

How do they do that?

This month I have a guest tutorial for you by the talented Deb Moroni. Hope you enjoy it! This technique can do so much, for masculine cakes... outdoorsy (is that a thing) wedding cakes and much more. You can make your own tree bark base for a wedding. How cool would that be? Let's get started:

Wood Bark Tutorial **Deb Moroni**

To make a tree trunk, use either straight Gum-paste or a 50/50 (mixture of gum-paste and fondant). Fondant with a little [Tylose](#) powder may also be used. Roll paste into a long, thin shape.

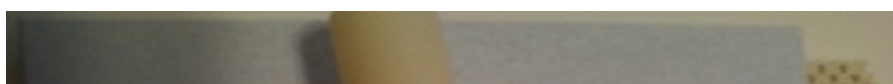


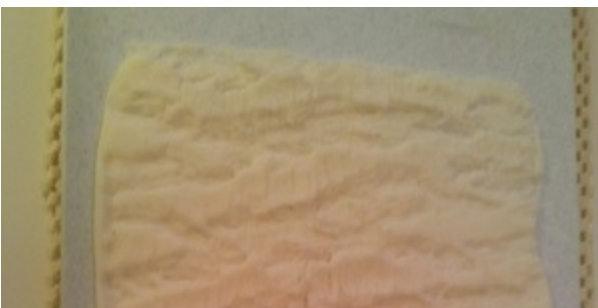
Due to the thickness of the bark it is best to use on Styrofoam dummy rather than a cake. Roll out past half inch thickness; this can be done either in sections or one piece.



(Square on left; [silicone tree bark texture mat](#), square on right; fondant rolled 1/2")

Place Bark mold on paste and using a roller with good pressure (being careful not to move paste) carefully roll over the top of the silicone bark mold. You may also want to press down on the silicone with your hand to make sure the details are picked up.







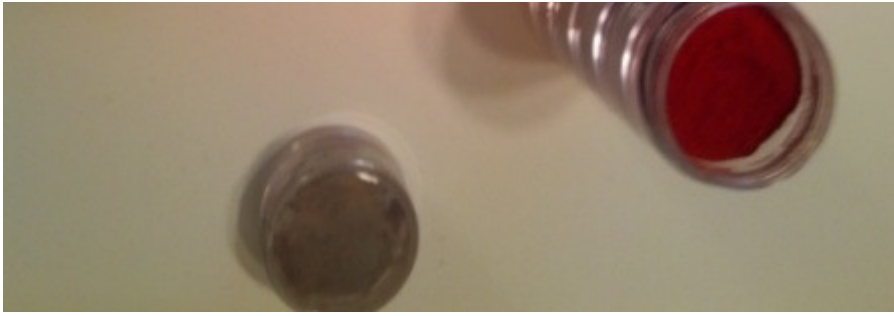
(Upper is fondant, Lower is silicone mold)

Typically, you will want to roll out paste the diameter top of the Styrofoam first and place on cake dummy placing the sides on. Tip for top of tree trunk....you want to draw circles around the top similar to that of a tree, dusting colors lighter in center and getting darker towards the edge.

Using piping gel, cover Styrofoam sides with a very thin layer of gel. Depending on the overall shading desired use various colors to achieve a natural look. Don't be afraid to use dark greens, charcoal, black, reds, and different shades of brown (these were all used in the pictures of the trunk in the tutorial). After all colors wanted were used a light color like Medium Brown was air brushed around the base to blend the colors out. Tip. You might want to color your piping gel light brown first to save on dust.



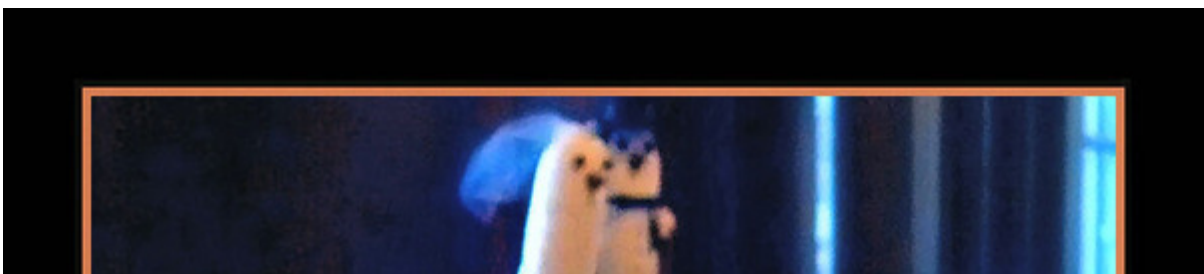




Finished Tree Trunk.



Here's a cake Deb made using the bark technique for bottom base - Beautiful!!!! Thanks so much for sharing with us Deb.





If you have an idea, we would **LOVE** to hear it. We guest tutorials. If you would like to do one for us, just send us an email with your idea. We will give you a \$25.00 gift certificate for your effort. It's easy, just take step by step pictures of what you are doing your project. Add some words and it's a done deal. Contact Jennifer@SugarDelites.com