

# CHRISTMAS SPARKLE

## Amaryllis:

Create a spectacular festive Amaryllis.

*Chef Nicholas Lodge*

### Stamens (12)

Take four full length 30 gauge white wires and cover each wire with quarter width white floral tape. Trim the ends and cut each wire into three, giving you 12 wires.

Make a 4mm hook on the end of the wire and bend half way down the hook to make a T hook.

Take a no.6 size small ball of lemon yellow, roll into a sausage and cut into 12, place under a pot.

Brush the small horizontal stamen cavity in the Flower Pro Lily Mould with a little vegetable fat / shortening. Take a piece of the yellow paste, roll into a 6mm ( $\frac{1}{4}$  inch) cigar shape, place into the base of the cavity and press in with your finger. Brush glue on the T hook and press into the paste, pinch the mould around the wire and remove. Make a little pointed at each end then repeat with all 12 (six for each flower). Leave to dry.

### Pistal (2)

Take a full width white 26 gauge wire and cover with quarter width white floral tape. Trim the ends and cut in half.

Take a no.3 size ball of white and cut in two.

Brush glue on the end of the wire and insert into the ball. Shape to 10mm ( $\frac{3}{8}$  inch) long, cut the top into thirds approximately 5mm long, open out slightly then leave to dry.

### Stamen and pistal colouring and assembly

Bend the stamens at a right angle 50mm (2 inch) down the wire. Bend the pistal 63mm ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch) at a right angle, dust 5mm at the top of the stamen stem and at the base of the stamens using a 1:1 mix of Light Apple and Apple Green. Dust the rest of the stamen red then dust the top of the stamen lightly with confectioner's glaze and dip in natural semolina (for air drying clay, use glue or clear nail polish and dip in natural sand). Dust the pistal all over with red and a little of the Light Apple / Apple Green mix in the centre of the pistal. Curve up the stamens and pistal. Arrange in a grouping with the



pistal in the centre and stamens around then attach to the end of a half length 20 gauge wire using half width light green floral tape.

Dust Ruby on the bottom third of the stamens and pistal then Apple Green at the very base.

### Petals

Roll out half of the red paste through a pasta machine on setting number 4 (or number 3 for air drying clay). Cut out three petal shapes using the template (see page 3) and place into the Stay Fresh Folder.

Take a third length 26 gauge white wire, dip into glue and insert 25mm (1 inch) into the base of the petal. Shape at the base, lay into the large petal cavity in the Flower Pro Lily Mould and press only on the centre with half of a cosmetic sponge or a cut down wedge 8mm wide. Press the shaft of the Companion Tool in the centre, remove from the mould and lay into the extra-large petal cavity in the Flower Pro Peony Mould. Move down and press a cosmetic sponge on the tip then move up so the petal is at the base of the mould. Press around the side of the centre using the square edge of a cosmetic sponge on the back of the petal. Place the peony back veiner in position and press gently around the edge only.

Place on the soft side of a pad and make some lines on the tip of the back. Frill the top half of the petal

using a medium ball tool or the Companion Tool shaft, turn over and redefine the main raised veins. Hollow the base of the front using the shaft of the Companion Tool. Pinch tip to a point then leave to dry in a multi former or foil formed over a medium pin or wooden spoon handle, with the tip slightly curved.

Repeat with another three petals in same way, this time dry with a jumbo drinking straw or fun foam noodle at top edge of the former and support the top edge using foam under the former. Let both sets of petals dry.

## Secondary petals

Once the first petals are dry, tape the base of the petal 25mm (1 inch) down the petal using half width light green floral tape.

Dust all over with a 2:1 mix of Red and Ruby. Then dust a 2:1 mix of Ruby and Burgundy in three stripes from the base and repeat on the back. Dust Apple Green at the base 5mm and back a third down from the base.

Assemble the three inside petals by bending one down and tape underneath the stamens at 6 o'clock then the remaining petals in a triangle at 2 o'clock and 10 o'clock.

Make sure they are in the correct position then add two extra 20 gauge wires and tape down the stem using half width light green floral tape.

Cut 40mm off the end of a snow / water cone.

Taking the remaining red paste, cut out six sepals using pattern, repeat as wired petals except don't insert the wire, pinch the base or hollow base. Place under a pot once three are completed.

Brush glue on the petal edge on the bottom half of the petal and attach, making sure to adhere well to the dry petals.

Slide the former over the wire, use a paper clip and turn over and dry at an angle.

**Note:** On the closed one you can use three thin foam French fry shapes to support the sepals, let dry.

## Finishing touches

Once two flowers are dry, remove from the former and remove foam, fill in any little gaps with softened paste and water, allow to dry and dust back to the match front of the flower.

Bend the bud 20mm down the wire and measure off three no.6 small size ball of pale green used for the bud.

Brush a little glue 20mm down stem and roll paste into a sausage. Roll to form a tube with a bulbous top, smooth with water if necessary.

Repeat on flowers. Allow to dry a little then dust with Apple Green.

Tape together, taping down wire. Cut the main stem to 12cm (or longer if desired).

Cut a bubble tea straw to 9cm or desired length (can be taped together).

Take a no.11 size ball of Foliage Green and roll to 9cm long and 5cm wide. Roll through a pasta machine on setting number 4. Cut one end square and bottom edge, then brush over with glue.

Roll around straw, trim and smooth (on ADC or FlexiPaste) use water to smooth seam, let dry.

Take two no.6 large size (one-quarter below and three-quarters above the hole on the Size Guide) of pale green. Brush the mould with a little vegetable fat / shortening and press into Cymbidium Orchid sepal (straight part) in the Flower Pro Ultimate Orchids Moulds & Veiner Set, pressing in with a cosmetic sponge. Press the peony back veiner on the paste, remove from the mould and soften the top edge with a medium ball tool or the shaft of the Companion Tool. Vein down the centre on the back on a cosmetic sponge and repeat with the second piece of paste. Brush glue half way up the paste and place one around the base then the second inside and create a spiral, like rose bud petals.

Slide covered straw up and wire. Secure with hot glue at the base, if desired, and plug the bottom with paste of choice. Leave to dry.

Dust all over the calyx and stem with Apple Green and Red / Ruby as used on the bud.

Steam everything

## Bud (1)

Take a half length 20 gauge wire, make a 25mm (1 inch) open hook on the end then using half width light green floral tape, tape the end of the hook and continue down wire. Brush the medium cavity on the Flower Pro Lily Bud Mould with a little vegetable fat/ shortening, measure two no.11 size balls of pale green paste, put

one piece under a pot, roll paste into a sausage and press the paste into the mould with a cosmetic sponge. Using the Flexi Scraper press to make sure the top is flat and if any excess paste needs to be scraped away.



Brush glue on the wire and insert under the surface, remove and repeat, gluing together then smooth the seams. Shape like a Cymbidium Orchid bud. On FlexiPaste and air drying clay use a wet finger where needed. Leave to dry.



### Colouring

Add two extra 20 gauge wires at the base of the bud, tape down, up and down.



Dust over bottom with a 1:1 mix of Light Apple and Apple Green and in stripes as shown on the episode.



Then dust both reds as used on petals / sepals. Finish as flowers (see *Finishing Touches*).

### Colour guide



### Price guide

Amaryllis flower \$25.00  
 Amaryllis bud \$4.00  
**TOTAL: \$54.00** (UK £39.50)

Assembly into natural stem, calyx, main stem, etc \$8.00  
**TOTAL: \$62.00** (UK £45.00)

### Petal template

