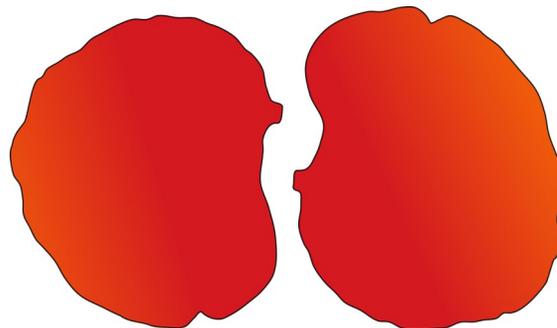


Red Corn Poppy

Assembling the poppy's petals is pretty straight forward. Because assembling them exactly as they grow creates a less than desirable result in paper, I have used some artistic license. I think these are pretty close. The flower center is the only thing that takes some effort, but, to me, is worth the time spent on it. It sounds more difficult than it is.

Flower Assembly:

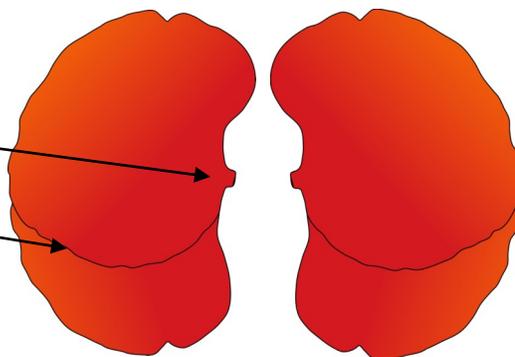
There are 2 sets of 2 back petals for a total of 4 petals. Before assembling, you can rub the center and the outside of the petals with a large tipped stylus to soften the fibers. You can also roll the edges if desired.



Overlap the tab at the center of each set so that they match and glue/tape them together.

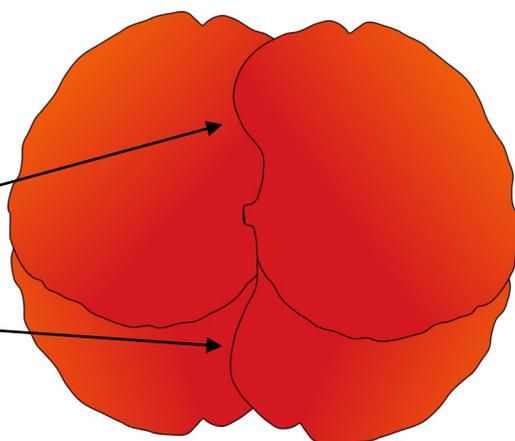
Leave the inside edges free.

You will have a left set and a right set.



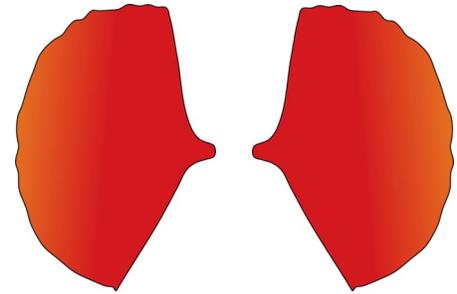
Overlap the 2 sets of petals in the center so that there is not a gap and they roughly form a circle.

Glue/Tape them together at the center leaving the inside edges free.



Once the two sides are secured, you can roll and ruffle the edges of the petals again as needed.

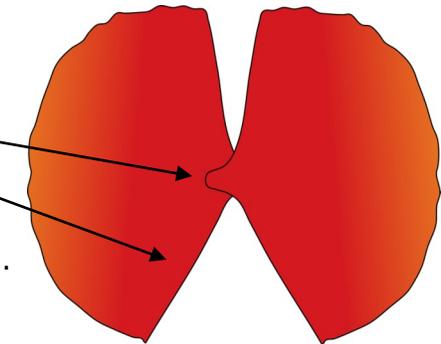
There are 2 center petals.



Overlap the two tabs. Glue/tape together.

Glue/tape the top and bottom outside edges together.

Because of the 2 "v" shapes that were created when the centers were secured, the petals will cup when overlapped. Overlap the petals until they cup to suit you.



The center part of the petals have a darkish, but distinctive blotch on them. Glue/tape the shorter, brown blotch to the right side of the bigger white one. There are 4 of them.

With the white edge pointing toward the outside of the petal, glue/tape one over each center seam at the very center of the cupped petals.

Glue/tape the other 2 in between these 2.



Glue/tape the center cup into the center of the back petals.

This next stop is optional, but I find it helps to shape the flower.

Spray the flower lightly with hairspray. Any cheap brand will do.

Immediately set the flower into a container of some sort that is slightly smaller than the circumference of the flower. I use a coffee cup, small bowl, jelly jar, whatever works.

Push the flower down into the container somewhat so that the petals bend upward. I use a wooden skewer and push on the center of the flower so that it stays straight in the container. Allow the hairspray to dry while working on the center.

To make the center you will need:

White Air dry clay. I use Makin's Clay or Crayola Model Magic
A small amount is all you need.

Optional: Very Pale Green Clay
Very Pale Brown Clay

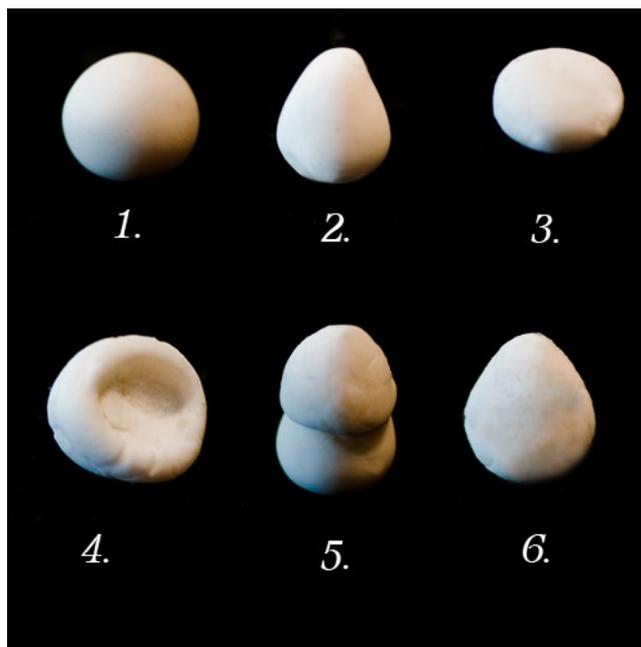
Dark Brown paint or marker

24 gauge black wire

1" dowel rod or something similar

Wire cutters

If you chose to use only White clay, you will need a very pale green, very pale brown, and dark brown color of some sort. Acrylics, watercolor, paint pens, markers, oil paint will all work just fine.



A fine liner brush and a small round brush if using paint.

Constructing the Center:

Roll a small amount of clay (pale green) into a ball about 3/8" in diameter. Figure 1.

Roll this ball into a tear-drop shape and gently flatten the bottom. Figure 2.

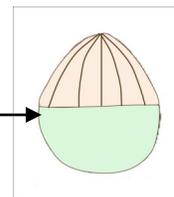
Roll a small amount of clay (pale brown) into a ball slightly smaller than the first. Flatten lightly to form a disk. Figure 3.

With the flat bottom of a wooden skewer or the round tip of a large stylus, open a hole in the disk shape large enough to fit on the pointed top of the first, tear-drop shape. Figure 4.

Dampen the inside of the hole with some water. Place the disk onto the pointed end of the tear-drop shape. Form a point on the top of the disc. The height of the 2 pieces together should be no more than 1/2" tall and resemble a small acorn of sorts. Figure 5.

Set aside to dry. If the top did not adhere to the bottom, glue in place. If you used only white clay, paint the pieces and allow them to dry. For either method, paint fine lines of dark brown paint on the top radiating down from the point to the edge.

Now, if you don't want to go to all this effort, you can create a tear-drop shaped ball from White clay, Figure 6, and divide the top from the bottom with paint. With either method you will have something that resembles this.



To complete the center:

Cut off a piece of wire about 3 or 4 inches long and set aside.

Wrap the 24ga. Wire around the dowel rod approximately 12 times. Cut off the remaining wire.

Carefully slide the circle of wire off the rod. Hold it securely so that it does not spring open.

Bend the circle in half at the middle.

Wrap the saved, short piece of wire around the center securing it tightly.

You will now have a bundle of wire with loops at both ends.

Carefully arrange the pieces of wire into a circle.

Cut the loops open.

Glue the wire bundle to the center of the flower.

Glue the acorn shaped center to the center of the wires.

Once everything is dry, you can use needle nose pliers to further arrange the wire, if necessary.

Also, you can return the flower to the shaping container that was used earlier. It can be left there indefinitely, but I usually just leave it overnight. It will hold the compressed shaped when you take it out of the container. It is easy to unfold, and shape the petals to suit your project.

Note: The clay I use is available in small amounts and is inexpensive. Since it is air-dry clay, any unused clay must be kept in an air tight container.

I generally purchase the white clay and make several shapes at one time. That way they are ready to use when I need them. I also use a tear-drop shape of clay similar to that pictured in Figure 6 to make my roses. If I have them already made, all I have to do is paint them to suit whatever flower I am making.