

WILD STRAWBERRY SET

The Wild Strawberry Set contains all you require to make the leaves and strawberries. The flowers are best made by using a blossom 'pop' cutter which can be obtained from your local sugarcraft shop.

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

3. Leaves. Colour paste a light green (para 26). See section on leaves for details of how to make and wire your leaves. When your leaves are finished leave to dry on jig (24 hrs) made as per diagram. To decorate leaves use dry powder colour applied with a brush, see paras 28,29. Wild strawberries are a light fresh green when small, a darker green when mature and develop slightly browned edges as they age. Some leaves are naturally shiny and this effect can be achieved by a final coating of confectioners glaze (obtainable at sugarcraft shops)

4. Berries. The berry fruits are made in the moulds supplied. To make the berries, first colour enough paste to a strawberry pink to make the berries required. This will look to dry at this stage as the colour is not sufficiently saturated, but do not worry about this. Powder the mould with the cornflour bag, roll a piece of paste to a small 'bullet' shape with a nice smooth end. Place end in the chosen mould and holding rest of paste push firmly and quickly into the mould.

Remove by holding paste and wiggle slightly to ease away from mould and then lift out. Hold upright like an ice-cream cone in fingers of left hand and rotate and as you do so push in gently with first finger of right hand to reduce neck thickness as per diagram. When thin cut berry from paste and place on one side to dry. Leave for minimum 10 mins then make a small hook with 33 gauge green tissue wrapped wire, dip lightly in egg white and insert into the back of the berry. Make calyx as below and thread on to wire and form to desired shape on fruit.

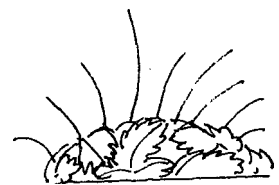
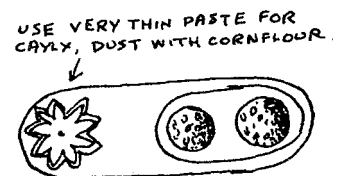
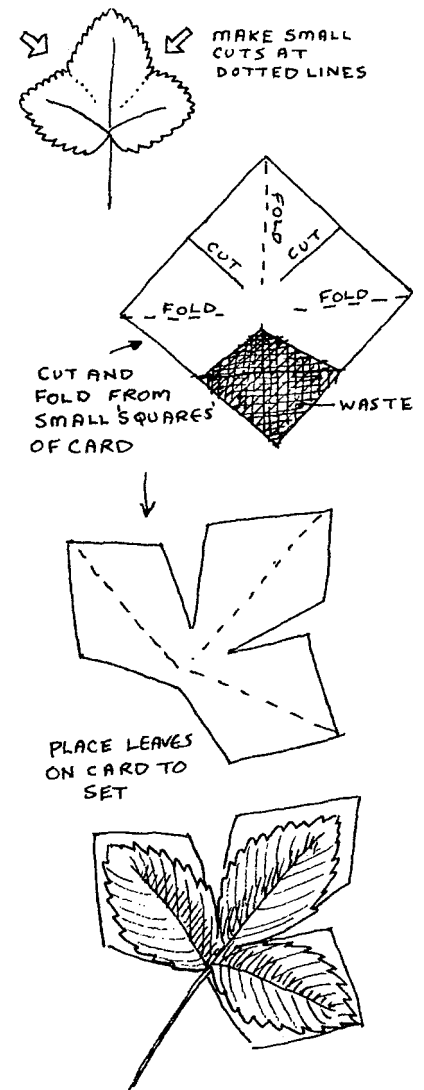
Decorate berries by the light application of liquid colour and finish with confectioner's glaze.

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

6. Mix a very small amount of white paste for the flowers. Roll out paste and using a 'pop cutter', cut out paste and drop on dry palm of hand. Using the small ball of a ball tool spread and cup petals, make small hole in centre with a cocktail stick and set aside to dry.

Make a very small pea shape of pale yellow paste. Place on end of cocktail stick and brush lightly with egg white then dip into yellow sugartex or semolina which has been dusted with yellow powdered food colouring. Remove from cocktail stick with tweezers and insert green 33 gauge wire which has a small piece of stick paste applied to the end. Leave for 24 hours and when set apply a very small amount of egg white to the base, make petals and thread on, then apply egg white similarly to centre back of petals, make calyx and thread on. Do not assemble into spray until all completely dry and hard set.

7. Arrangement. An arrangement can be made by making a base shape as per diagram. Cover base with overlapping leaves made with the leaf cutters, these need not be finely made and decorated as they will hardly be seen at all. Colour in fairly drab greens using powder colours. Arrange sprays of berries leaves and flowers in base which should be almost entirely hidden behind foliage, it is almost always easier to paint all components before final assembly. Try to obtain a sample of a real wild strawberry plant to guide your work.



Make base shape in sugarpast or oasis covered with cling film and coated with thin layer of paste. Cover with leaves and paint in drab greens. Insert made up sprays to make Wild Strawberry clump