

Sweet William

By Maj Inger Sanders – ICES England Representative

Many legends purport to explain how Sweet William acquired its English common name, but none is verified. Sweet William is often said to honour the 18th century Prince William, Duke of Cumberland's victory at the battle of Culloden. It is also claimed that the Scots sometimes call the flower Stinking Billy, but this is not true. In the Victorian language of flowers Sweet William symbolizes gallantry. I'll stick with that!



Equipment:

Flower

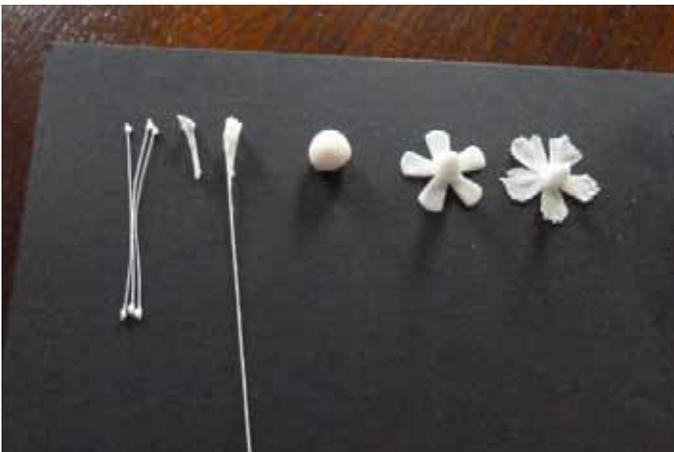
Sugar City Petal Paste
Dianthus cutter (Tinkertech 459)
Small calyx cutter
26 gauge wires
Dresden tool
Cell stick
Ball tool
Rolling Pin
Holly Products veining tool
Flower tape
Stamens
Hi-tac glue
Tweezers

LEAVES made with the "Twiddle & Stick" method

Sugar City Petal Paste
Gauge 33 wires cut into 4
Leaf veiner
Cutting Wheel
Ball Tool
Rolling pin
Moss Green dusting powder
Edible leaf glaze

Dusting Colour:

Regal Rose and Moss Green
Alcohol Isopropyl





Stamens:

Take three stamens, half to make six, cut about half off and glue together with hi-tac glue and leave to dry. When dry attach to a 26 gauge wire with a bit of glue.

Flower:

Make a ball of the size of a marrow fat pea (if using the Celcake size chart it is about a size 7). Make into a cone then into a Mexican hat. Cut out with cutter. Lengthen petals slightly with cell stick and then using the Dresden tool fray the top edges of the petals. With the veining tool broaden each petal. Indent the middle of the flower. Make another flower and position on top of the original flower securing with a bit of sugar glue. Take the 26 gauge wire with the stamens, thread through the flower and secure.

Dissolve a small amount of Regal Rose dusting powder in Alcohol Isopropyl and paint thin lines inside the flower and on top of the stamens. Dust base of flower with moss green.

Cut out some green paste with a small calyx cutter and position around the base of the flower securing with a bit of glue. Dust with Moss Green. Using ¼ width florist tape cut into 4 to 5 cms long strips twist and position around base of flower and then down wire stem.

Leaves:

These are cut out freehand and made with the twiddle and stick method (see photo #4). Start with a sausage then roll out into a thin oblong. Use the cutting wheel tool to make four leaves. Don't make any more as the paste might dry out. Leave the others under plastic. Take 33 gauge wire and measure down the wire the length of the leaf. Take a small "blob" of paste and start down the wire and "twiddle" the paste to the end of the wire so that it is the length of



the leaf. Smooth it and attach the wire to the leaf. Soften edges of leaf with ball tool. Put leaf in veiner and press. Do the same with the other leaves. Dust leaf with moss green. Dip leaf in edible leaf glaze. Dab off excess of glaze between two pieces of paper towel. Give leaf a bit of "attitude" and leave to dry.

They grow in pairs so try and get two the same size. You can vein with a leaf veiner or vein by hand.

Or: Roll out a thin sausage shape, splat, thin edge, vein, dust in Moss green and dip in ½ strength dipping solution.

Buds:

Using a 26 gauge wire cut into thirds make a hook on the wire. Make a "number 7" ball (from the Celcake size chart) into a cone shape and attach to the wire into the thick end and secure. With the cutting wheel tool make six indentations into the cone equally spaced. Carefully "twist" the top of the cone slightly so that the indentations spiral. Another option is to make 6 cone shapes (size 2 balls by the chart) and "splat" with the back of a veiner. Attach around the bud cone with a minute amount of sugar glue.

Or: Take an FMM Calyx cutter CX1. Cut out and cut off the top bits of the calyx. Ball tool around the edges of the calyx and attach to the bud with a small amount of sugar glue.

Dust the calyx with moss green dusting powder and a bit on the bud itself. Then using ¼ width florist tape cut into inch long strips wrap the wire down one inch beginning at the base of each bud. 🍷