Beautiful Large Wired Sugar Rose

Getting Started

Making a beautiful large wired rose is easy when you know how, you just need the right products and a little patience!

We have used polystyrene buds on wires for the centres as it keeps the weight of the rose lighter and is a little quicker.

You will need to cut out around 17 petals in total; if you have a stay fresh mat to keep them from drying out, you can cut out all 17 in one go. If not, cut out the petals as you go, no more than 5 at a time. We used a polystyrene dummy to stand the rose in while it was being made.

Step 1

If you are not using polystyrene buds, make icing buds on wires and leave them to dry overnight.

For large roses you will need to use a heavy gauge florist wire like 18 to take their weight. The bud, whether polystyrene or icing, should be about two thirds the height of the rose petal cutter – simply roll some sugarpaste into a ball then shape into a cone.

Cut your wire to about 12cm long and make a small hook in one end, dip into edible glue and pull through the bud so that it is securely attached. Pinch the base of the paste onto the wire and reshape the point of the cone if required. Leave to dry overnight.
If you are not using ready-coloured flower paste, colour it yourself using paste colours (remember you can always add extra colour and shading afterwards with blossom dusts).

Dust your work surface with corn flour and roll out your flower paste fairly thinly. If you have a stayfresh plastic mat, cut out as many petals as you can and place them under the mat to stay soft, otherwise cut out about 5 petals at a time.

Place around 5 petals at a time onto a foam flower pad and soften around the edge of each rose petal using a ball tool. The ball tool should be half on the pad and half on the petal, remember you are shaping and thinning the petals, try not to frill them!

Now turn each petal over and shape them with a circular movement of the ball tool in the centre of each petal. This will curve each petal up very slightly which will help the individual petals wrap around the bud.

Brush the first petal three quarters of the way up, sparingly with edible glue and wrap around the cone. Do not worry about covering the cone at the base but position the petal high enough up the cone so that there is enough petal to curl around tightly above it. The cone should not visible when you look down onto the curled petal.

Brush the next petal half way up with edible glue and wrap around the first petal keeping it higher as shown.
Take three petals and brush with edible glue (from now on, brush the next two layers of petals half way up with the glue). Position the first petal, overlapping the last one by a third and stick down the edge only leaving the petal open.

Tuck in the second petal and repeat with third petal making sure each petal is positioned higher than the central bud. To make the rose look realistic, start to curl back the edge of a petal occasionally.

You now need 5 petals for the next layer. Overlap the last petal slightly and press the petal firmly onto the rose (do not leave one side open like the previous layer).

Repeat with the other four petals, curling and pinching back the petal edges occasionally as you go.

The last layer has 7 petals which overlap each other. As the rose is opening up, these petals can start to fall back and must to be positioned less tight than the previous layer.

Brush edible glue along the base and half way up the sides of each petal and attach loosely pressing the sides onto the rose to create a cupped effect. Once again, create movement in the rose by curling the petal edges back.

If at any time your petals start drooping while drying, re-position your rose by bending the wire over.

Finish the back of your rose with a green calyx and wrap the wire in stemwrap tape.