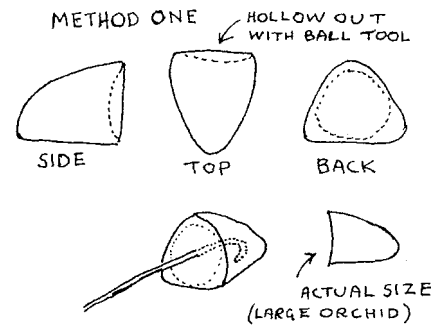
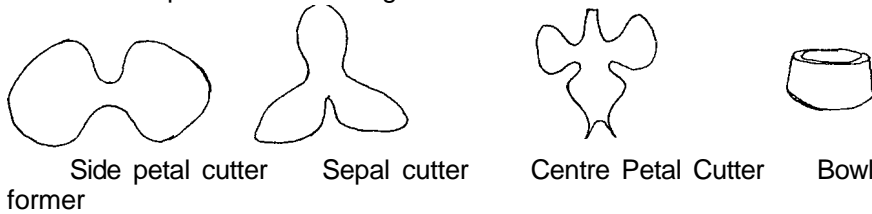


MOTH ORCHID Phaleonopsis Orchid

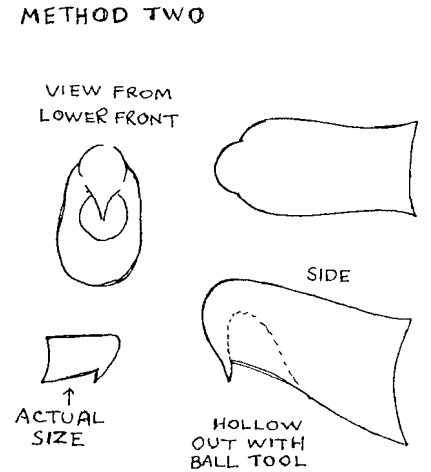
Your set comprises the following items:-



1. Please read introduction paras 1-29.
2. You may wish to colour paste see para 26.
3. Make flower in following order and assemble as indicated.

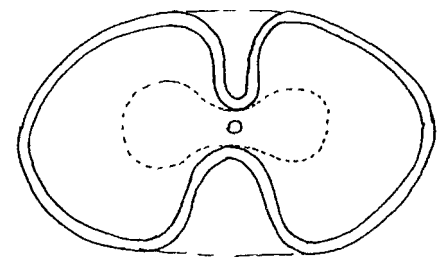
a) First make the small column petal, this is made by hand and we can suggest two versions, the first is reasonably easy and popular, but not strictly correct, the second is correct but takes a little practise to make well.

Method 1. Start with a piece of paste the size of a small pea, model it in the fingers to the shape as per diagram at point indicated press into slightly hollow shape with ball tool, the important thing is not to make the column petal too big so check the size against the drawing. When finished make snub hook with strong green tissue wrapped wire, dip lightly in egg white and insert in hollowed end off column petal. Check that shape is still OK and dry for 24 hours.

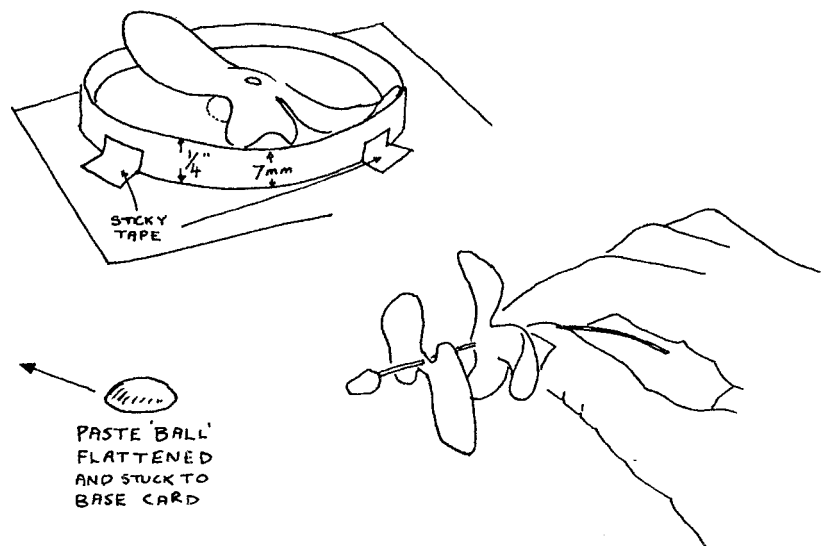
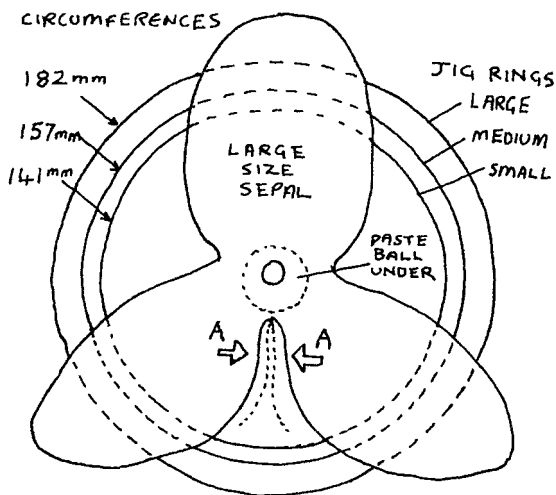


Method 2. Again start with paste the size of a small pea, form into a rectangular shape as diagram, round one end and push small ball tool in underside of round end, this will 'hollow out' the end of the column petal. With finger and thumb 'pinch' a tiny point on underside of round end, this is like a little tooth and it should point slightly backwards. Slightly hollow other end with ball tool and insert wire as per method 1. Note actual size of column petal and check against drawing, You will find it a little difficult to to make these to the exact size, being a little larger is not detrimental. The medium and small size flowers will obviously require even smaller columns - and for these, unless you wish to, it is not strictly necessary to 'hollow out' as per instructions.

WIRE AS METHOD ONE



b) Side petals, these are the 'elephant ear' petals, roll paste fairly thin and cut and vein as per para 13, 14. Tap 'joining bridge' between petals well in to mould and reinforced with bridging piece of paste placed



MAKE JIG RINGS ABOUT 1/4" OR 7mm HIGH

WHEN IN JIG SEPAL EDGES AT A-A SHOULD ALMOST CLOSE TOGETHER.

in groove and blended in to petals either side, there is no need to use eggwhite to stick this down, as if you do it straight away it should firm in and blend suitably.

Make hole in centre of bridge with cocktail stick, make sure that it is as wide as the cocktail stick this to ensure that it will easily take the wire through. Remove petals from mould (para 15) place face up on flatish surface, you can roll frill the edge, (para 21), but only very slightly as the petals edges for moth orchids are usually smooth and well defined.

c) Sepals, the three sepals are all cut together, cut and vein, make hole in centre as per petals, remove and place on jig as diagram. The jigs are easy and quick to make so do take the time to make them, they really do make all the difference to the final effect.

d) Centre petal, Cut, vein and place carefully in bowl former. Form with ball tool, and remove when semi-set, that is when it will stay in shape. The 'front' of the petal divides into two, in the actual flower these 'points' resolve into little curls like a curled moustach. When the petal is hard set, 'twirl' a fine red stamen using a slightly split end of a matchstick (cut off the anthers first), and stick to underside of petal points with stick paste. Make the nectary from a very small piece of bright yellow paste, it should look like a very small thick winged butterfly with its wings slightly open. The easiest way to make it is to form a tiny cube of paste in the fingers, cut it half way down, wiggle the blade gently to open the 'wings'. Brush a tiny amount of eggwhite on base of 'butterfly' while still on scalpel, rest in position shown in diagram so that it sticks and remove blade.

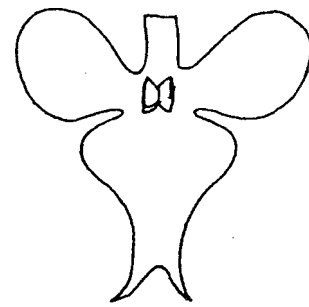
e) Allow all petals to dry thoroughly (24 hours)

f) Before assembly consider the possible advantage of painting the centre petal beforehand. This is mainly the case of those very popular varieties in which the centre petal is the only area of the flower that is painted, the remaining petals being white. The reason for this being that it is hard to decorate it cleanly, and not touch the 'white area' once the flower is assembled all together.

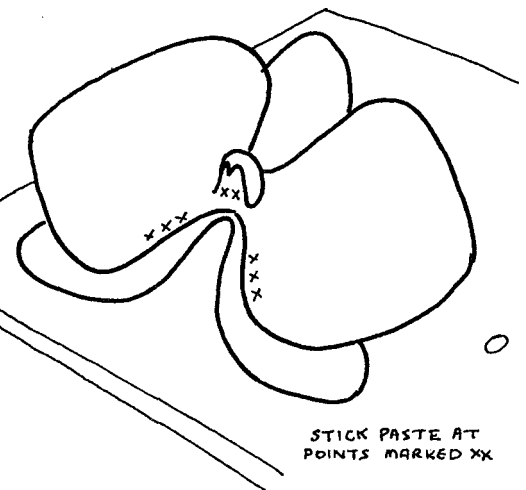
Assembly, Place stickpaste (para 25) on column petal around the point where the wire enters, thread on petals and stick column to bridge between petals, note that small gap between petals is the top of the flower and the wide gap is the bottom.

Put stickpaste on back of petals around the wire and thread on sepals, note that top sepal must rest behind small gap of petals, the lower two sepals usually touch the bottom edge of the petals and can be secretly attached to these with a small amount of stickpaste put on with a cocktail stick, this is strongly advised.

Allow to dry, you can place the flower head on a shoe box lid which has holes in it for the wire to go through. When set you can fix the bowl petal, the 'tab' of the petal fixes to the underside of the column petal and the bowl of the petal is supported and stuck to the edges of the side petals. We find that the best way to fix is to apply stick paste to the underside of the column petal and the edges of the side petals and then place the bowl petal in position. Do make sure that all is completely dry before any further decoration. The fine 'whiskers' at the end of the bowl petal are only really needed for exhibition work as the flowers look very impressive without. These orchids look best as sprays, buds and small orchids at the front, and medium and large flowers towards the rear.



SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE FOR HOW TO MAKE & FIX THIN WIRE EXTENSIONS



STICK PASTE AT POINTS MARKED XX

