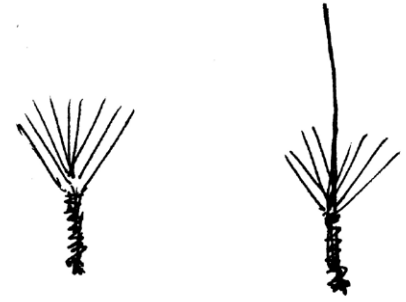


HOW TO MAKE.....

Twists

Take some of the plumber's hemp, dip one end of the strand in some PVA (non flexible is best, as it hardens stiff) and roll it between your fingers and thumb, thus creating a stem. The other end stays free from glue, so that it can be opened up and shaped.

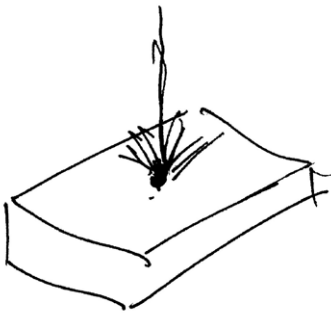


Twists are bases for bushes or flowers. If you need a tall stem add a bristle into the plumber's hemp before rolling it with the glue.

Bushes

Take a twist and open the loose ends with tweezers, then cut and shape into the desired bush form.

Stick this base into a scrap piece of polystyrene or Blu-Tack, spray the opened shape with a paint spray or matt varnish and sprinkle scatter onto the wet medium, which acts as glue. When dry shake off excessive scatter and place the bush into the picture. Leave green or add flowers at will.



Roses on a rosebush: mix straw coloured scatter with the chosen hue of acrylic paint and apply small blobs of this paste onto the green bush

Flowers and leaves

.....are done in a similar way, altering shape and colour only.

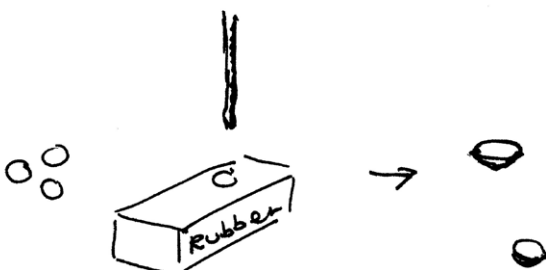
Cut a strip of your choice of green or coloured tissue paper (choose the colour by comparing it with nature or a good botanical book and according to the selected flower you are planning to make) and fold it several times, so

you get a thickness of 12 to 16 layers. Hold these firmly with tweezers, while you cut a chosen leaf or flower shape (craft knife and cutting mat essential). Make sure you have selected the final shape to be correct for your chosen flower (round, oval, oblong?)



To achieve round shapes a punch is useful (1-3mm circles only, to stay in scale for 1/48 picture boxes).

To cup a circle, place the round tissue shape onto a rubber and dent it with a blunt cocktail stick.





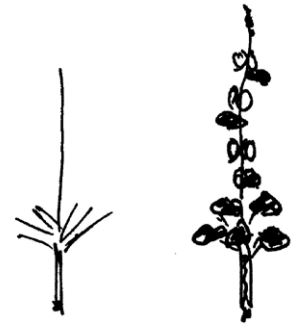
Hollyhock

Take a twist with bristle, open the loose hemp and cut back, so the thin plumber's hemp is only there as the support for leaves.

Cut out leaves, as described above. Glue individually into the hemp, cutting out long spare strands of hemp.

Cut or punch rounds for flowers. Cup on rubber as described above. Hold the tissue shape with tweezers, dip the bulging end into PVA and glue onto stem.

When dry paint a dot into each flower centre. Dip the tip of the bristle into glue and straw coloured scatter, let dry. Paint green for unopened buds.



Delphiniums

Take a twist with bristle, open the loose hemp and cut back.

For foliage either spray matt varnish onto the opened strands of plumber's hemp and sprinkle with green scatter, or cut and glue appropriately shaped leaves as described above.

Dip the top end of the bristle into PVA and then straw coloured scatter. Let dry. Repeat the process, When thoroughly dry paint the scatter with acrylics. Using a darker blue first and a lighter blue as an uneven topcoat intimates light and shadow on the flowerhead.



Foxgloves

Take a twist with a bristle and cut the plumber's hemp back quite short. Cut thin oval leaves out of appropriately coloured tissue paper. Dip one end of each leaf into PVA and add it to the twist. These leaves grow out centrally round the stem and form a big circular bed out of which the stem rises. Sometimes a few leaves grow out of the stem higher up.



To make the flowers roll out a thin roll of Milliput or other two part epoxy putty. You can use Fimo but the flowers will then have to be baked, whereas putty will harden by itself. Air drying clay tends to be too fibrous for very small items.

Flatten the roll slightly, then cut very small diagonals (left, right, left, right) thus making tiny slightly flat triangles. By rolling these they will become somewhat tubular looking. Once dry glue them onto the stem, allowing two or three at the same height, but all facing front or slightly to one side. Haphazard arrangement makes them realistic. (Foxglove flowers do not grow all the way round the stem.



When the glue is dry paint the flowers pink with the front of the tube staying white (or painting white). Add a few tiny dots of black or dark umber.