

## BLACKBERRY SET

The Blackberry Set contains all you require to make the leaves, berries and flowers of the Blackberry or 'Bramble', which is a favourite subject for sugarcraft.

1. Please read introduction paras 1 - 29.
2. Prepare paste as paras 9-10.

3. Leaves. See section on leaves for details of how to make and wire your leaves. Remember to dry for at least 24 hours and then decorate. Blackberry leaves are a light fresh green when small, a darker green when mature and develop slightly browned edges as they age. Remember it is essential to colour paste a mid green before you make them as you cannot easily decorate from white. To finish decorating leaves use dry powder colours applied with an old brush, or even better a angled shader (paras 27-29). Do not use good quality sable brushes for this, as dry application ruins the set of the brush. Some leaves are naturally shiny and this effect can be achieved by a final coating of confectioners glaze (obtained from sugarcraft shops).

4. Calyx of Sepals. This is the little green 'star' of leaves which is found on berries and behind the flowers. To use the calyx cutter, ensure that it is perfectly clean, dust lightly with a cornflour bag, roll paste very thin and cut and vein as per leaves. Remove by similar method to leaves, but it is quite important to practise getting a 'hard tack' on your finger tip for this item. The calyx is required both for the fruits and the flowers.

5. Berries. These are made in the berry moulds of which there are three sizes. To make a berry, first colour the paste to a suitable colour. Remember that natural bramble berries vary greatly in colour from the very small new berries which are almost white, through pale green, to pink, red and finally the very dark purple black of older mature berries. The colour will look dry at this stage as the colour is not sufficiently 'saturated', but do not worry about this.

a) Powder the mould with the cornflour bag, roll a piece of paste to a small 'bullet' shape with a nice smooth round end, place end in the chosen mould and press firmly and quickly into mould (see diagrams).

b) Remove by holding paste and wiggle slightly to ease away from mould and then lift out. Tap any slight imperfections down. Hold in fingers of left hand and rotate and as you do so push in gently with finger of right hand to reduce 'neck' thickness as per diagram. When much reduced cut berry from paste. Dry for about 10 mins, make small hook in No 33 gauge green tissue wrapped wire, dip lightly in egg white and insert in back of berry. Thread on calyx and form to desired shape.

c) If you look at real berries you will see that in most cases there remains the 'debris' of old petals etc. tucked between the berry and the calyx, this can be simulated by colouring a small piece of paste a rough pinky purple colour (ie not fully mixed but still showing separate colours). Hold paste in one hand and with cocktail stick point 'pick out' a small piece of paste and 'feed' it in to space between berry and calyx, this should be continued all round the join between berry and calyx, the effect will resemble the remains of the withered petals and give a very realistic look to the work. Finish berries with a light application of liquid colour and a finish with confectioners glaze.

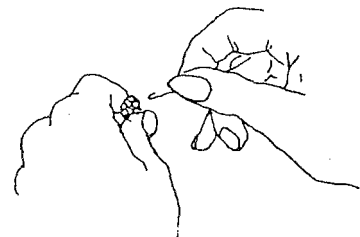
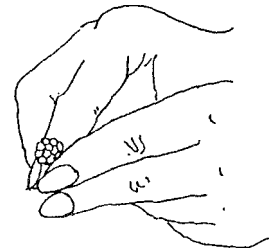
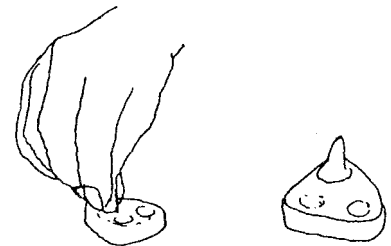
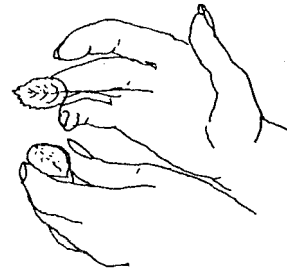
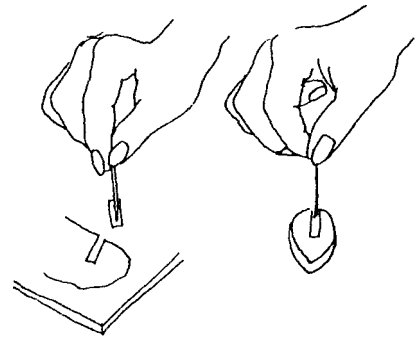
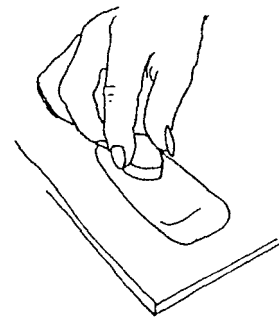
6. Flowers.

a) Mix a very small amount of light pink paste for flowers. Roll out paste and using a blossom/calyx cutter cut out paste and drop on palm of hand. Using a ball tool spread and cup petals. See diagram for shape to aim at, you can use either blossom/calyx cutter for this operation.

b) The anthers are made by taking a pale yellow or white cotton and winding on about 20 to 30 turns on a suitable sized pencil, brush handle, or little finger. Thread through hooked wire of about 28 gauge and twist up wire to hold 'loop' firmly. Twist on green florists wax tape, cut loop as shown and brush ends of cotton 'filaments' with dark brownish red to give anthers.

c) Make petals and thread on, Then apply egg white similarly to centre of back of petals, make calyx and thread on.

7. Buds. The buds are very simple to hand model, the best way is to make the basic shape in the fingers and then mark or cut the shape of the sepals with a blade. Insert a fine hooked No 33 green tissue wrapped wire into the bud and put aside to dry and colour (see diagrams).



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## POINSETTIA LEAF SET

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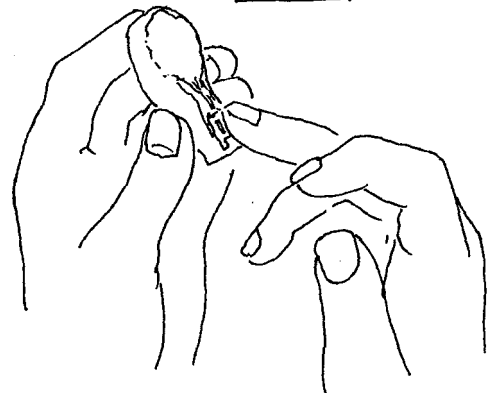
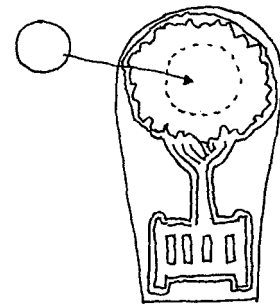
## ORANGE TREE in TUB

1. Please read introduction paras 1 - 29.

2. Prepare paste as paras 9-12. You may wish to colour paste to the basic base colour required (see para 26).

3. Ensure that cutter/veiner is perfectly clean. Dust cutter with cornflour bag and roll paste (para 11); cut and vein (paras 13, 14); when veining tap tree and tub, but not stem. Make a small piece of paste about the size of a large pea, place it in the back of the tree and press it in gently but firmly as this will fully develop the oranges and leaf details. Removal is very similar to general description (para 15) but try to get a 'hard tackiness'<sup>1</sup> on your finger and gently just raise and drop the tub on one side and then the other, do not pull the tub up into the air, it is quite sufficient to just ease it up very slightly so that you know that it is free.

4. Renew the 'tack'<sup>1</sup> on your finger and apply it gently but firmly to the back of the tree and remove slowly and carefully to release entire object in one piece. You may need to practise this a little, but it is quite easy to do if you have the paste and technique correct. However it is not a disaster if it does break as it can easily be assembled together on the cake.



## BEEHIVE

1. Please read introduction paras 1 - 29.

2. Prepare paste as paras 9-12. You may wish to colour paste to the basic base colour required (see para 26).

3. Ensure that cutter/veiner is perfectly clean. Dust cutter with cornflour bag and roll paste (para 11); cut and vein (paras 13, 14).

4. Removal is very similar to general description (para 15) but try to get a 'hard tackiness'<sup>1</sup> on your finger and apply it gently but firmly to the back of the beehive or the bee and remove slowly and carefully to release entire object in one piece. You may need to practise this a little, but it is quite easy to do if you have the paste and technique correct.

