires into lengths of 3.

2. Centres

1. Roll a small piece of green petal paste into a ball, then into a cone.
2. Make a hook on the end of an 18# wire and dip the hook into glue. Attach the cone to the hook end of the wire and reshape if necessary.
3. Using the tweezers, make 8 equal ridges to the top of the cone. Use the Dresden tool to score light indentations down the cone. Leave to dry.



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4. Dust the top of the centre a darker green sparingly using foliage green dusting powder. There will be just a hint of colour shading.
5. Tape the black dull head stamens to the poppy centre with $\frac{1}{4}$ width tape.



3. Petals

1. Roll out the paste on a grooved board leaving the centre part of the 'petal' thicker.
2. Insert a length of 26# wire into the groove until it reaches no less than halfway up the length of the petal.
3. Remove from the board and using the poppy cutter, cut out a petal.
4. Take the veining tool and vein the petal deeply. This will also spread and frill the petal. See image.



5. Leave to dry in a suitable former. Repeat, to make 4 petals in total for each poppy.
6. *When making the petals, remember to shape them so that the 4 petals will fit together when taped up.*

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4. Buds

1. Roll a ball of green petal paste into an oval shape.
2. Make a small hook on the end of a 24# green wire, dip into glue, (or burn on) and attach the cone.
3. Make one indent down the length of each side of the bud. Very lightly moisten the whole bud and dip into the Stemtex to texture.
4. Leave to dry.
5. For 'opening' buds make the cone from red paste and indent.
6. Roll green petal paste thinly and cut 2 'V' shapes of paste to fit over the red bud.
7. Lightly glue the paste and attach to the bud, leaving the red showing at the tip. See image. Texture the green part of the bud with pollen.



5. Leaves

For a detailed method on making leaves please see 'Making leaves using the cut and pinch way'

1. Cut some 28# green wires into lengths of 4 or 6 and burn the tape off at one end.
2. Roll paste out thinly and cut out the leaf.
3. Vein and smooth the petal and insert the wire as per the method given.
4. Leave the petals to dry in different shapes.
5. Dust the centre of the petals slightly darker green, steam and glaze with half strength confectioner's glaze.



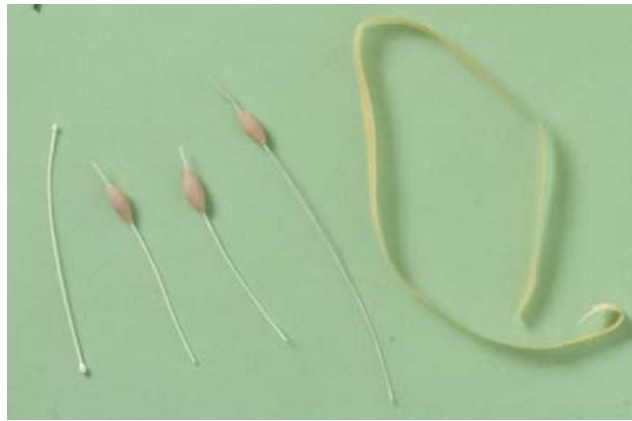
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6. Wiring up

1. Using $\frac{1}{4}$ width tape, tape two petals to the poppy centre. Tape the other two behind these petals. Tape the stem all the way down. (Add a pipe cleaner if you want to make the stems thicker).
2. Tape the stem of the buds all the way down.
3. Dust the stems green.
4. Tape the stems of the leaves.

7. Making Wild Oats



1. Remove the stamen ends from the stamen
2. Roll a small amount of cream petal paste and thread onto one end, moving it down 5mm from the top. Roll the piece of paste between your fingers to create a thin, rugby ball shape.
3. Repeat above with stamens and longer pieces of white wire.
4. Using five or six oats wire together as per image below.



8. Finishing

1. Wire up spray as per image on front sheet.