

Flower Garden Fairy Sculpture

By Peggy Tucker, CMSA

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A Tutorial by
Peggy Tucker, CMSA

Tools & Supplies:

- Heat box (Sugar Shack by Cake Safe)
- Pre-cooked isomalt
- Show Stopper Molds and Show Peel butterfly mold (by Chicago School of Molds)
- White flower press molds (by Decorator the Cake)
- Small brown flower mold (by New York Cake)
- Apple blossom mold (by Cake Connection)
- Touch or alcohol burner
- Heat resistant metal spatula
- Silpats
- Gloves
- Scissors
- X-Acto knife
- Veining tool
- Toothpicks
- Small paint brush
- Black air brush color
- Glitter
- Microwave
- Microwave-safe container (my preference is the Wilton measuring cups set of four) to heat the Isomalt in
- Isomalt colors used are pearl, clear, blue, green, yellow, purple and pink

Certified Master Sugar Artist, Peggy Tucker offers an intensive sugar course, teaching you the basics of preparing Isomalt, blowing a sphere and pouring sugar into molds before taking you through all the steps of creating a fabulous sugar sculpture, complete with a pulled sugar fairy figurine and different types of flowers.



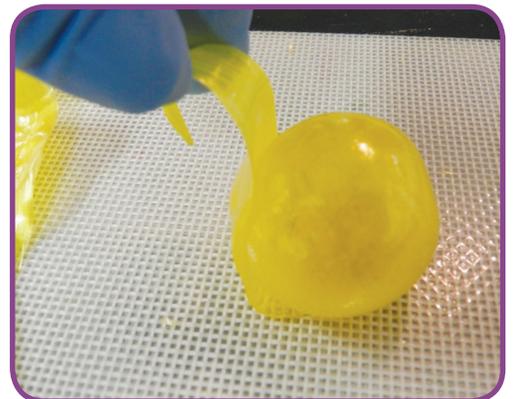
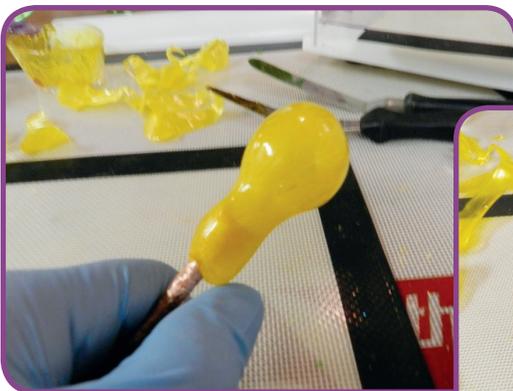
Peggy is one of twenty eight Certified Master Sugar Artists in the world and owner of School Of Cakeology. She specializes in teaching the art of sugar, cake design and cake decorating and is an international instructor. She was named as one of Dessert Professional's Top Ten Cake Artists of North America in 2014. She has also worked closely with CakePlay LLC and Icing Images to bring new quality products to the market. Peggy has appeared on Food Network, Fox news, has written articles published in American Cake Decorating

Magazine, Edible Artists Network Magazine, ICES Magazine, Minnesota Women Magazine and Rochester Newspapers have written many articles on her over the years. She is one of the CakeFu Master Trainers and an Edible Artists Magazine expert.



Preparing the Pre-cooked Isomalt

1. Place the Isomalt in a microwave safe container and then in the microwave, heating until the Isomalt has fully melted. (See my free video on CakePlay YouTube Channel on how to properly heat pre-cooked Isomalt).
2. Place a Silpat on your work surface (granite or marble work surface work best).
3. Wearing gloves to protect your hands, pour the hot Isomalt on to the Silpat. The edges will cool quicker than the center so begin to fold the edges into the center using the mat by folding it over in half then pulling the mat open again. Repeat this until all of the isomalt has been incorporated and is now ready to be kneaded. Begin kneading the Isomalt by picking up one edge and folding it in half; the Isomalt is still warm and will need to be folded several times until it holds its shape. At this point, you can to begin to pull and twist the sugar by holding one end down against the mat and pulling the other end away as you stretch and turn the Isomalt, folding it back onto itself. Continue doing this until the Isomalt picks up a pearlescent sheen. Flatten it out somewhat and place it under your heat lamp for use.



Blowing a Sphere

Blowing a sphere (ball) is the starting point for most blown shapes.

1. Use the prepared Isomalt that is now under the heat lamp, pull up golf ball size piece and form it into a ball. Use scissors to cut the ball away from the main piece of sugar.
2. Press your index finger into the bottom of the ball to create a hole where the cut mark is at. Make sure that the hole is deep enough with the sides all being a consistent thickness.
3. Heat the brass or wooden end of the sugar pump in the lamp flame then place the Isomalt ball onto the edge of the tube pressing firmly all the way around to prevent air from escaping.
4. Hold the Isomalt bubble in your hand and begin to squeeze the pump very gently to start the flow of air into the ball of Isomalt.
5. Continue to squeeze small amounts of air into the ball as you rotate the Isomalt in your hand, checking that all sides of the ball are even.

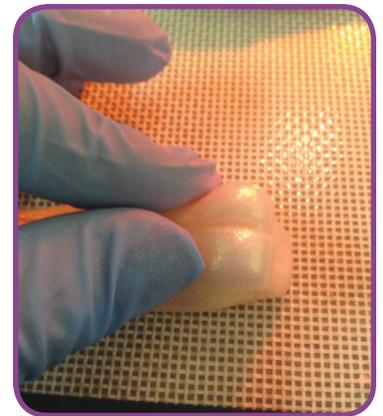
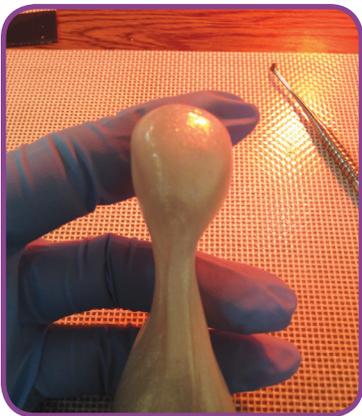
Pouring Molds

Heat the Isomalt then slowly pour it into the molds. You can use different colors and then blend them in the mold before they begin to cool.

Larger pours will take time to cool and harden.

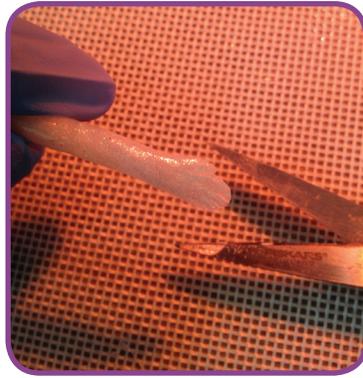
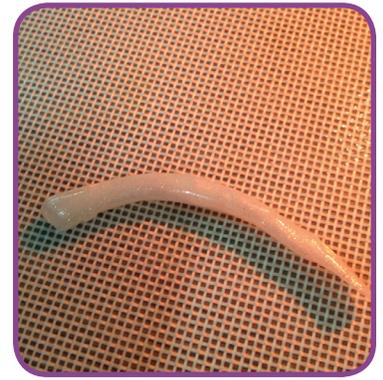


Forming The Flower Fairy Parts



1. Use a golf ball size piece of sugar and form it into a dumbbell shape with the top being slightly smaller.
2. Cut the top part and form the head then pull the neck area out slight.
3. Use your fingers to slightly shape the chin and sides of the face.
4. Shape the body from the lower part of the dumb bell by smoothing the sides. Use the scissors to mark the center, then push upwards with your fingers to form the chest area. '
5. Cut a small piece of Isomalt and begin to roll it so that one end has a point and the other end is thicker.
6. Begin to shape the leg by rolling the smaller end in your hand to create the ankle and the knee. If the Isomalt begins to cool, just place your hand under the lamp for a few seconds and continue to shape the calf, knee and thigh area. Once you have these areas completed, start to shape the foot.
7. Repeat the steps above to make the second leg.





8. Now that you have both legs done, attach them by slightly warming the top part of one of the legs, thighs and the underside of the thigh on the second leg and attach them together.

9. Cut off a small ball of Isomalt and place it into a holder. (I'm using an Apple Blossom mold bottom to hold mine).

10. Using your torch to warm the ends of the thighs and the ball slightly. Then attach the legs.

11. Cut a quarter size piece of Isomalt and begin forming the arms by rolling one side thinner than the other.

12. Begin by working the wrist area moving it back-and-forth between your thumb and index finger to taper it down. Taper and flatten the hand down slightly. Use thin, small scissors or a X-Acto knife create the fingers. Then bend and create the elbow. If at any time the Isomalt begins to stiffen place it back under the heat lamp for a few seconds. Repeat the steps to make the second arm.



13. The Hat is made by using a two-part flower mold (any small flower mold will work).

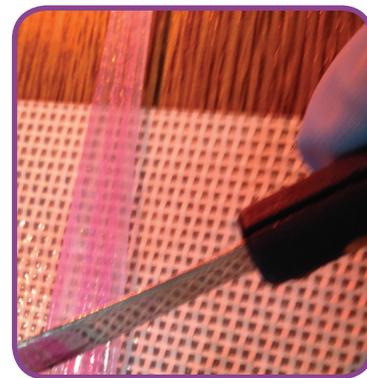
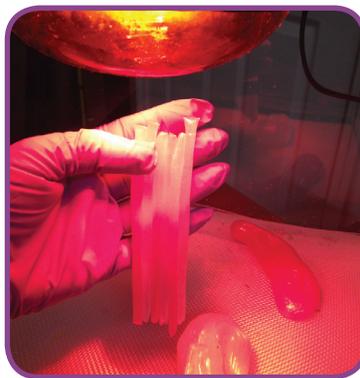
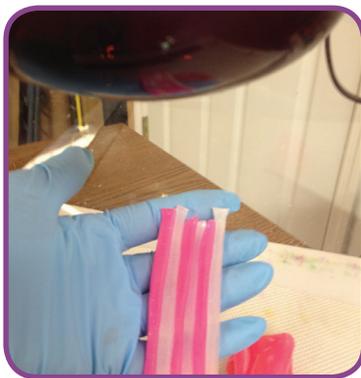
14. Pour a small amount of warm Isomalt into the center, place the top of the mold on top and press down lightly. Wait just a few seconds and remove the top. Begin to work the flower out of the mold, shaping it as you go along. Once cooled, set it aside.

15. Use a small piece of pulled Isomalt to form the stem. Shape it into a small golf tee then pull out the end and wrap it around a toothpick to create the vine. Slightly heat the fat end of the stem and attach it to the bottom of the flower.

16. To make the ribbon for the fairy dress, use your prepped Isomalt that you have pulled and set under your lamp. Roll out the Isomalt until it is about a quarter inch round and 3 inches long. You will need three of each color. Line them up, alternating the colors, then slide them together and place them under the heat lamp for a minute or two to fuse them together.



17. Start working the ribbon by sliding it between your index finger and your thumb. This is a sliding motion: do not pull the ribbon.



18. Once you have reached the end, turn it over and slide it back through your fingers to the end. This movement is going to elongate the ribbon. Once you have the desired length, set it down on your work surface, heat the edge of a putty knife or metal spatula with your torch and use the hot edge to cut the ribbon pieces.

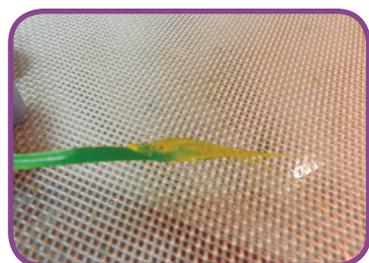


19. Using the Sugar Peel butterfly wing (you can use any wing mold), begin to pour the hot Isomalt slowly into one of the wings. Use a toothpick to move the sugar into the smaller spaces. Pour only one side at a time as the Isomalt will cool too fast to allow you to move it into the smaller areas. If you wish to use glitter on her wings simply sprinkle a little into the molds before pouring and then add some on top while the Isomalt is still warm.



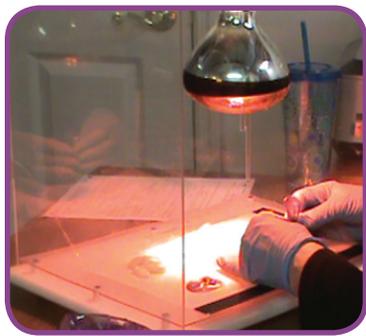
20. Once the wings have fully set, dip the center of each wing into hot Isomalt and attach them together.

Flowers and Leaves - Small Calla Lily



1. Make the Calla lily that the flower fairy is holding by preparing a small amount of green Isomalt for the stem.
2. Gently pull out the Isomalt until you have a point at one end then cut the other end using a pair of scissors. Wrap a small amount of yellow Isomalt around the end to make the center for the Lily.
3. Now pull out a dime size is yellow Isomalt and shape into a flat teardrop.
4. Heat the pedal over the lamp and attached to the stem rolling the edges of the pedal over form the Calla lily.
5. Slightly heat the bottom end of the stem and place it in the fairies hand.
6. All the large Calla lily are made the same way.





Now that you have all of your pieces made for the little garden fairy it's time make her dress and assemble her. We're going to be using petals to form her skirt and top.

1. Prepare your Isomalt and place it under the heat lamp. Fold the Isomalt over onto itself then pull upward and outward to create the petal. Once you have it, hold out to the size you need, gather the bottom together and pull upwards to cut the petal off.
2. Slightly heat the gathered edge of the petal and place it down onto the fairy' body. Continue doing this until you have three rows of petals forming her skirt.
3. Pull out a slightly larger petal, hold it under the lamp until it is nice and warm and then layer it onto the fairy's bodice. Grab the sides and press it together in the back.
4. Using your torch, slightly heat the bottom of the bodice and attach it to the skirt area. Now add one more row of petals all the way around the waist line.
5. Using the ribbon you have pre-made and hold it in your hand under the heat lamp until it begins to flex. At this point, wrap it around the waist line and secure it in the back.
6. Slightly warm the end of the arms and head (it's best to paint her face before attaching it to the body) and attach them to the bodice. Pull out two smaller petals and use them for cap sleeves.

7. Choose the color you wish for her hair, prep the Isomalt and place it under the lamp. Pull out and flatten a small piece of Isomalt rolling one edge, then heat the opposite edge slightly and attach it to the top of her head forming one side of her hair. Repeat this step to finish her hair then pulled a smaller piece to create bangs.
8. Place the small calla lily into her hand by heating a small section of the stem and attaching it to one hand and resting it on the other. Slightly warm the top of her hair and place her hat on.
9. Attach the wings to her back by lightly heating the center of the wing and pressing them into to place.



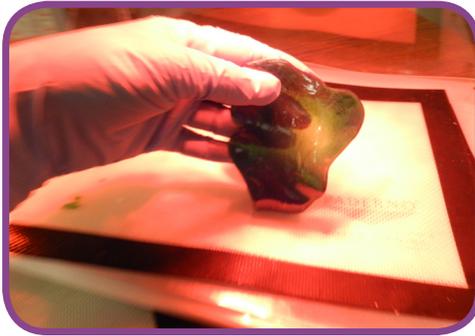
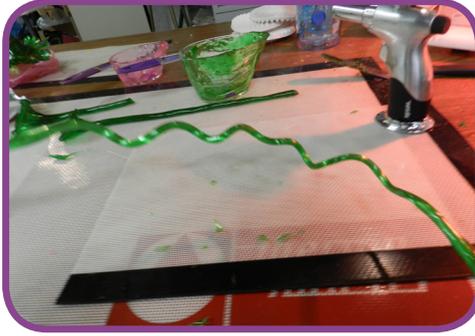
Blue Flower



1. Pour Isomalt into the flower press mold until it begins to flow outwards.
2. Place a second flower press on top and press down lightly.
3. Give it a few seconds to set up. Remove the top and begin to form the flower by pulling outward and then cupping it in your hand and pressing the center down.
4. From here you can manipulate the flower to any shape you would like it to be.
5. Roll out a small amount of Isomalt and curl one end to make the flower centers, heat and place into the center of the flowers.
6. Note that the yellow and pink flowers in the sculpture are made the same way. Just add a small flower in the center of the pink ones.

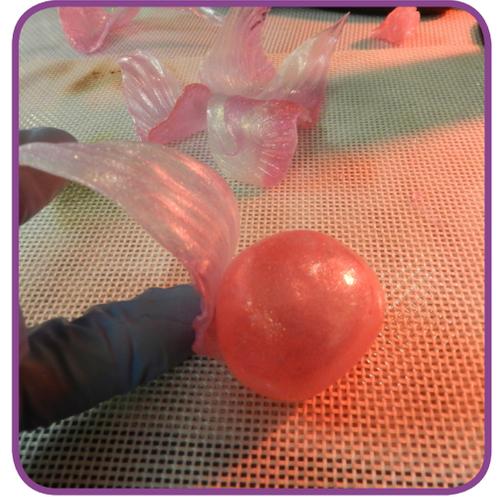


Calyx and Stems



1. Follow the previous steps for making the flowers in order to make the large calyx for your flowers
2. Pull the Isomalt out of the mold while it still slightly warm and place on to the bottom of the flower.
3. Then make your stems for your flowers by pulling the Isomalt out, making a little bell shape and thinning the edges as you go. Then pull out the long stem give it some movement and allow it to dry. Heat the bell shape end of the stem and attach it to the bottom of the flower.
4. Now that you know how to do a basic bubble, let's stretch it out. Begin to make your spear while you're pumping air into it.
5. Take hold of the small spear and begin to slowly pull away while continuing to slowly pump air into the sugar. You would start a swan or any form of a long neck bird using this technique. Once you have the desired size with an air chamber in the center, begin to twist the air chamber or bubble to form the curl that now has air trapped inside. Note you now have also made thin tubes as well. These make very interesting forms of stems and decorations for any sugar sculpture.
6. You can now open the end of the hollow tube. I simply place it under the heat lamp until it is slightly warmed. Use a pointed tool to elongate and open up the tube further. Use a pair of scissors to slightly slit one side of the tube, opening it while it is warm. Now you can fold it back and begin to pull away from the tube, creating a leaf.
7. To make a leaf, use both hands to pull the sugar that is under the lamp upwards and outwards until you have the bottom part of the edge the size you desire. Then slowly begin to pull towards you causing the leaf to thin out as well as create the pointed end of your leaf. While it is still warm and pliable, shape it to give it movement.

Fantasy Flower



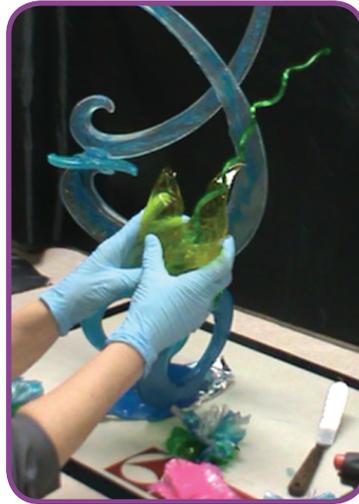
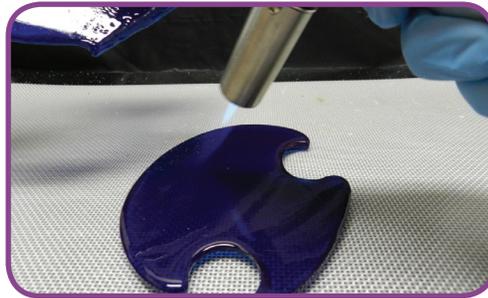
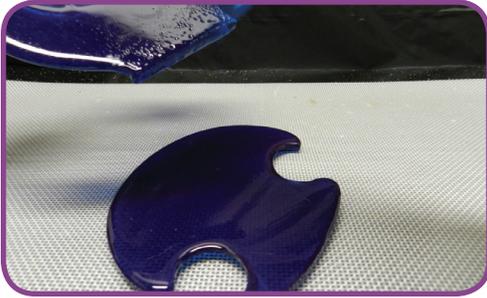
1. To make this fantasy flower, use your sugar pump and blow the basics bubble.
2. From there, begin to make your petals by pulling off small pieces of Isomalt that is being kept warm under your lamp. Shape the bottom as a flower petal then place the petal down onto the flower press using your thumbs. Press the petal into mold, sliding your fingers upwards towards the edge to elongate the petal.
3. Place the petal in your hand under the lamp to slightly warm it. Now form a C-shape and attach it to the ball by lightly heating the bottom part of the petal and setting the ball down on to it.
4. Repeat this process until you have the four inner petals curling inwards around the ball.
5. Continue the same process as you make the rest of your petals for your fantasy flower. Note that as you go along, they should be longer and wider. The second and third roll are backward S-shapes so that when attached, the upper part of the S is moving away from the center and rolled under slightly.
6. The last row of petals should be much larger and curl under, as well.

Please note that in the end sculpture, this flower was not used. I had intended on it being my main focal point then decided against it.

With any form of decorating, remember just because you've made the pieces does not mean they all have to go on the finished product. Sometimes it's best to step away and take a look. If you're having to struggle to find a spot to put something, then it is time to STOP. It's just that simple! It's easy enough to save your used leaves and flowers for another time.

Assembling the Sculpture

1. Now it's time to assemble your large structural pieces that you poured earlier. Remove all of the pieces from the molds and set them on your Silpats. To attach the pieces, you will need to use the torch in order to heat the base as well as the end of the piece you'll be attaching. Remember we are always attaching the pieces hot to hot. Attach all of your structural pieces the same way. Now it's time to start attaching the flowers.



2. Then attaching large pieces always heat both the spot where the Isomalt piece is being attached and the piece that is going on. So hot goes to hot!!!!

3. Heat the bottom of the flowers and leaves as you place them on.

4. Continue until all the flowers and leaves are in place.

5. Be VERY careful of where your arms are so you don't hit the Isomalt pieces.

6. Attach smaller flowers by dipping the bottom or side of the flower into hot Isomalt then placing them on to the Isomalt piece.



7. Place the garden Fairy on by using a small amount of warm Isomalt and attaching it to her bottom and then heat the Isomalt where she is going to sit slightly and place her on.