

Ultimate Succulents, part 2:

This plant trend will add a modern twist to stylish cakes, cookies and desserts, or use with air drying clay for home decor crafts. In this master class, we will make drop pearl and string of pearls style succulents.

Chef Nicholas Lodge

String of Pearls

Mix 25g pale lime green coloured paste (or for air drying clay use The Measuring Mould lime green formula with one extra no.1 white). Cover six 30 gauge wires with quarter width light green floral tape, trim ends and cut each wire into six. Make a 5mm open hook on each wire with pliers (it's easiest to do this three at a time).

Measure five no.5 small size balls of paste and keep under a pot. Roll a ball of paste into a short sausage and press into the smallest of the six-segmented cavities (there are five sizes of these cavities at the top of the mould). Brush glue all over the hook then push into the paste so that the long wire is central. Flex the mould twice around the paste and remove.

Turn upside down, pinch around wire, shaping around the base. Smooth with shaft of Companion Tool if needed. Place onto a crate / convoluted foam former to dry.

Repeat this method with the following paste sizes:

Medium: 6 x no.5 Large: 7 x no.6 small
XL: 8 x no.6 XXL: 9 x no.6 large

Separate the succulents into a group of 3 small, 3 medium, 4 large, 5 XL and 5 XXL. Take a small succulent and add another small about 15mm down using quarter width light green floral tape. Add a half length 28 gauge wire and start taping in the small, medium, large and XL as single, double or triple groups. Add in a half length 24 gauge wire before adding in the XXL succulents. Once complete, wrap half width tape down the wire.



Repeat with the remaining succulents to make a smaller strand. Tape both strands onto a half length 20 gauge wire.

Brush all over stem and succulents with Apple Green dust or a green of your choice and then brush a little Moss Green dust over the top of each succulent. Brush a little Pale Chocolate around the top of the wires where they meet the main stem. Steam and spray with edible lacquer or leaf glaze. Once dry create shape and bend main wire down at a right angle.

Drop Pearl Succulents

Mix 12g of foliage green and 12g dark green paste to make 25g / no.14 (no.12 small of each colour). (Or for air drying clay make two batches of The Measuring Mould moss green formula).

You will make 9 XXL drop pearls, 8 XL, 7 large, 6 medium and 5 small (35 in total, leaving 1 wire left).

Cover and cut the wires as you did for the 'string of pearls' style succulents, making 17 wires with 5mm closed hooks and the rest 3mm closed hooks.

To make the XXL drop pearls, take 9g / no.11 large (this means the paste will sit one-quarter below and three-quarters above the Size Guide), roll into a sausage using the Flexi Scraper and make 90mm long. Mark into 9 sections at 10mm marks, then cut on marks and in between giving 18 pieces, then place under a pot (this will yield 18 x no.6 small).

Press a ball into the XXL cavity, use the Flexi Scraper to press level (trim if needed with a sawing action using the Flexi Scraper). Brush hook with glue, insert sideways under the surface of the paste press at base then press the Flexi Scraper on top again. Flex mould and remove.

Repeat the process again, this time brush glue over surface area, especially the edges.

Position wired half on top, press gently and remove. Gently press seam rubbing with finger (for ADC and FlexiPaste you can rub with a wet finger if desired).

For the XL size drop pearl, repeat with 4.8g / no.10 small making into 80 mm sausage this will make 16 x no.5 pieces

For the large use 2.1g / no.7 large. Make into 70mm sausage, this will make 14 x no.4 pieces and use the smaller hooked wires.

For the medium measure six no.4 small, brush hook with glue, mould to drop pearl shape and place into medium cavity. Press at base gently with cosmetic wedge (thin end) and rotate. Press again to give subtle veins.

For small repeat as medium using five no.3.

Let everything dry then separate into the following three groups:

A: 2S, 2M, 3L, 4XL, 4XXL

B: 2S, 2M, 2L, 3XL, 3XXL

C: 1S, 2M, 2L, 1XL, 2XXL



Tape as string of pearls style but tape at the base of each drop. They are more symmetrically spaced to right, left, right, left, as shown. This will create three strands, a long, medium and short.

Brush all over with a 1:3 mix of white pearl dust and foliage green. Assemble onto the 20g wire, dust more green on this and a little chocolate, steam only.

Miniature Succulents

Micro: Take a 40mm (1½ inch) piece of angel hair pasta, dip into glue, insert into a no.2 ball of paste, then roll to a 6mm (¼ inch) sausage.

Holding in one hand, press into the base of the small 3 part centre mould used for the pointed succulent centre, flex the mould to mark, remove and leave to dry.

Take two no.4 small balls of paste, brush the smallest 6 point cavity with vegetable fat/shortening, press paste into mould and remove. Place on a cosmetic sponge and cup the centre with the ball end of the Companion Tool. Brush glue in centre and pull up around centre, take 3 alternate leaves pressed around the centre and remaining 3 out at an angle.

Repeat with second shape, these stick straight out. Leave to dry then dust if desired.

Mini: Take no.3 balls of paste and repeat as micro succulent, making 10mm (¾ inch). Leave to dry.

Take three no.4 balls of paste, press into the thin propeller shape, remove, hollow and attach as micro. Attach first fitted around centre, second sticking out at an angle and third straight out.

Small: Use no.4 small, attach onto spaghetti that is 50mm (2 inch) long, use the mould as micro and mini then leave to dry.

Use a no.5 small for the propeller shape with nipple in centre. Attach fitted around the centre.

Use a no.6 small for six lobed small shape with nipple shape. Attach at an angle.

Can be left like this or add larger shape. If adding larger shape use a no.6 large and attach sticking straight out.

Place a block on top of a drying rack and press spaghetti into block to dry a little upside down. Dust simply with a little accent colour or on the small one like the drop pearl with a mixture of pearl and coloured dust.

Only steam the fronts to avoid softening the pasta.

