

# ICES

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## A Day with the Waltons

Painting on *Cakes*

Patchwork  
Cutter Motif

# The Beach Scene



# The Beach Scene

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Summer on the East Coast can mean a bounty of Beach inspired cakes. The beauty of these cakes is that many parts can be made ahead and held until needed. You can pre-make all the pieces and leave them uncolored, letting you customize each cake. Here are just a few of the many items I like to use on my beach themed cakes.

## Shells

The key to making realistic shells is the final coloring that is used and the attention to detail. In the case of most shells, the best advice is less is more. Often light and subtle shading is more realistic. Begin by looking at a real shell of the same type.

Using gumpaste and the First Impression shell mold sets, S101, S187, S197 are your best bets, a variety of shells can be created. Select the shells you will be making. Lightly dust inside the mold cavities with 10x sugar and shake out the excess. Gather a small amount of gumpaste the approximate size of the cavity and shape with your fingers to the approximate size of the shell. Lightly coat in 10x sugar and push into the mold. Trim off the excess and proceed to the next cavity. Place the entire mold flat in a freezer for 10-15 minutes until the gumpaste hardens. Gently turnout and place on parchment paper to dry. If time is critical, proceed to coloring the shells immediately before they sweat. If they begin to sweat, wait until surfaced has dried to color. When coloring, very lightly color the shells from the edges in. Do not over color. Using a combination of pale yellows or straw, siennas, and light blues or violets work best. Once the color is set, you can add shimmer with either pearl dust or spray with an edible lacquer to create a shine.

For more realism, create true shells by making them hollow. Prep the cavities as above and form a gumpaste ball slightly smaller than normal for that size shell. Flatten to a thin oval. Place oval in the cavity gently easing into the shape and trimming off the excess. This works best for larger clam or oyster and scallop type shells. For smaller clam type shells use a ball tool to hollow it out. Freeze as above, and remove. Dry on parchment paper with cotton balls under the form to maintain its shape. Once dry, proceed with coloring both inside and out.

## Sand Dollars

Sand dollars are great for taking up loads of space and can be sized accordingly and are fairly simple to create. Placing a ball of gumpaste in the palm of your hand use your other hand to flatten, creating a pancake where the middle is 1/4" tall and the sides are tapered down to the edges. On the back, using the pointed end of a tool, create an indent in the center; then using a stitching tool or needle tool prick out a five petaled flower outline that radiates from the center indentation. Create the same flower pattern on the top without the indent. Using a needle or dresden tool create five oval holes, one in between two of the petals, the other four at the base of each of the petals as in photo left. Lightly dust the edges and holes of the piece with fawn and light blue dust, then over-dust with white if you wish.

## Starfish

Using First Impressions' mold (SC137) and the above technique, prep the mold cavities. Make five tapered sausages to fit each of the arms and push them into the mold. Place in the freezer to set; then gently remove. Arrange "arms" of the starfish before letting dry. Once your starfish is dried, decide on whether to color it as if alive, or as the traditional dried version. There are many species and colors for live varieties that can add color to your pieces, or you can go with the more traditional colors of pale yellows and fawn dusts. If making many dried starfish start with straw colored gumpaste as your base.

