

Violet

By Kathy Moore

Skill Level 1 (of 4)

A super little flower especially as it needs no wiring into a spray. The colouring varies greatly in violets and I have focused on the wild variety found in woodlands in the spring through to late summer.

Natural arrangements, using 'sugar' plant pots, daffodils and ladybirds look stunning as a cake top decoration or as a gift. You don't have to wire the flower up into a spray but simply insert them into a mound of petal paste placed onto a small cake board as I have.

For soil use tea bags (new ones!)



To make the above you will also need the "Daffodil How To".

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Equipment and Materials			
	✓		✓
Non stick board		Dusting powders, Purple, White, Foliage green	
Non stick rolling pin		Sugarflair paste colour- Foliage green extra, 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 Violet cutter set	
Edible glue and brush		Violet leaf veiner	
Scissors		JEM short friller tool (no. 15) or similar pointed throat tool.	
Wire cutting scissors		Veining tool (JEM no. 12)	
Small fine palette knife			
28# green florist wires			
SFP (Petal paste) White, Holly/Ivy			

Please read through all instructions thoroughly to ensure you have everything before starting.

Method

Making the Violet Flower

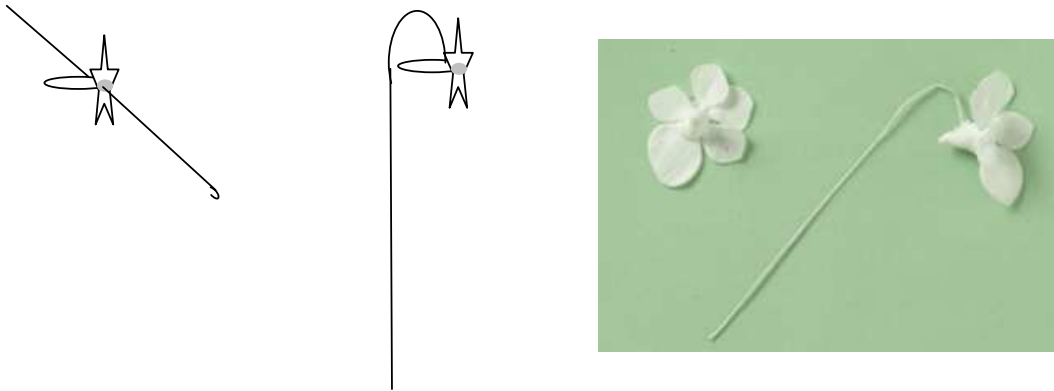
1. Cut some 28# green wires into lengths of 3 and make a tiny hook on one end.
2. Take a small piece of white petal paste and roll it into an elongated cone (see image below)
3. Using your finger and thumb, flatten the fat end of the cone to form a 'saucer shape'. This is called a 'Mexican Hat'
4. Place the violet cutter over the top of the Mexican hat and cut out.
5. Transfer to a petal pad and use the JEM veining tool to vein and spread each of the petals then use the dog bone tool to smooth around the edges.
6. Pick up the violet and use the short friller tool to indent and make a throat in the centre of the flower. Do not press the tool too far down when making the throat or it will be difficult to attach the wire.



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7. Take the wire and dip the hooked end into the edible glue. Thread the wire through the violet as shown in the image.



8. Leave the violets to dry thoroughly – overnight is best.
9. Paint the centre of each Violet yellow. (note: If too much water is added to the paste colour to obtain a painting consistency, it may dissolve the flower, as sugar dissolves in water'. Instead, consider using clear alcohol such as gin or vodka to dilute the paste colour to a painting consistency as this evaporates very quickly when applied to the flower)
10. Dust the remaining part of the petals purple. The colour need not be very dense. Dust the back of the flower purple.



11. Carefully pass the Violets through steam to set and absorb the colour.
12. Tape the stem using ¼ width moss green tape.
13. Curve the stem into an arc as shown.

Making the Leaves

1. Add a little Foliage green extra paste colour to some green petal paste to give a rich leaf green shade.
2. Roll out this paste thinly on a non-stick board lightly greased with white fat (White Flora or Trex).
3. Cut out a Violet leaf shape and vein using the veiner. Transfer the leaf to the petal pad and turn the leaf upside down.
4. Place the dog bone tool just on the inside edge of the leaf and draw the tool around the leaf. This gives the Violet leaf the characteristic inward curve.



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Wiring and Completing the Leaves

1. Turn the leaf over.
2. 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.
7. Make approximately 5 or 6 leaves to every flower. Leave the leaves to dry thoroughly.
8. Dust the leaves sparingly down the centre, with Foliage green.
9. Pass quickly and carefully over the steam of a boiling kettle. This allows the dusting powder to be absorbed into the paste resulting in a subtle blending of the colours.
10. Paint the leaves with a half strength confectioners glaze (half strength is confectioners glaze diluted with 50% glaze cleaner or Isopropyl Alcohol).
11. Cut the tape into ¼ width and tape up each leaf.



Finishing

“You don’t have to wire up the flowers into a spray but can simply place each flower and leaf into a mound of paste. Use the FMM Stone impression mat to create the cobble stone effect and place a little ladybird on the edge of a leaf for a “wild garden” feel. Above all, have fun when creating your masterpiece!”

Kathy

Sam – Kathy is supposed to be like a little sign off – can you do anything?