

COLOURS OF AUTUMN 1

Chinese lantern and Autumn Cosmos:

Make bright Chinese Lanterns and Cosmos for your autumn arrangement.

Chef Nicholas Lodge

Chinese Lantern

Take half of a rectangle of tissue, fold into eight lengthways and hook a 22 gauge wire over the end and squash with pliers. Wrap around to form a basic ball shape, wrap half width light green floral tape around to mummify and use the No.3 cavity in The Measuring Mould to help with shape. Tape half way down the wire, form to shape in the No.3 cavity (No.9 on The Size Guide). Continue making three in total.

Ripe lantern (2)

Take two No.4 small balls of orange paste, slide up wire and attach with glue* around the wire, smoothing out over the top of the ball.

***Note:** When 'glue' is mentioned, for sugar use egg white or piping gel and for air drying clay use PVA glue or a hot glue gun.

Roll out the orange paste through a pasta machine on setting number 4 then cut out using the 90mm (medium) Flower Pro Five Petal Rose Cutter. Cut again to make 10 petals, cut the flower in half and place one half into the Flower Pro Stay Fresh Folder.

Cut to separate into five individual petals and line up in the folder with the wide end away from you. Smooth the straight cut part of the petal using your finger applying light pressure.

Taking one petal at a time, place the pointed narrow end of the petal onto the tip of the right hand side of the Flower Pro Multi Leaf Veiner and press firmly with a cosmetic sponge. Remove using the needle end of the Companion Tool and turn over to the front veined side onto a cosmetic sponge. Curl the edges on the rounded part of the petal with the shaft of the Companion Tool and place under a cup. Continue until all five petals are completed.



Brush glue* all over the paste and ball, attach a petal by pressing gently onto the glue. Press with the needle end of the Companion Tool to secure then brush glue on the edge of the petal where it is curled and attach the next petal. Repeat and on the last petal brush glue on the edge of petal number 4 and 1, press in with the needle end of the Companion Tool. Pinch using fine tweezers to remove and define the central vein.

Brush a little glue on the inside petal tips and gently bring together to create a point, allow to dry upside down. Repeat with the second orange lantern and allow to dry.

Tape up and down on 50mm (2 inch) of the wire under the lantern. Dust Orange all over except at the very top, then Apple Green at the top and down a little. Brush Red about a third of the way up from the point.

Steam and lightly spray with lacquer. (For air drying clay spray with hairspray and glaze with satin craft glaze).

Under-ripe lantern (1)

Repeat as for the orange ripe lanterns using the pale green paste. You only need one half (5) of the 10 petals. Allow to dry upside down.

Note: Smaller lanterns can be made in the same way using the 70mm (medium) Flower Pro Five Petal Rose Cutter, for smaller sprays.

Tape as the ripe lanterns. Dust from top down a third with Apple Green and Orange a third up from the point. Steam and finish as the orange lantern.

Leaves (3 small, 2 large)

Measure three No.6 and two No.7 small balls of paste, brush the small and large blackberry leaf cavities in the

Flower Pro Blackberry & Oak Leaves Mould with a little vegetable fat / shortening.

Take the no.6 ball, roll into a carrot shape three-quarter the length of the small cavity, place into position in the mould and press in with a cosmetic sponge making thinner at the edges. Create a ridge with your fingers or the shaft of the Companion Tool. Dip a 28 gauge white wire into glue* and insert half-way into the leaf. Place the Flower Pro Poinsettia back veiner on top, lining up the tip of the leaf with the tip of the back veiner and the wire in the 'V' shape then press gently.

Remove and place onto a soft pad with the back towards you. Press each side of the wire with the needle end of the Companion Tool to create a heart shaped base. Using the ball end on the Companion Tool make two or three indents on each side (don't make too symmetrical; 3-4 times on large leaf). Using a veining tool work out to establish slight points on scallops and an extra one or two at the top of the leaf. Soften the edge using the shaft of the Companion Tool.

Turn over and hollow leaf front base using the needle end of the Companion Tool, pinch like a taco shape and leave to dry on a crate / convoluted foam former. Repeat with remaining two small and two large leaves.

Tape 13mm (½ inch) at the base of each leaf using half width light green floral tape. Dust all over with Apple Green on both sides add an orange highlight at the base of the leaf front and back. Steam and spray with lacquer. (For air drying clay spray with hairspray and glaze with satin craft glaze).

Note: Optionally, you can assemble the stem too then steam and glaze the whole thing.



Assembly

Take a small leaf then tape using half width light green floral tape. Add two more small leaves and an 18 gauge wire.

Add the two large leaves, then the lanterns, finally bending over to give a natural shape.

Dust additional Apple Green on stem and then steam (for air drying clay spray with hairspray.)

Autumn Cosmos

Centre (1)

Take half length 22 gauge wire, and using half width light green floral tape, wrap around five times. Make a compact tight hook, wrap around five more times and come down the wire half way.

Take eight small seed head stamens (white or yellow) and cut to 8mm long. Brush the floral tape bud with glue* and insert into a no.6 ball of lemon yellow paste. Shape with a flat top, press into the daisy centre mould in the Flower Pro Ultimate Sunflower & Daisy Mould, remove and snip around the edge. Work in towards the centre in a spiral to make a creamy spiky centre, insert the 16 stamens around the outside in a circle then allow to dry.

Dust the centre, base of stamens (thread) and half way down the base using Harrison's Yellow. Dust orange / red (as used on petals) in a ring just inside the stamens. Dust Apple Green at the base of the centre then Chocolate over the stamen tips and in centre.



Petals (8)

Roll out the yellow paste through a pasta machine on setting number 4 then cut out using the 70mm (small) Flower Pro Five Petal Rose Cutter. Cut again to create 10 petals.

Separate the petals and place into the Stay Fresh Folder. Place a petal on the Size Guide ruler with the thin end of the petal at 28mm and cut off at 0mm. Cut this end again using pinking shears to create three lobes.

Take a quarter length 28 gauge white wire, dip in glue and insert a third of the way into the petal. Shape at the base, place into the Gerbera daisy petal veiner (second up from the bottom) in the Sunflower & Daisy Mould. Position about a third of the way down so it fits into the shape. Press the fan back veiner on top, remove from veiner and turn over onto the soft side of a pad (this will be the back of the petal with finer veining). Using the needle end of the Companion Tool frill the petal end where the three lobes are.

Turn over to the front of the petal (fan veiner texture) onto a cosmetic sponge. Use the needle end of the Companion Tool to work from the petal tip in and make a line following each edge of the petal. Hollow base using the needle end of the Companion Tool and turn over. Place into a plastic frozen yogurt spoon used as a former (with the back of the petal facing up) and allow to dry.

Tape 13mm (½ inch) at the base of each leaf using half width light green floral tape. Dust Harrison's Yellow on the edge of the petals, front and back.

Mix equal amounts (1:1 ratio) of orange and red and dust on the end and two stripes where the scallops are, only on the front. Dust Prairie Green at the base of the petal, front and back.

Bend at an angle to match the flower centre and tape four petals in a square then another four in between.

Continue down the wire a little to secure wires and trim off excess petal wire.

Brush a little vegetable fat/shortening into the small daisy calyx in the Sunflower & Daisy Mould. Press a no.5 large size ball of paste into the cavity using a cosmetic sponge then a Dresden or veining tool to work to the tips. Remove and place on a cosmetic sponge with holes and then work the tips of the calyx with the needle end of the Companion Tool. Brush glue all over and slide up to form the calyx. Allow to dry a little and dust the calyx base with Apple Green, then steam.

Buds (1 small and 1 large)

Take a half length 24 gauge wire and create a floral tape bud (as the flower centre).

Measure a no.6 ball of yellow paste, shape into a sausage and press into the daisy bud cavity using the ball end of the Companion Tool. Brush glue over the floral tape bud, push into the paste (base of the floral tape bud will still be visible) flex mould twice in each direction then remove and shape at the base. Mark in towards the centre with the needle tool.

Repeat with a no.7 large size ball of paste for the large bud.

Once removed from the mould, snip the tip of the eight ridges and continue the lines down to the base of the bud and allow to dry.

Dust Harrison's Yellow on the top two thirds of the buds. Dust Apple Green on bottom third and lightly in the centre then dust the orange / red mix on the ribs and cut tips.

Make calyx as flower but only brush glue two thirds of the way up the petals so it opens out a little. Dust with Apple Green then steam.

Leaves

Take eight full length 28 gauge green wires and cut into quarters giving 32 wires.

Taking two groups of three wires, two groups of five wires and two groups of eight wires, tape each group at the bottom 25mm (1inch) using quarter width light green floral tape.

Cut the groups of three to 40mm. Cut the groups of five to 50mm and groups of eight to 55mm, curling each wire away from the centre.

Take a no.13 size ball of foliage green sugar paste / rolled fondant (or no.13 foliage green ADC). Put in a container and add water using a small spray bottle, work with your fingers and then a pallet knife / spatula until a soft royal icing consistency is achieved.



