

HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

This month tutorial is from the very talented Tami Utley. Tami has given us the pleasure of several of her fantastic tutorials. You will love this one, too! It's on gelatin gems. Let's get started.

Gelatin Gems

By Tami Utley

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For Design and Assembly:

Knox unflavored gelatin

Small microwave safe bowl (glass preferred)

Toothpicks

Chocolate or candy mold (I used CK hard candy 8H-5119 mold but any plastic mold will work)

[Sugar Delites](#) has the gem molds in two sizes, [gem assortment large](#) and [medium](#). They are ONLY \$2.49 each! By Autumn Carpenter.

Paint brush

Disposable piping bag

Food coloring (airbrush, gel or paste) [Sugar Delites has a nice variety of Americolor gels.](#)





I use Knox unflavored gelatin. If you use a higher grade of gelatin you might need to adjust the amount of water, but don't fret, this is not a fussy recipe so different proportions of water to gelatin will still get the desired effect.



I use a 2:1 ratio of water to gelatin. Put 2 T water into a microwave safe glass bowl and add the food color of choice. Sprinkle 1 T gelatin over the water.





Let this sponge for 5 minutes.

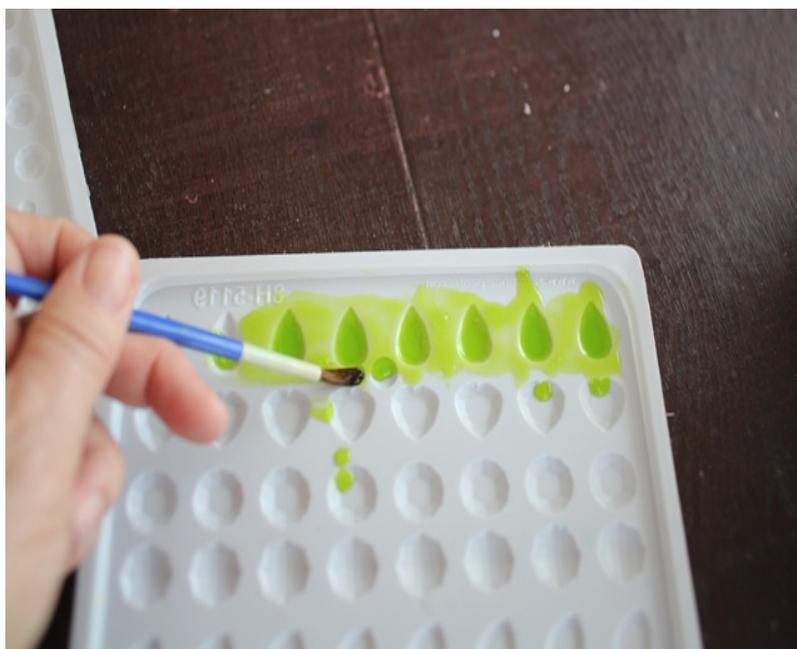


Pop the gelatin bowl into the microwave for about 10 seconds to melt the gelatin (some microwaves require less/more time due to power differences). Stir and remove any un-dissolved gelatin or foam. Note the more you heat, cool and reheat, the clearer the gelatin will be. This isn't required to get clear gems.

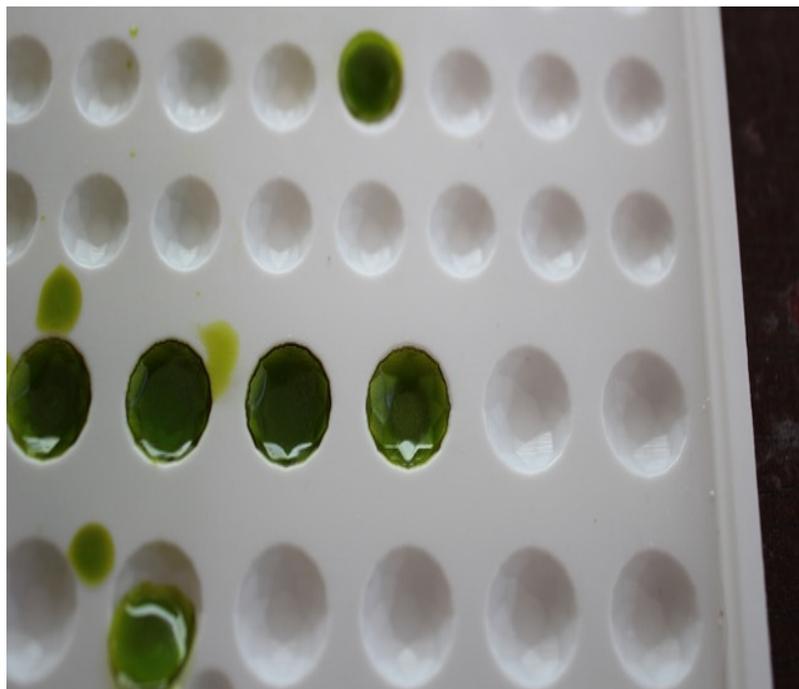


Pour the gelatin into the disposable piping bag and cut the tip very small. Gently pour the

Pour the gelatin into the disposable piping bag and cut the tip very small. Gently pour the gelatin into the mold cavities to fill. The chocolate mold does not need to be prepared in any way, but it needs to be clean, dry and shiny as it would be for molding chocolate.



Since Gelatin will shrink as it dries, for some shapes (Like the teardrop, diamond, heart, etc..) use the paint brush to paint over the edges of the cavities. If the coating of gelatin is too thin, paint again after the gelatin starts to set (about 3 or 4 minutes).





Let the gelatin dry for several hours. The gems will just slide out of the mold when completely dry and will look hollow from the back.



For the gems that were painted, just lightly tear the gems from the excess (or trim with scissors).



The gems can be sprayed and rubbed with cooking spray to give them a shine. Or painted with clear warmed gelatin mixture on the front side of the gem to give a permanent shine.

These look REALLY fun to make Tami! Thanks so much for sharing with our readers! If you have a nice idea you would like to share with us in tutorial form, please drop me a line with your idea. It's easy to do, just take step by step pics when you are doing the project, then add words to your pics. We will give you a \$25.00 gift certificate as a thank you for sharing. Jennifer@SugarDelites.com