

NASTURTIUM

Liz Ungless



STAMENS

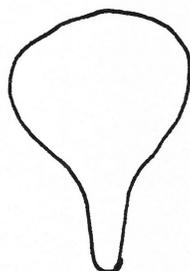
The flower has 8 stamens, 3 with smaller pollen bags and they are more visible, the other 5 with bigger pollen bags. The easiest way around this is to use stamens of the same size but attach at different lengths to a 28g wire and then bend them up slightly. See diagram.



FLOWER

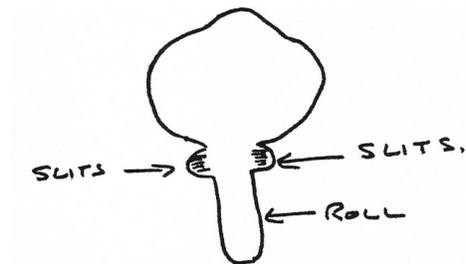
The flower has 5 petals; 2 at the back and 3 at the front with 'fringes'. Choose which colour you want to use. These flowers come in cream, yellows, orange/reds a deeper burgundy. It is a good idea to use a lighter colour of paste than you think you need, so that you can depend the colour when finishing the flower.

Roll out the paste for one of the back petals, leaving a ridge down the centre. Insert a 28g wire into this ridge ensuring that the wire does not go more than half way up the petal. Vein with a tulip petal veiner, a hibiscus petal veiner or (if available) a nasturtium veiner. Thin the stem part of the petal, working it down the wire and removing any excess.



Work the rounded edge of the petal with a either a ceramic veining tool, ball tool or a cell stick,, making the edge wavy. Leave to dry slightly over some bubble foam, allowing the petal to curve gently backwards.
Repeat for the second petal.

Roll out the paste for one of the front petals, again leaving a ridge down the centre. Insert a 28g wire into this ridge Vein the petal. Thin the sten part of the petal, working it down the wire and removing any excess.



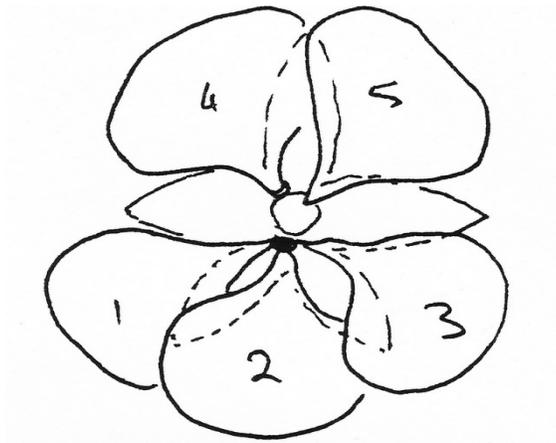
Slit the petal very finely with scalpel as shown in the diagram and bend the tiny slits upwards.

Work the rounded edge of the petal as per the back petals. Leave to dry slightly over some bubble foam, allowing the petal to curve gently backwards.
Repeat for the remaining 2 petals.

When dry, colour the petals. All 5 petals are coloured in the same manner with the stem and centre areas being a deeper colour than the rest of the petal. Use a real flower or very good picture to follow. Be careful not to break the 'fringes'. In most varieties only the top 2 petals (without fringes) have fine lines added as per the diagram. There are some varieties, however, where all 5 petals have lines. These are painted with wine red colouring (or burgundy) using a very fine paintbrush.



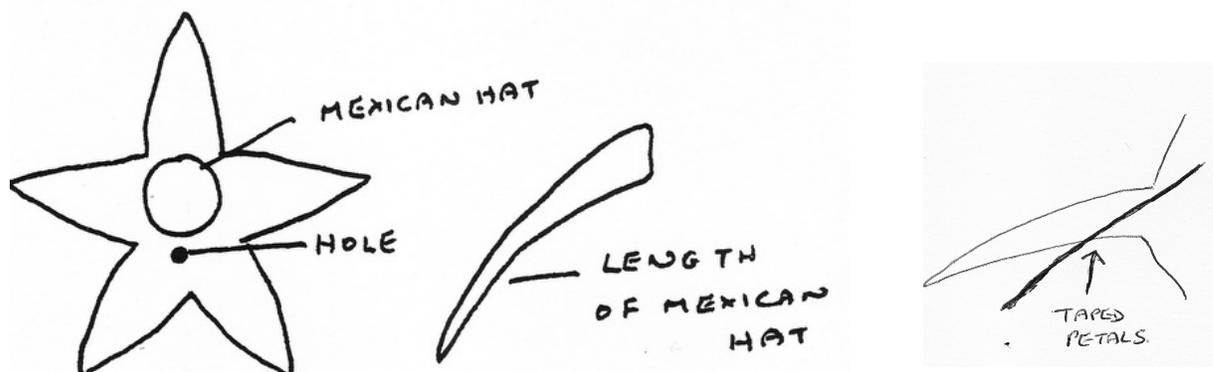
Tape the five petals and the stamens together as per the diagram, with 4 & 5 being the back petals (no fringes)



CALYX

Use yellow paste (not green) and make a Mexican hat method (known these days as the Harry Potter sorting hat), making a long thin tip to the mexican hat as per the diagram. Thin the edges with a cell stick and cut out the calyx. Vein each of the calyx petals with corn veiner or crepe paper.

Hollow the mexican hat with an anger tool or cel stick. Make a hole about 1/3 of the way down the hollowed part of the calyx and insert the taped petals.



BUDS

Put a piece of paste of the desired colour on a wire with a hook as per diagram. Cut out 3 petals, vein and attach to the front part of the bud, overlapping each petal. Cut out a calyx as before and attache when still wet. Shade the back of the calyx with lime green powder. Leave to dry.



LEAVES

Use green paste Cut out leaf pattern using a cutter or template. Vein with nasturtium leaf veiner or similar and frill the edges very slightly to lose the flat cut look. Leave to dry in slightly rounded tin foil.

When dry attach a 26g to the back of the leaf wire with a tiny bit of paste. Work the paste neatly onto the leaf. Dust centre of leaf with moss green to make it slightly darker. Paint veins on leaves with white powder mixed with water, Steam leaves to set the colours.