

CHRISTMAS SPARKLE

Festive Foliage:

Make Tulip Leaf Bows, Boxwood and Spruce. "

Chef Nicholas Lodge

Tulip leaf bow

Tails (2): Take a no.12 small ball of green paste, roll into a sausage, then into a 4cm wide strip using a small rolling pin and feed through a pasta machine on setting number 5. Place into the Stay Fresh Folder or a plastic flap (for air drying clay, use the flap to put through the pasta machine).

Take a half length 22 gauge white wire and mark 7cm using a marker. Cut both ends square and brush glue over that half of the paste. Place the wire at one end of the strip at the 7cm mark and fold over, rub gently to laminate together.

At the folded end, mark the centre of where the wire is with the needle end of the Companion tool then mark 1.5cm each side of the mark. Repeat on the wire end then cut with a ruler. Trim the end to 10cm long.

Thin the side by rubbing with your finger. Lay on the tip of Flower Pro Calla Lily spathe mat so wire is at the top (flat side down). Press around the wire using a cosmetic sponge, turn over and trim with scissors, following the curve of the veining to nearly meet the wire, pinch to secure.

At the bottom, mark the middle and mark in 2cm then cut with a knife or scissors.

Hollow around base of leaf, bend wire in a slight curve and pinch like a taco shape. Hang upside down to dry.

Loops (2): Take a no.14 small ball of green paste, roll into a sausage then make 7cm wide, feed through pasta machine on setting number 3 then 5. Cut in half and cut each to 15cm long.

Brush glue over one half, place a full length 22 gauge white wire in the centre with the wire coming out each end of the strip, laminate the strips together.

Mark 1.5cm each side of the wire at both ends. Cut to make strip, thin the edge in the Stay Fresh Folder or a plastic flap.

Lay the flat side on the Flower Pro Calla Lily / Tulip Leaf veiner and press around the wire using a cosmetic sponge. Trim at both ends to taper to the wire, fold over



with veining on the outside and use pliers to bend the wires at slight angle. Secure with half width light green floral tape and pinch the sides up to give the correct shape then leave to dry.

Tape the wire of the two tails using half width light green floral tape 25mm (1 inch) down the stem .

Dust the back of the tail and inside of the loop with white dusting powder then Apple Green on the front and outside of the loops. Steam and glaze the front green side only. (For air drying clay, dust, spray all over with unscented hairspray then glaze the front green side only with satin craft glaze). Leave to dry. Assemble as shown in the episode, adding a half length 20 gauge wire.

English Boxwood (24 large leaves / 12 small leaves)

Take two no.7 small balls of green paste and roll into a sausage and cut each into 12 pieces, this will give you 24 no.3 small size balls of paste.

Cut a 30 gauge green wires into six, dip one into glue and insert into the ball. Shape into a cone, press into the large Boxwood cavity in the Flower Pro Wedding Foliage Mould, then mark a central vein and side veins using the needle end of the Companion Tool.

Remove and hollow the base of the front of the leaf, dry flat. Repeat using a no.6 size ball of paste and cut into 12 pieces to give you 12 no.2 small size balls to make the small leaves.

Assemble into 12 groups of 3 leaves make 6 sprays with small leaves taping down 25mm using quarter width light green floral tape. Add a large leaf to the right, go down another 25mm and add a large leaf to the left and tape down the stem. Add in 6 opposite with small leaf, large to left then large to right. Tape onto a 22 gauge



wire once 3 groups of leaves have been assembled, working down the stem as shown in the episode using half width floral tape to assemble.

Dust the front of the leaves using Foliage Green and Pale Chocolate on the back at the base of the leaf where the stem meets and some Pale Chocolate at base of the grouping on the stem.

Then steam and spray with lacquer or leaf glaze on both sides (for air drying clay spray with unscented hairspray then apply satin craft glaze on both sides of the leaves).

Spruce (1 large / 2 small)

Measure a no.8 small size ball of paste and roll into a sausage the same length as the small spruce mould. Spruce can be made in many colour variations, from grey-greens, eucalyptus blue-greens to brighter moss greens.

For large spruce measure a no.9 small size ball of paste. When making several spruce, measure all the required balls and place under a pot or in a zip-top bag to prevent drying.

Press into the mould with a cosmetic sponge, working from the top to the bottom of the mould, then skim off excess paste with a Flexi Scraper using a sawing action.

Use a veining tool or Companion Tool to pull the paste into the edges and ensure the paste fills the mould. You can flex the mould to release the spruce at this point if using as half relief flat on a cake or craft project and won't need a wire.

To make a three-dimensional spruce, wrap half width brown floral tape half way down a 24 gauge wire. Hold

the taped end of the wire over the paste, 5mm from the top of the paste, to measure a length that requires 'glue'. Brush piping gel or edible glue down this length of the wire.

Insert the wire through the channel in the mould and into the paste to 5mm from the top, skimming under the surface of the paste. Flex the mould to release. If you require a smaller spruce, simply insert the wire to a shorter length then trim the paste with scissors.

To add extra dimension to the spruce, snip some of the edges with scissors. **Note:** If using sugar, dry flat before making the second half. For air drying clay, make the second half straight away and join whilst both are soft, to allow for shrinkage.

Make another spruce half in the mould then mark and texture the back with the Companion Tool, as shown. Brush piping gel or edible glue onto the textured surface then press the wired half on top. Flex to remove, snip edges to add texture and leave to dry.

Once dry, dust a little Chocolate Brown at the base and the tip of the spruce. If using a brighter green, dust all over with a contrasting darker green, like Forest Green, then steam.



For a blue or grey green paste, you can mix titanium oxide powder or white gel colouring with a little vodka and brush over for a snowy effect and allow to dry.

Assemble onto a half length 20 gauge wire as shown.

Note: If making spruce in sugar make the first half before the tulip leaf so it can dry ready for the second half at the end of part 1.

Colour guide

