

Spring Flowering Trees

Make the magnificent Magnolia and Dogwood in this five-part master class with Chef Nicholas Lodge.

Chef Nicholas Lodge

Magnolia centre

Take a half length 20 gauge green or white wire (18 gauge for sugar), and make a floral tape bud by wrapping half width brown floral tape around the end 10 times, hook the end of the wire, then wrap around another 15 times and continue the tape half way down the wire.

Take a no.10 small ball of dark cream air drying clay (or sugar), apply glue (FlexiGlue or egg white for sugar) to the floral tape bud and insert into the ball. Shape to basic cone shape, rotate in the medium Flower Pro Rose Cones Mould cavity, remove and trim off excess paste.

Make fine cuts around the base of the cone in a ring using spring-action scissors then cut in between until you come to the top of cone. Stroke gently from the top down to create spurs, leave to dry.

Take quarter width white floral tape and twist enough to go around the Flexi Scraper 20 times, remove and cut down the middle then separate into groups of 4/6/8 and tape the folded end around the base of the centre, then curl inward using tweezers.

Add four more 20 gauge wires (18 gauge for sugar), tape down, up, down, up and down five times.

Dust all over centre with Cappuccino dust, Prairie Green at the inside base of the cuts and around the base of the stamens, Daffodil Yellow on the end half of the spurs then Autumn Gold on the tips of the spurs.

Spray with unscented hairspray (or steam for sugar).



Magnolia petals (3 x small, 6 x large)

Make card or plastic templates for each petal size (see page 7).

Take three 26 gauge white wires and mark 20mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ inch) from one end using a fine black marker. Take six 24 gauge white wires and mark 25mm (1 inch) from the end.

Take the very pale cream clay (or paste), roll into a sausage and cut into three. Take one third and roll in a vinyl folder a little wider than the height of the small template (no folder if using sugar). Roll through a pasta machine on setting number one then two, open up the folder and dust a little cornflour / cornstarch on top. Place the small petal template on top then cut around using a cutting wheel or mini pallet knife. Cut three small petal shapes, remove excess paste and smooth the edge if needed using the Companion Tool, Flexi Scraper or mini pallet knife.

Take one petal at a time carefully out of the vinyl folder, dip / brush glue over the 26 gauge wire up to the mark and insert into the base of the petal. Shape at the base and place into the Flower Pro Stay Fresh Folder. Repeat on the other two petals.

Thin around the top two-thirds of each petal. Place cling film / plastic wrap over the Flower Pro Peony back veiner or the top of the Flower Pro Calla Lily petal / spathe veiner. Dust lightly with cornflour/ cornstarch. Remove a petal and place back side down on the cling film so the petal is at the top of the V-shape of the Peony back veiner or turn the Calla Lily veiner upside down and place the petal base at the point of the Calla Lily veiner. Press over with a cosmetic sponge (do not press where the wire is), turn over and repeat on the front side.

Soften the top third of the back of the petal using the shaft of your Companion Tool on your finger (for sugar use a ball tool on a pad). Turn over to the front side and hollow the base around the shaft of the Companion Tool and place into a tablespoon / tablespoon foil former, curling the top sides in slightly.

Repeat for large petals, but use 24 gauge wires, roll the

paste the width of the large petal template and cut out two large petals. Then make another two then use the left over paste mixed together for the final two, making a total of six large petals. Leave to dry in large serving spoon formers.

Once dry, tape 25mm (1 inch) down the wires. Dust very, very pale Daffodil Yellow in the centre of the petal front and back, then Pale Chocolate around the base and up the petal front and back.

Stand in a Styrofoam block and spray with hairspray (steam for sugar) and allow to dry for few minutes.

Bend three small petals slightly and attach in a triangle around the centre. Attach three large petals in between the smaller petals and finally the last three large in the same position as the three small.

Tape up and down five times. Arrange petals to desired position then dust Chocolate at the very base of the flower and re-spray with hairspray (steam for sugar).



Magnolia bud

Take a full length 20 gauge green or white wire (18 gauge for sugar), tape from the top of the wire down 25mm (1 inch) using half width brown floral tape. Then tape up, down, up, down, up, down, up, down, up, down (11 times total) to create a sausage, then continue the tape half way down the wire.

Measure a no.13 size ball of left over paste and shape into a carrot shape 55-60mm (2-2³/₈ inch) long using

the Flexi Scraper to aid in shaping.

Apply glue (FlexiGlue or egg white for sugar) on the floral tape sausage, insert into the thick end of the carrot an shape around the base (on air drying clay use a wet finger if needed to smooth).

Using the Companion Tool, mark a line each side from bottom to top using cold cream or moisturiser (for sugar use vegetable fat / shortening).

Then use the shaft of the Companion Tool to mark a deeper line (on air drying clay dip in water and smooth imperfections). Leave to dry (for sugar hang upside down).

Add four extra 20 gauge full length wires (18 gauge sugar) taping down, up, down, up and down about half way down wires.

Dust all over the bud using Moss Green and Forest Green mixed in a 1:1 ratio, then Chocolate on top to give shading. Spray with hairspray (steam for sugar).



Magnolia leaves (2 x small, 3 x large)

Make card or plastic leaf templates.

Take three 22 gauge wires and mark 60mm (2³/₈ inch) from one end using a fine black marker, for large leaves. For small leaves, take two 22 gauge wires and mark 45mm (1³/₄ inch) from the end.

Roll brown clay (or paste) into a sausage, cut into five and place back into a bag. Repeat with green.

Take a brown section, roll into a 50mm (2 inch) long sausage, place into a plastic folder and roll to a little wider than the leaf then place into base of folder and roll through a pasta machine on setting 1, 2, 3 then 4 (no folder if using sugar). Remove and place in the Flower Pro Stay Fresh Folder on base of the folder on the green surface. Repeat with green clay/paste keeping it in the plastic folder.

Lift up the Stay Fresh Folder flap and cut bottom square. Brush glue over the end of the wire to the mark and place onto the brown paste so the mark is at the base of the brown paste. Take green paste out of the vinyl folder

and lay on top (for sugar rub vegetable fat/ shortening all over the brown prior to attaching the green paste). Place the flap down and smooth to laminate the paste.

Place the template on top and cut around using a cutting wheel. Replace the flap and smooth around the edge to thin a little.

Carefully remove from the Stay fresh folder, shape at the base of the leaf and place on soft side of pad or fun foam, green paste side up, and using the Size Guide mark a central line using the needle tool end of the Companion Tool. Mark curved veins each side not making them too symmetrical, go over the lines using



the veining tool (like we did in Episode 78, Water Lily) and from wire to end of central vein. Hollow the base with the shaft of the Companion Tool, pinching like a taco shell, then place into a V-shape former or use foil over your fingers. Dry with tip slightly curved away and curl leaf over to expose brown in one or two places on each leaf.

Repeat with the remaining four leaves.

Note: All paste left can be mixed together and used / kept as Moss Green.

Using half width brown floral tape, tape down approx 40mm (1½ inch), tape up and down, then texture using scissors or wire cutters.

Dust the back with Chocolate dust. Mix equal amounts of white, Daffodil Yellow and Autumn Gold together and dust a stripe down the front of the leaf on the central vein all the way down and half way up the back over the top of the brown. Using a mixture of equal amounts of Moss Green and Forest Green mixed together over the front of the leaf cutting in the green each side leaving a defined line of the yellow in the centre. Dust chocolate at the base of leaf and on edges at the base on the front of the leaf.

For ADC, spray lightly all over with hairspray then brush the front of the leaf only with glaze, such as Sculpey Satin Glaze. For sugar, just steam the front of the leaf only and brush with leaf glaze.

Magnolia assembly

Take an 18 gauge wire and using full width floral tape start a little from the top taping down 50mm (2 inch) then up, down, up, down, up, down, up each time coming a little off the end of the wire. Pinch tip to point and roll on work surface to smooth.

Bend to curve then add four more 18 gauge wires, tape down 115mm (4½ inch), up, down, up, down.

Texture then add the bud and two small leaves, then repeat the same length and add the flower and leaves as shown.



Dogwood centres

Immature centres (x 2):

To make two compact centres for immature flowers, take twelve 30 gauge green wires, tap level and tape 5mm (¾ inch) from the end of the wire to other end of the wire using quarter width brown floral tape. Open up eight wires at a slight angle, then three at an angle and finally the centre one straight.



Take a no.6 ball of green paste, roll into an even sausage, cut into quarters then each quarter into three, giving 12 (no.2 small balls) of paste. Put under a pot to prevent drying out.

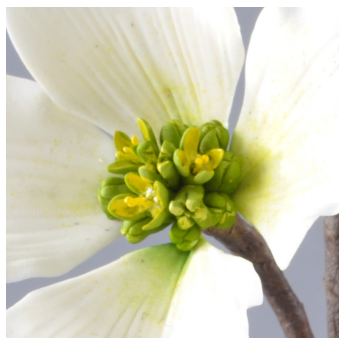
Now roll into an approx 10mm sausage, press the needle end of the Companion Tool in the centre at one end, hold between your thumb and first finger, and press the top to flatten slightly. Using a mini pallet knife, scalpel, X-acto knife divide into quarters then rock down side

of bud to continue lines a little down the side, repeat with three more then brush with glue (egg white or FlexiGlue for sugar) over four spikes and push each one onto a wire spike.

Repeat with the next four and attach to the four remaining outside wires, then finally the last four attached to the middle four wires. Push together to create tight clusters, repeat again making a second compact centre.

Mature centre (x 1):

Repeat as compact centre, once the eight outside spikes have the bud attached make another four buds but leave under a pot. Take four no.2 size balls of paste, make as smaller bud then cut into



the four sections using fine scissors. Work on the soft side of pad to produce small lilac shape blossom using a veining tool to work petals. Remove and make a hole in the centre using the needle end of the Companion Tool. Make two open, third close up slightly and fourth closed up. Attach to three wires then take remaining small buds and glue into gaps as needed using 3-4. Put a dot of piping gel / glue in centre of flowers, cut three mini white or yellow stamens 5mm long and insert three into each hole.

Once the flower centres are dry, dust over all three using Lime Green then take white and yellow gel colour add a little vodka, paint an X on the top of a few of the open flower centres and inside of the blossoms and stamens. On the compact immature flower centre add a few yellow X and no yellow on small flower.

Dogwood petals

Make a cutter by taking an aluminium drinks can, use kitchen shears or a utility / box knife to carefully cut off the top and bottom, wearing gloves if desired, cut to create a sheet.

Draw a 70mm (2¾ inch) square and cut with the curve a 10mm (¾ inch) strip.

Place the shaft of the Companion Tool in the centre, pull the aluminium around and crimp with pliers. Open up and bend each side around a poly dowel / wooden

dowel / pen following the pattern (see page 6).



Large mature petals (x 4): Roll out white paste through a pasta machine on setting number 4 and cut out using the small 70mm Flower Pro Five Petal Rose Cutter. Separate into five individual petals using a mini pallet knife, cutting wheel or scissors. Place into the Stay Fresh Folder.

Taking one petal at a time, dip the 28 gauge white wire into glue / egg white / FlexiGlue and insert a third of the way into the petal base, mould at the base and place back into flap.

Once four petals have been lined up, roll the top to make 40 mm (1½ inch) and approx 25mm (1 inch) at widest point.

Take petal and place onto the work surface, use the custom cutter with a pencil with rubber / eraser or rubber / eraser and press on top to cut. Trim the square edge with scissors to make rounded.

Place into the large cavity in the Flower Pro Peony Mould and press the veiner on top. Remove and place on a foam pad soft side and work the top two-thirds of the edge of the petal with a medium ball tool or shaft of the Companion Tool.

Then press the ball end of the Companion Tool over the hole in the petal, turn over to the front of the petal, hollow the base and dry in a crate foam former, so base of petal is a slight taco shape.

Medium mature petals (x 4): Repeat as large, but only make 40mm long and vein in the medium Peony Mould cavity.

Small immature flower (x 4): Take a no.7 size ball of

paste and press into the cherry blossom cavity in the Flower Pro Blossoms Mould, only filling mostly four petals. Remove and make a small slice in between and trim where the fifth petal would have been. Form into an X shape.

Place onto the soft side of paste with plain side of the blossom facing up and make the petals longer (size no .16 on Size Guide) and wider, push the Companion Tool into the end of the petal and wiggle to create a hole.

Vein the front of each petal on the medium Peony Mould cavity and press veiner on back with a cosmetic sponge.

Place back onto the soft side of the pad and soften the top two-thirds with a small ball tool. Scratch veins on the petals using the needle end of the Companion Tool .

Turn over and place on a cosmetic sponge with hole, brush glue in the centre and approx 5mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ inch) up each petal, pull one of the compact centres into the flower centre, shape around the back and curve inward to dry upside down.

Assembly: Tape the base of the two sets of petals 25mm (1 inch) down the stem using quarter width brown floral tape.

Dust the base of each petal on both sides about a quarter to a third of the way up using Light Apple Green, Prairie Green at the very base, pale grey mixing cornflour / cornstarch with Dove Grey 1:1 ratio and finally Chocolate and Aubergine 2:1 ratio.

Assemble two petals opposite each other then two in between using quarter width brown floral tape. Break off the tape then take half width brown tape, tape down then texture the top half.

Dust a little Apple Green at the base of the flowers and Chocolate where the stems meet the flowers.

For small immature flowers, dust all over white petals with Light Apple Green, Prairie Green at petal base both sides and Chocolate / Aubergine mixture in indents.

Note: No grey on these petals. Steam the flowers.

Buds (x 3)

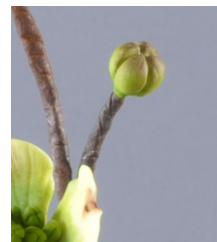
Take a 28 gauge wire and wrap quarter width brown floral tape around the end five times, hook the end, wrap around another five times, then break off tape.

Add two extra 28 gauge wires and tape down the wire using half width brown floral tape. Make three of these floral tape buds.

Take a no.5 ball of pale moss (see checklist), roll into a sausage and press into the large hydrangea bud cavity in the Flower Pro Ultimate Filler Flowers Mould. **Note:** this will over-fill the mould.

Press the ball end of the Companion Tool into the centre, brush glue over the floral tape bud and insert. Flex the mould, remove and smooth at the base. Continue lines from the mould to the base of the bud and leave to dry.

Re-tape up and down with half width tape, texture top half of stem with scissors or wire cutters.



Dust top half Lime Green, bottom half Apple Green and Brown / Aubergine on the top third, then steam.

Leaves (3 x small, 4 x large)

Make a no.5 small ball of moss green into a cone shape, insert a 28 gauge wire that has been dipped into glue into the thick end, shape at the base then make into a carrot two-thirds the length of the small plain edged leaf in the Flower Pro Blossoms Mould. Brush or rub a little vegetable fat / shortening into the cavity and press paste into the mould using a cosmetic wedge or sponge. Press the back veiner on top lining up the wire with the V shape.

Remove and soften the back slightly using a medium ball tool or the Companion Tool. Hollow the base on the front side with the Companion Tool and dry on a convoluted / crate foam former.

Tape 25mm (1 inch) down from the base of the leaf using quarter width brown floral tape, up and down, then texture using wire cutters or scissors.

Dust all over using Apple Green and a little Brown / Aubergine at the base. For ADC spray with hairspray and apply glaze, such as Sculpey Satin Glaze. For sugar steam and spray with glaze.



Dogwood assembly

To assemble the main branch, position a large leaf below a small leaf, add a full length 22 gauge wire, wrap around once or twice with half width brown tape, add a second and third to stagger slightly, tape down 30mm (1¼ inch) then up and down, texture, add a bud, tape another 25mm (1 inch), up and down, add a small flower then tape down 70mm (2¾ inch), up and down, then texture.



Now make a smaller sub branch on the end of a half length wire with a small and large leaf, but with the large leaf on the left hand side. Tape down 40mm (1½ inch), tape up and down, texture, then add a bud to the right, large leaf to the right then tape down, up and down wire.

Add this sub branch to the main branch and add in the large open dogwood as shown, tape half way down the length of the wire, up and down. Use a veining tool to work the seams to give a natural effect and make sure all of the exposed tape is textured. Dust Chocolate dust where needed and re-steam.

For a smaller branch, repeat as larger, tape down 25mm (1 inch), up and down, add the bud, tape down 60mm / (2¼ inch) and add the last open flower then add an extra three half length wires.

If desired, combine with the magnolia to create a Spring Flowering Trees arrangement.

Colour guide



Price guide

Magnolia:

- \$50.00 Flower
- \$7.00 Bud
- \$5.00 Leaves
- \$5.00 Assembly

TOTAL: \$87.00
(UK approx: **£63.00**)

Dogwood:

- \$15.00 Large flower
- \$10.00 Medium flower
- \$7.00 Small flower
- \$1.50 Buds (x3)
- \$0.75 Leaves (x7)
- \$5.00 Assembly

TOTAL: \$46.75
(UK approx: **£34.00**)



Well done!

Don't forget to share your creations in the Members Facebook Group and **download your class certificate** from the Club Facebook Group or the Members website.

Templates

