

Finishes

Sometimes you will require a different coloured centre for your flower. There are two ways of doing this. One of them is to use the resist method, where the surface to remain white or a lighter colour is coated with a barrier so that the colour will not soak into the paste. In this instance we would use some of the melted vegetable fat painted onto the area to remain the base colour. Allow to set and dip the flower as described, a two tone flower will result.

Alternatively dip the part finished flower and then complete the centre with different coloured pollen once the colouring process is complete.

Flowers completed by dipping will have an interesting translucent appearance about them that is quite different from other methods of colouring. Make sure that your alcohol mixes are firmly capped and you will be able to use them many times.

Culpitt Dipping Solution is available from sugarcraft shops together with mixing jars to store the ready-mixed colours. We recommend the use of Sugartint Droplet Colours or Airflair Colours for optimum results with the dipping solution.

Sugartint Droplet Colours

- Scarlet
- Old Gold
- Holly Leaf
- Heraldic Black
- Royal Blue

Airflair Airbrush Colours

- Daffodil
- Cream/Gold
- Scarlet
- Sherwood Green
- Peach/Flesh
- Pink
- Grape/Violet
- White Mixer
- Ocean Blue
- Nutbrown/Toner
- Black Magic

Colouring Flowers

*with Dipping Solution
using Sugar or Cold Porcelain*



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On Top of the World's Best Selling Cakes®

Dipping Solution

Everyone has their own favourite way of making flowers and colouring them to achieve realistic effects. If you haven't already tried this method of colouring you will find it an interesting way of achieving wonderful colours for your flowers.

Preparation

The method of working is really very easy. You will require a container with a good seal. It also needs to have a fairly wide top so that the flower head can pass through the opening easily. Place some alcohol into the jar sufficient to dip the whole flower and mix some colour into it. Some colours react to the high alcohol content by becoming cloudy. If this happens add a few drops of water until the liquid clarifies. It is important to keep the water content to the minimum. It reduces the rate at which the dipped flower dries.

Trials

Most of us have flowers which are left over from previous cakes and they are never the right colour for the next job. By dipping all these flowers into one base colour they will all mix and match by blending together. Try any spare

Dipping flowers in an alcohol based mix is really a quite radical idea and one which may worry some people who imagine that the whole thing will fall apart during the operation. The secret of success is really the alcohol content of the liquid and this is why it is so important to use a liquid which has a very high alcoholic content, such as the Culpitt Dipping Solution.

To achieve really deep vibrant colours it may be necessary to dip several times, drying in between, so the colour mix in the bottle does not need to be too intense.

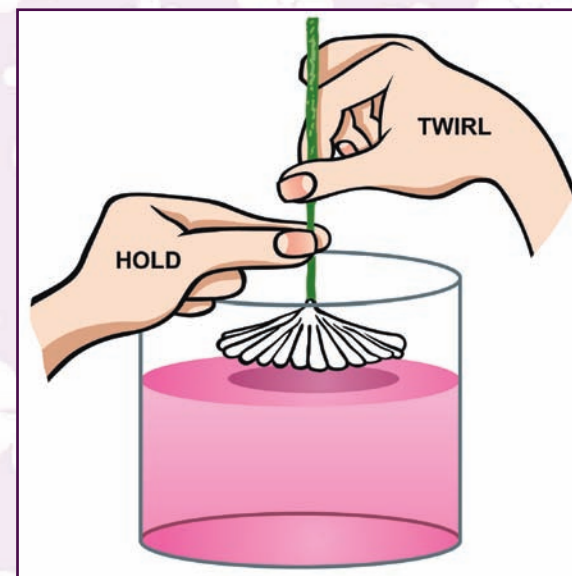
It is handy to have space at the top of the dipping jar as once you have dipped the flower it needs to be twirled around in an enclosed space for the surplus alcohol to fall back into the pot. It is amazing how much colour will spray off the flower if you try to do this outside the jar. If there is no space to twirl the flowers in the dipping pot, have an empty container ready to use.

flowers you may have available in the first instance and see how this technique brings them to life. Later you may well choose to make all your flowers in white and dip them to the appropriate colour as you need the.

Hints and Tips

One quite important point for achieving good results is to have the paste from which the flowers are made containing white vegetable fat (Trex, Holsum or Copha). Most flower pastes have this fat

as an ingredient, but if it is not in your paste just work some in before making the flowers. Flowers that have been dusted may resist dipping.



Method

Using dry flowers on a wired stem, gently lower them into the dipping solution where they will take up the colour. Remove to the top area of the jar and hold suspended above the liquid with the finger and thumb. Steady the wire with the other thumb and forefinger and twirl the flower around to shake off all the surplus alcohol. Remove from the pot and place the coloured flower into

a holder to dry. It is quite useful to suspend the flower upside down from a flower holder so that any surplus colour mix runs to the rim of the flower and dries there giving a darker edge. Another useful tip is to wire tiny filler flowers into groups before dipping and then the whole group is coloured together, thereby saving time.