

A Tutorial by Geraldine Kidwell



Supplies:

- 2 Suckers or Gum Balls
- 1 Pound Fondant
- 2 Teaspoons Tylose Powder
- Small Rolling Pin
- Food Colors
- Tiny Paint Brush
- Manicure Scissors
- 1/2 Cup Royal Frosting
- Round Cutters
- Decorator Tips

Gum paste or fondant can be used to form the figures. However, I normally use fondant with an additive of 2 teaspoons tylose powder per pound to strengthen it. Mix the tylose into the paste and allow it to cure overnight in a zip lock bag before you use it.

Depending on the size figurine you plan to make determines the appropriate size gum balls or suckers.

Numerous characters can be created with various size gum balls/suckers covered with gum paste or fondant. Their versatility ranges from babies to clowns, Santa, leprechauns, scarecrows, whimsical bride and grooms or even tiny animals.

1. To form a baby, color a large ball of paste with a touch of pink until you get the desired flesh color. Separate the large ball into four balls. One ball should be the same size as the sucker and three additional balls should be twice the size of the sucker. Keep the balls covered in a plastic bag or with plastic wrap to prevent them from drying.

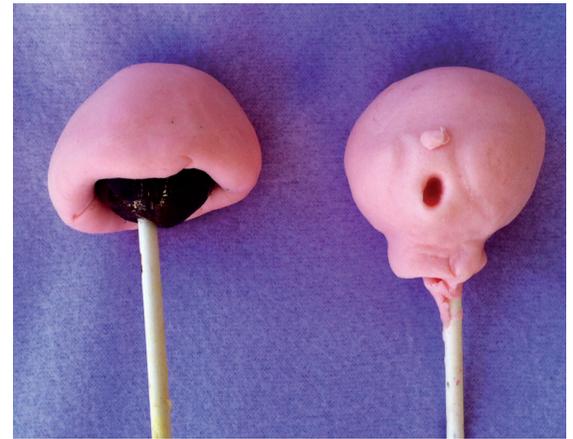


2. To form the torso, roll one larger ball until it is perfectly smooth. Hold the ball in the palm of your hand and press the sucker/gumball into the paste until you can feel it firmly against your palm. Work the paste up over the ball. Continue to work the paste upward over the sucker stick into a pear shaped torso and smooth the body with your fingertips. Cut the exposed sucker stick 1/4 inch above the torso to aid in supporting the head later (if using a gum ball you can strengthen it with a skewer). Push a small ball tool or the end of a small rounded paintbrush into the tummy area and slightly pull down to form the navel.



3. On the back of the baby, use a small skewer or paintbrush handle to press and form a crease to mark the two sides of the little baby bottom.

4. To form the head, roll the second large ball of paste until smooth. Repeat the process that you used to incorporate the sucker into the torso. Cover the ball, working the excess paste to the neck where it can be trimmed. Cut the stick to approximately 1/4 inch to secure into the body. Flatten the area of the head where the eyes will be; this flattening will help to form a bulge for the puffy cheeks. Roll a tiny ball and secure for the nose. Shape the mouth exactly the same as you did for the navel by inserting a rounded object and slightly pulling down and out.



5. If you use a pacifier, as in the baby picture, you will not need to form the mouth; instead you will attach the pacifier with a touch of frosting. For the baby's pacifier, use the large end of a standard decorator tip to cut a circle from thinly rolled pink fondant. Cut a smaller circle from green paste and cut a hole from the center to form a ring. When the small circle is dry enough to hold its shape, attach it to the pink circle with a touch of royal frosting. This is the handle for the pacifier. Use a drop of royal icing and attach the pacifier over the baby's mouth. If you want to lay it beside the figurine, form a light pink nipple. A tiny piece of spaghetti can be inserted to reinforce the connection.

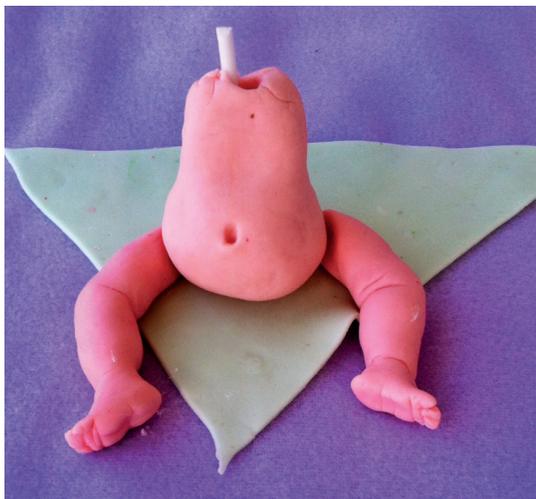


6. Divide the third large ball into two equal parts to form equally sized legs. Cover one half to prevent it from drying and roll a very smooth ball with the other half. Roll the ball into a log shape. Visually divide the log in half lengthwise and score lightly with the dull side of a table knife. This mark will later be the back of the knee. Visually divide the lower half of the log shape in half again to mark the ankle. Thin this mark between your thumb and forefinger to form the ankle. Flatten the foot area and shape. Form the heel, cut the toes and bend the knee. Flatten the hip area to attach the leg to the body with royal frosting. Repeat this process for the other leg, being careful to make a right and a left foot. You will need to decide at this point how you will position your legs on the finished figurine and prop them to dry in that position.

7. The arms are formed by dividing the small ball of fondant into two halves. Repeat the process described for the legs. Mark the elbow, thin the wrist and flatten the hand. Cut a "V" shape from the hand to form the thumb. Cut the fingers with small manicure scissors and roll the fingers slightly to thin and curve them to shape. Flatten the shoulder area of the arm so it will fit the body. Repeat the process for the second arm, being careful to have a right and a left hand. Prop in the correct position to dry on tissues.



8. Cut a large triangle of light green fondant (or color of choice) for the diaper. Set the baby on top of the diaper. Pull the front point of the triangle up between the baby legs. Twist the sides and bring them to the front over the top of the front point. Trim the sides if necessary and fold the front point over the twisted sides. Allow the back of the diaper to droop to show the crack in the baby bottom.



9. Paint an arched area for the eyes with white food color. After the white is dry, outline with a hard lead pencil and paint in additional features.



10. To assemble the figurine, attach the head, securing it with royal frosting and allowing it to dry. The arms can also be attached with royal icing but it is necessary to prop them into position until the drying process is complete. If the figurine is for display only, it is faster to use a glue gun.



11. A bib is used as baby clothing, but also hides the connection of the head and body. Roll a thin piece of light green fondant and cut a large circle. Use a smaller cutter to cut a half circle to form the neck opening of the bib. The edge of the bib can be ruffled and a small appliqué such as a tiny heart or bear placed on it to add interest. Roll a thin strip of green to form the back fastener of the bib. Form and pinch together two loops and let the tails extend down the back of the baby. Attach the bow at the back of the bib.

12. The hair is formed with light brown fondant. Lay a gum ball size piece of brown in the palm of your hand and push a gum ball into it to form a cup shape. Remove the gum ball and place the cup over the head of the baby like a skull cap.
13. Secure the hair with a small amount of royal frosting. Form hair lines with the modeling tool or the dull side of a table knife. Press the tool into the soft paste and pull down to blend the hair onto the neck and face. At this point you can alter the hair style - from sculpted to the head, pony tail or curls, etc.
14. The curls are formed by rolling tiny pieces of brown fondant around a toothpick or skewer. Remove the curls from the toothpick before they are completely dry. Slightly dampen the top of the curl and press it into the soft skull cap. Start at the lower part of the back of the head and work upwards in rows of curls.



I use gum balls and suckers to form the babies for several reasons. The balls take up a lot of space and are less expensive than gum paste or fondant. They are an excellent way to achieve consistency in the size. Third, large pieces of gum paste often explode and using the gum ball prevents this from happening.

A major difference between the baby and the characters is that the baby is completely molded in flesh tones then dressed with appropriate clothing. Many of the others characters such as the clown or Santa are molded using the color of the suit.

The clown is constructed using three balls of white fondant twice the size of the gum ball and one the same size. The fourth large ball is formed of flesh color for the head. Dots are cut with a decorator tip. The attachment of hands and shoes are concealed with the aid of fondant ruffles. The orange hair is added with royal icing and a #2 decorator tip.

Santa is molded with three balls of red fondant for the suit and one flesh color for the face. Black fondant boots and green mittens are added and connected with white royal fur and a small star tip.

The hillbilly figurine is molded in flesh color fondant and clothing is added in the same manner as dressing a gum paste doll. The red shirt is added first then the bibs are placed over it.

The baby boy has the shorter sculpted hair with a baseball cap tilted to the side (pictured on page 75)

The large baby girl with the "dog ears hair" is formed over the largest gum balls that I could find and is very heavy (pictured on page 75).



Geraldine Kidwell of KY is internationally known for her contributions to the culinary arts. She is a charter member of ICES, three convention committees, ICES President and ICES Hall of Fame. She is a teacher, judge, decorator and author of five "how to" books. Geraldine Kidwell of KY is internationally known for her contributions to the culinary arts. She is a charter member of ICES, three convention committees, ICES President and ICES Hall of Fame. She is a teacher, judge, decorator and author of five "how to" books.