

## Corn Flowers

### Equipment:

None stick board  
None stick 6" rolling pin  
Cotton thread: navy blue, pale blue, violet  
Small seed head stamens: black  
28-gauge floral wires: green  
30 & 33-gauge floral wires: green  
Dresden tool  
Floral tape: Nile green  
Bulbous cone modelling tool  
Pointed pliers  
TinkerTech two Bluebell cutter no. 405

### Materials:

Flower Paste: Pale Blue, Pale Green,  
Edible Glue  
Dust Food Colours: Corn Flower Blue, Edelweiss, Leaf Green, Violet, Wisteria, Foliage Green, Vine Green  
White vegetable fat (Trex)  
Food safe clear alcohol (Gin or Vodka)



1 For the stamens combine three shades of blue thread and wrap them approximately ten times around two fingers to form a loop. Remove the loop from your fingers and twist it into a figure of '8' and then fold in half to create a smaller loop. Thread a length of 28-gauge wire through the centre of the smaller loop then twist the wire to hold the threads in place. Using ½-width Nile green floral tape, tape over the base of the threads and down the length of the wire to secure the stamens. Using a pair of sharp scissors cut the loop at its apex to create a cluster of threads, then trim them all to the same length. To finish the stamens, tape in nine small, black seed head stamens (with their heads removed) ensuring that they are the same length as the threads.

2 Dust the stamens with violet and wisteria dust food colours. Once you have dusted the stamens curl them slightly with a pair of tweezers to add a more natural appearance.



3 To create the florets roll a small ball of pale blue flower paste, form it into a cone, flatten the rounded end on a non-stick board then lengthen it to form a witch's hat shape. Use the thinner end of a bulbous cone modelling tool to thin the brim of the hat. Lower the bluebell cutter over the hat and cut the brim, gently remove the floret from the cutter using a dry paint brush if needed and then use a modelling tool to hollow out its centre.



4 Insert a moist, hooked 33-gauge wire into the centre of the floret and pull the wire down into the paste until it is no longer visible. Gently vein the outside of the floret using a dresden tool so that the petals fold in on themselves, giving a more natural look to the finished bloom. Repeat to this stage to make approximately nine florets for each cornflower.

5 Dust the florets inside and out with cornflower blue dust food colour, adding a touch of violet dust food colour to add depth to the throat.

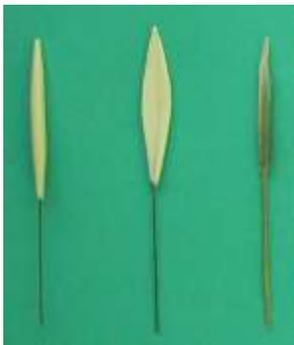
6 Using ¼-width Nile green floral tape, tape three florets around the stamen then tape the remaining six florets equally around them (do not tape down the wire). Cornflowers have relatively fine stems therefore snip six of the wires just below the bulb of the stamen before taping all the way down the remaining length of the wire.



7 To create the calyx form a small cone of pale green flower paste, hollow out the centre using the bulbous cone modelling tool then insert the stem of the cornflower through its centre and slide it up to the base of the bloom. Use edible glue to attach it to the base of the florets, trying not to distort the shape. When it is held securely in place adjust the florets into their final position. Use the pointed end of a daisy petal cutter (or similar pointed cutter) to create the markings on the back of the calyx then smooth the base of the calyx into the stem.



8 Once complete, dust the calyx with a mixture of foliage green and edelweiss dust food colours. To add the final definition into the calyx, use a fine paintbrush to paint violet dust food colour combined with clear alcohol into the markings left by the daisy petal cutter. Pass the finished flowers through the steam of a boiling kettle to set the dust colours.



9 To form the leaves roll a small tapered sausage of pale green flower paste onto a moistened 30-gauge wire. Flatten the leaf using the back of any veiner or smooth flat surface. Mark the central vein with a Dresden tool then pinch the tip and base of the leaf gently. Dust with vine green dust food colour and add darker shading to the base of the leaf with foliage green dust food colour. Tape the leaves to the cornflower stem using ¼-width Nile green floral tape.

