

Frog Princess Sculpture

By Margherita Ferrara

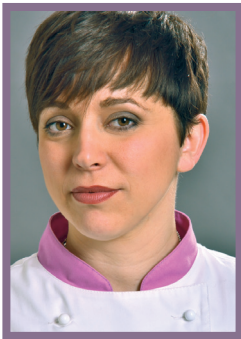
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NETWORK MAGAZINE

Frog Princess Sculpture

A Tutorial by Margherita Ferrara

Tools & Materials:

- Gum paste
- Gel food Color
- Dust food color
- Ball Tools
- Round silicone modeling brushes
- X-acto Blade
- Silicone Mat
- Heart and Flower Cutters
- Rolling Pin
- Clay Gun
- Fondant
- Round Cake Dummy
- Skewer
- Wire

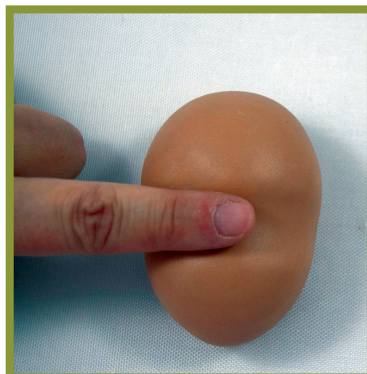


Margherita Ferrara was born in Torino, Italy and graduated with a degree in Fashion and Costume Art. Following graduation, she worked for major national and international fashion companies. In 2002, she moved to Rome where she discovered the cake world a decade later, focusing on her passion for sculpting. In 2013, she formed Flashflower's Cake offering cake decorating classes and events.



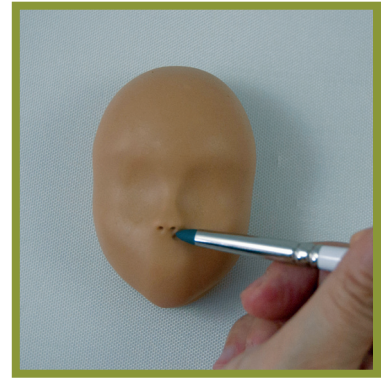
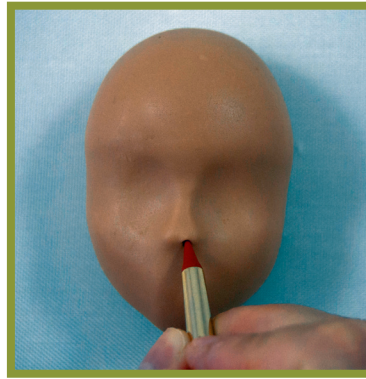
Step 1:

Knead a ball of gum paste into an oval. Using light pressure, press down where the eyes will go in the middle of the oval. Mark the position of the eyes with both fingertips.

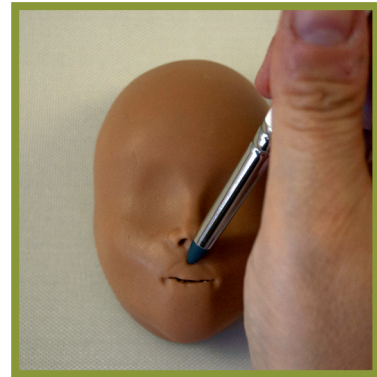
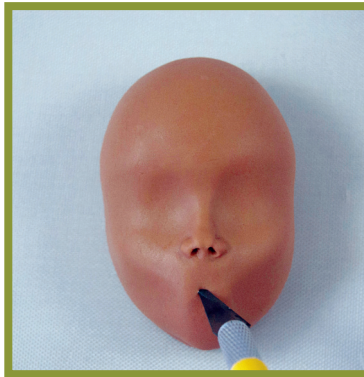


Step 2:

Form the nose with upward pressure, creating the nostrils, using the silicone brush in a circular motion.

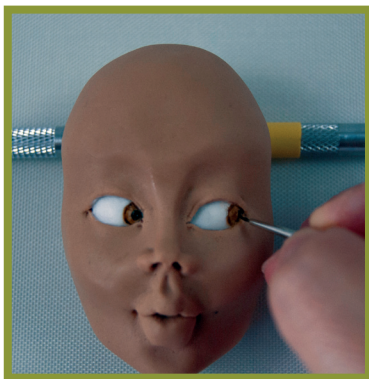
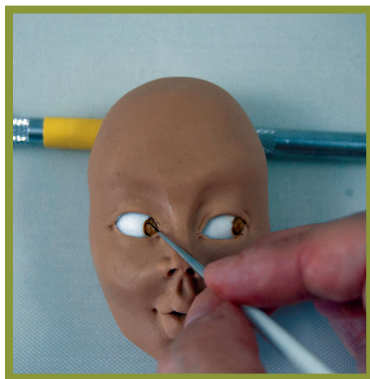
**Step 3:**

Make a small cut to create the mouth and lips and shape with the silicone brush by pressing the gum paste along the lines to form the correct anatomical shape.

**Step 4:**

Draw the shape of the eyes and remove the excess gum paste to fill the cavities with white gum paste to define the eyeballs.





Step 5:

Paint the iris and pupil with gel color. Create eyelashes with a very thin strip of black gum paste.

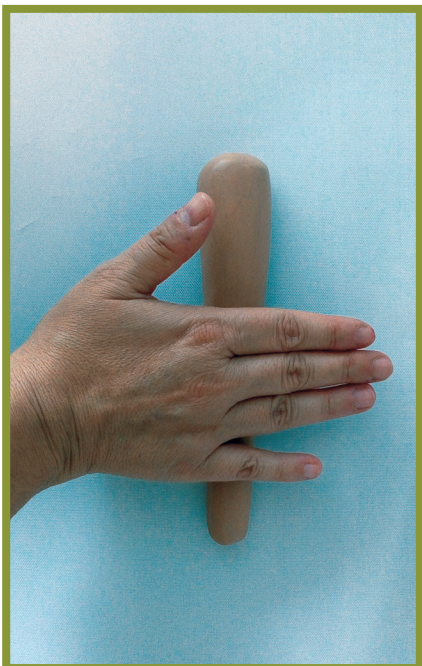
Step 6:

Draw the eyebrows, paint the lips, dust the cheeks and apply the black eyeshadow to the lids with dust color as you would apply make-up.



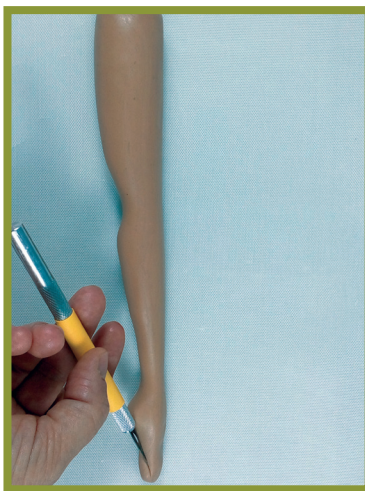
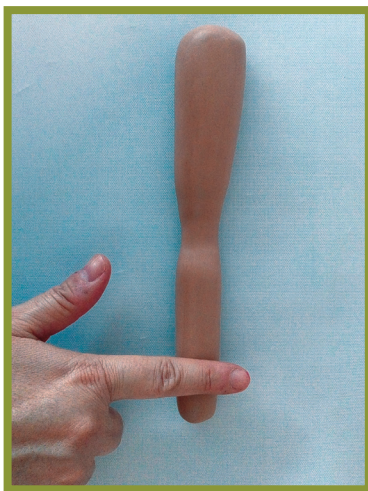
Step 7:

Add the ears, created by forming oval balls with the gum paste. Shape the ears using the silicone tool.



Step 8:

Create cylinders of gum paste for the legs.



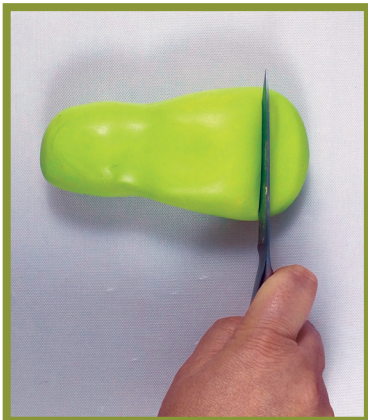
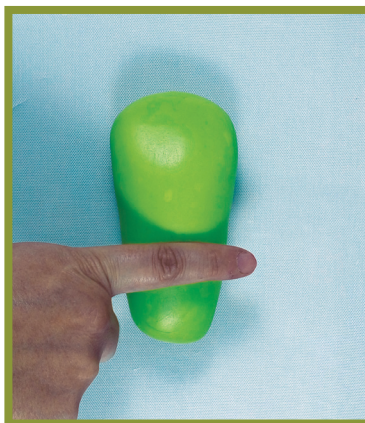
Step 9:

Apply slight pressure to create indentations for the knee and ankle. Use the X-acto blade to trim the narrow end of the cylinder, creating the foot. Bend the cylinder at the knee and allow the leg to dry. Repeat the same process to create the other leg but cut the cylinder off at the ankle.



Step 10:

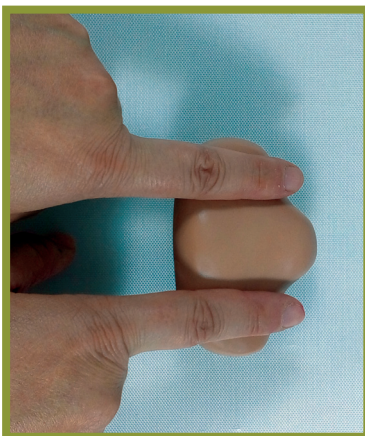
Using a cylinder of green gum paste, create the torso. Applying a circular motion with your finger to form the waist. Apply slight pressure in the mid-torso area to mark the line of the breasts. Cut away the excess area from the bust to shape them and form part of the chest.





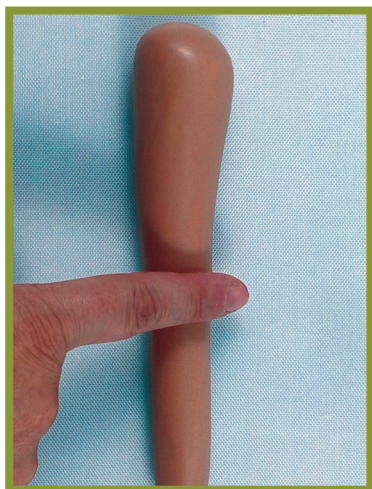
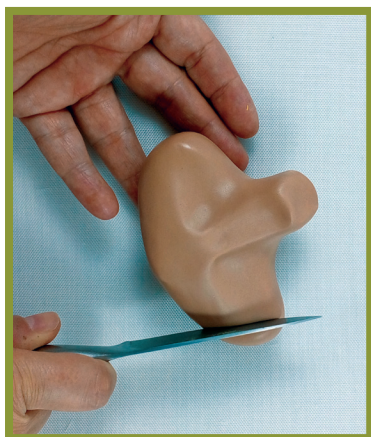
Step 11:

Use the ball tool to lightly press in the upper part of the torso which will join up with the shoulder area.



Step 12:

Press in the ends of a cylinder of gum paste and leave more in the center to form the neck.



Step 13:

Follow the same steps as for the legs to create the arms. To shape the hands, press down on the narrow end of the cylinder of gum paste. Use the blade to create the fingers, shaping them one by one to round them out.



Step 14:

On the second arm, trim the cylinder at the wrist.



Step 15:

Cover a cake dummy with fondant. Place the legs on top of the dummy in a kneeling position and insert a skewer through the legs and into the cake dummy. Position the torso on top of the legs followed by the shoulders and head.



Step 16:

Press into the center of a ball of black gum paste using the end of the rolling pin to hollow it. This will form the hair. Apply it to the top of the head.

Step 17:

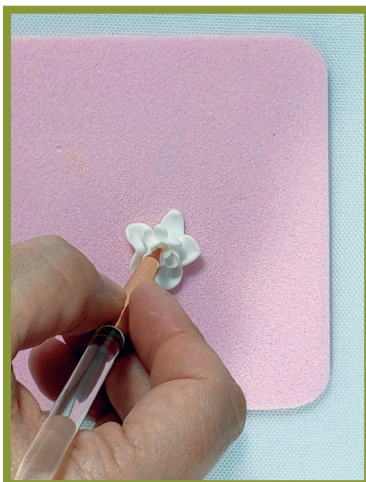
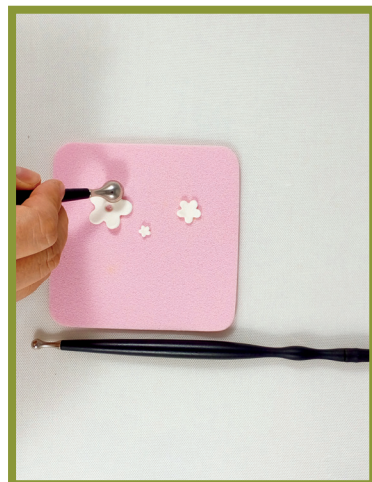
Create the section of hair framing the face by rolling out a thin piece of black gum paste, tapering the ends and trimming them with a blade. Use a pointed silicone tool to mark lines in the gum paste. Attach along the hairline.





Step 18:

Use the clay gun to extrude thin strings of black gum paste to finish the hair. Apply from the hairline to the back of the head, forming a bun where they meet.

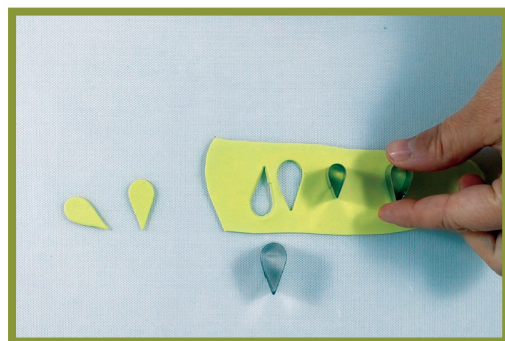


Step 19:

Create small flowers graduating in size with the flower cutters and thin the petals with the ball tool. Layer the flower petals and shape.

Step 20:

Create the green necklace and dress straps with green gum paste and the clay gun.



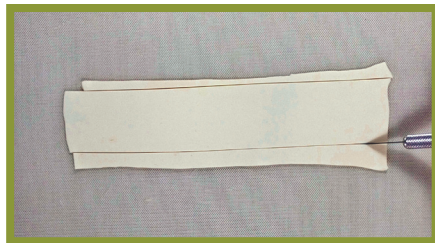
Step 21:

Form the crown by rolling out green gum paste and making cut-outs with a small petal cutter.



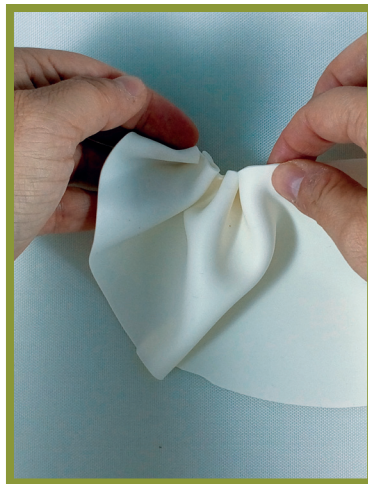
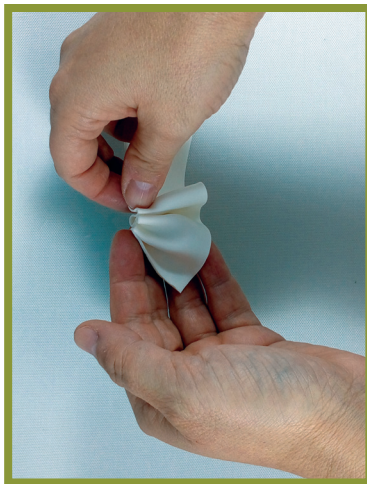
Step 22:

Wrap the strip of green gum paste around the neck twice and trim the excess so the ends meet at the side of the neck. Apply the flower over the cut ends of the necklace.



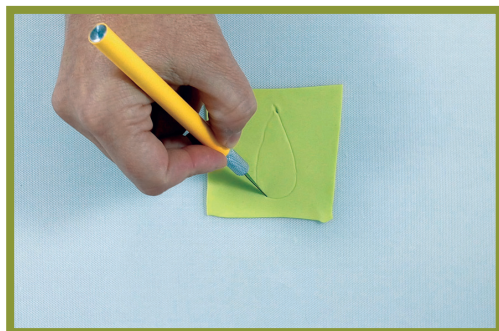
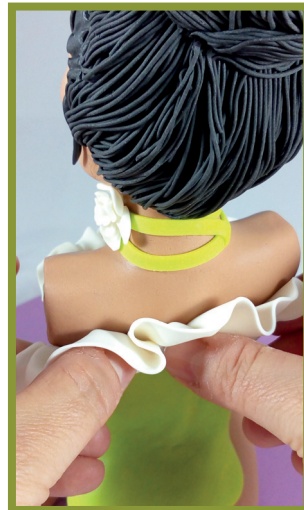
Step 23:

Roll out white gum paste and cut out a rectangle and a half-moon shape. Fold them and pinch together at one end to form the ruffles at the top of the dress and the skirt.



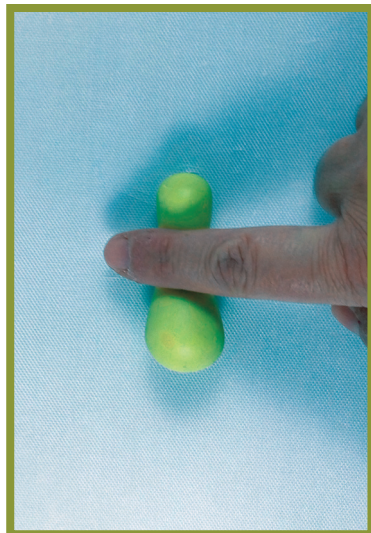
Step 24:

Apply the ruffles to the front and back of the dress using a silicone tool to press them into the top of the dress. Repeat the process at the bottom of the bodice to form the skirt.



Step 25:

Using two different shades of green, cut out petals to form the accents at the top of the skirt. Use the silicone tool to assist in applying them.

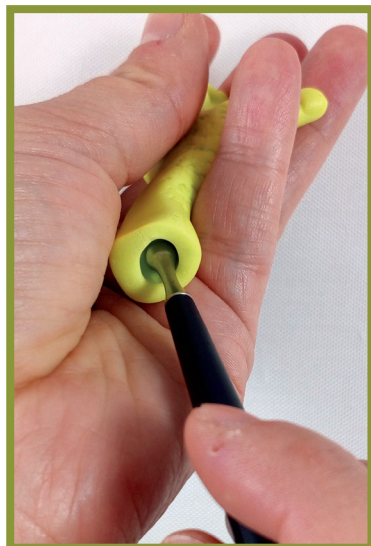
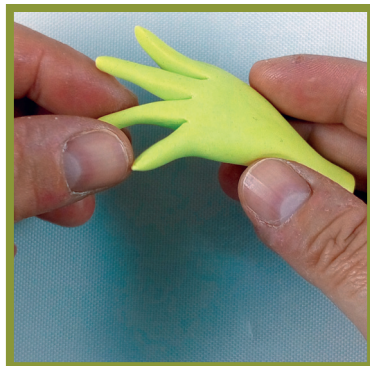


Step 26:

Create a green cylinder and using light pressure, shape the frog's wrist

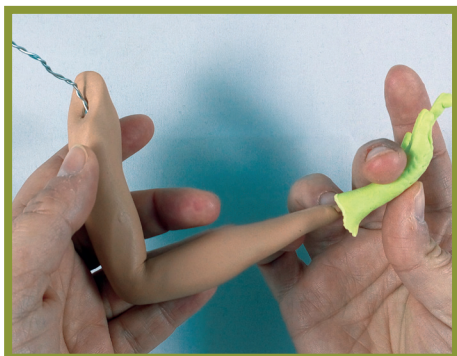
Step 27:

Flatten one end to form a hand and cut fingers using the blade. Roll the fingers to shape them and model them with the silicone tool. Use a small round cake decorating tip to texturize the skin. Repeat this process to create the foot.



Step 28:

Use the ball tool to hollow the part of the hand and foot that will attach to the limbs. Insert the arm into the hand and the leg into the foot.



Step 29:

Attach the arms to the body with wire.

Step 30:

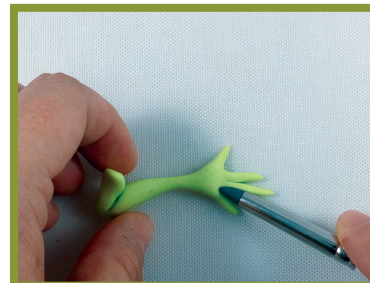
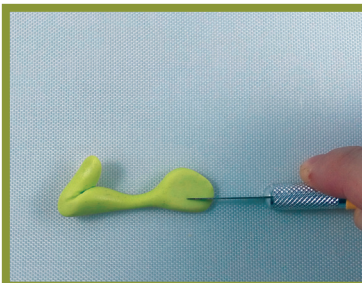
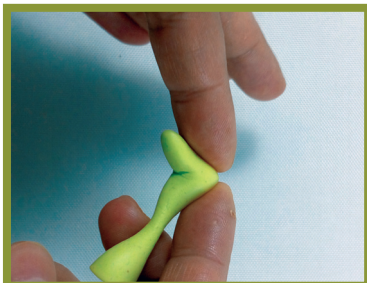
Attach the frog foot to the leg.





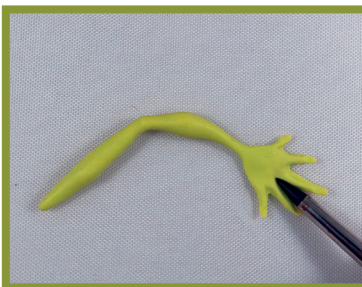
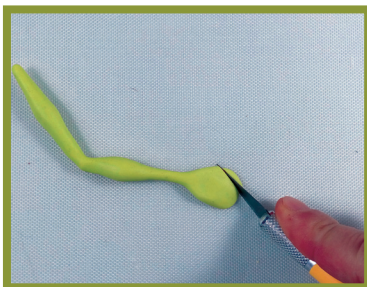
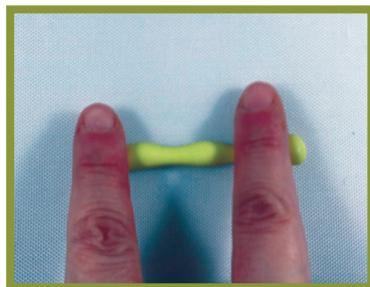
Step 31:

Create the frog's body using a cylinder of green gum paste, applying gentle pressure in the middle to form the head. Shape the head with the silicone tool. Create cavities for the eyes with the ball tool. Use the blade to create the mouth. Press the end of a round cake decorating tip against the gum paste to texturize the skin.



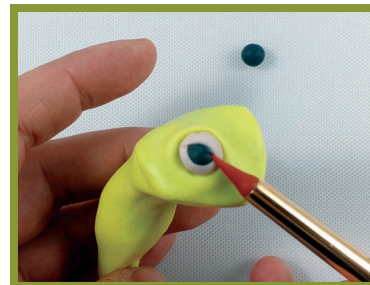
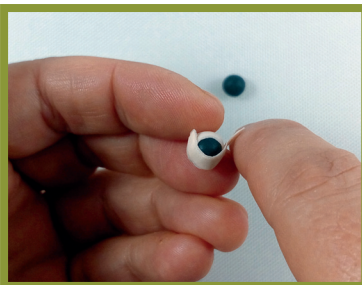
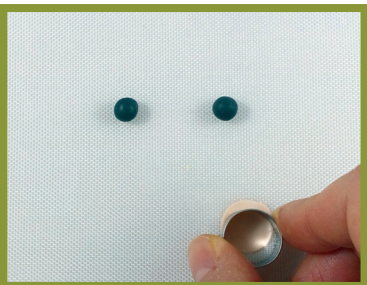
Step 32:

Shape thin pieces of gum paste, as shown, to form both the arms and legs.



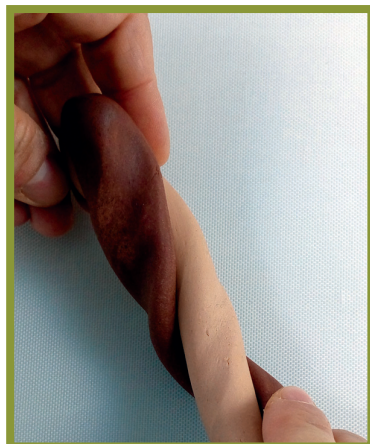
Step 33:

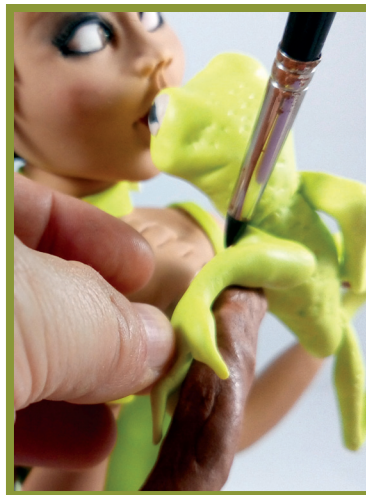
Roll two small balls of black gum paste to create the frog's eyes. Wrap each ball with two strips of skin color gum paste. Insert into the hollows created for the eye sockets.



Step 34:

Twist together two different shades of brown gum paste. Insert wire in the center and insert into the cake dummy so the branch of the tree is near the figure's chest area.





Step 35:

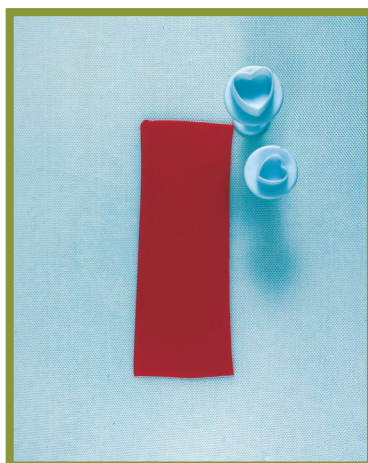
Attach the frog's body to the branch using gum glue, joining the figure's lips to the frog's mouth.

Step 36:

Attach the frog's arms and legs, securing the joints with the silicone tool.

Step 37:

Cut out two different sized hearts with the cutters and attach them to the branch.



Step 38:

Add another small branch on the cake dummy and apply additional hearts to it.

Step 39:

Add details to the frog's skin by painting with gel color first, then apply different dust colors.

Step 40:

Complete the sculpture by shading the tree branch, areas of the sculpture near the branches and on the princess' arms and legs all with brown dust color to make the sculpture look more realistic.

