

Dogwood Flower

By: Dionne Young (Feb. 23, 2012)

Center

The way that I do mine is roll out thin ropes of gumpaste. If you have a fondant gun that makes spaghetti strings you can use that, but that size is what you want to get. After you get a fair amount, I would say about 10-15 strands about 1in long, bunch them together and pinch on the bottom to stick together. You may need to use some gum glue or water, by the time you get the right amount or if you are doing a couple of centers at a time it will loosen its stickiness. The strands on the top should be somewhat fanned out from the bottom. Take a 28 gauge wire, loop on the top, dip in glue, then insert the wire in the center. Color green when dried.

Petals

There are four petals in total. So, roll out your gumpaste to desired thinness. Cut out your four petals or two if you are more comfortable with that. Take a 33 gauge wire and insert it into the petal, about 3/4 of the way. If you don't like this method you may twiddle. After that, vein the petal. Dogwoods don't really have a veiner, but I have used the clematis veiner that works just fine. It is a distinct type of veining, so don't just use anything if you want it to look more real. Shape the petal after veining, the little nub on the top part you will want to take a Cel stick or your ball tool, and make an indentation, kind of curving it downwards. This will be colored a brown. You don't want to keep the petals straight, add some contours and curves in the best way you like it, and you can do the rest of them randomly, not really doing all the same. Let the petals dry if you prefer. Once dried or made you can assemble.

Assembly

Starting with the center and some brown tape, add one petal, tape, the next across from it and follow the same pattern for the next two. Use brown for the assembly as the flower actually comes from a tree. It also saves from coloring the stem brown afterwards. Add a little bit of green if you like to the center of the petals where it meets the center made.