

smooth half ball trees

free

skill level 2



SUPPLIES & TOOLS:

- FloraCraft® foam balls: 1" (6), 1-1/2" (3), 2" (3), 2-1/2" (3), 3" (3), and 4" (2)
- Cones: 9"x3" & 6"x3"
- Modeling paste
- Acrylic paint: mint green, white & silver
- Triple thick gloss glaze
- Textured metallic yarn: silver
- Toothpicks
- Design It: ® Foam Cutter or serrated knife
- Paint spatula or putty knife
- Flat paintbrush
- Fine sanding block
- Straight pins

DIRECTIONS:

1. For the tallest tree, cut a 4", 3", 2-1/2", 2", and a 1-1/2" ball in half. Glue the half balls together stacked one on top of the other, from the largest to the smallest with 1/2 toothpicks inserted in between each layer. Glue two 1" balls on top of the tree. Stack the balls straight up or asymmetrically as shown. The medium tree uses a 4", 3", 2-1/2", 2" and a 1-1/2" ball. Set aside one half of the 4" ball for a future project. Stack and glue the half balls together the same as was done for the large tree and glue two 1" balls to the top. The smallest tree uses a 3", 2-1/2", 2" and a 1-1/2" ball. Stack and glue the half balls together and glue two 1" balls to the top.

2. Completely coat the trees with modeling paste. Modeling paste can be applied - with a spatula or with a flat paintbrush. Be sure to mix the material before using a small amount of the modeling paste to the foam and spread it out evenly in all directions, working it into the cells of the foam. If using a paintbrush, load material onto the brush and spread it onto the foam smoothing out the lumps as you go.



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Craft with Jo-Ann

Courtesy of FloraCraft®

Skill Level 2: Some experience necessary

Approx. Crafting Time: 1-2 hrs

Please read and follow all manufacturers' instructions for all tools and materials used. Provide adult supervision if children participate in this project. ©2013 Jo-Ann Stores, Inc.

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3. To create the textured finish on the largest tree, use the brush first to apply the coating to the crevices of the tree, and then use the spatula to create small overlapping ripples in the coating. Apply a small mound of modeling paste to the tree and then another small mound overlapping that. Keep working with the coating until the tree is coated and fairly uniform. Allow to dry completely. Use the sanding block and slightly sand the raised areas of the tree to give the smooth appearance shown.



4. To create the super sleek finish on the smaller trees, use the brush to smooth out the coating as it is applied. Apply it first with the spatula and then smooth out with the brush, or just use the brush to apply to the entire tree. Allow to dry. Use the sanding block to create the all-over smooth appearance.
5. Use a dry brushing technique to apply mint paint to the textured tree. Apply a light amount of paint to the flat brush and then wipe excess paint on a paper towel. Using the side of the brush, lightly brush across the raised areas of the tree leaving the lower textured areas bare. Paint the medium tree mint green and the small tree white. Let dry completely.



6. Apply an even coat of gloss glaze to all three of the trees and allow to dry.
7. To create the tree trunks, cut the top 4" off the 9" cone using the serrated knife. Use the bottom 5" of the cone for the base of the largest tree. Cut about 3/4" off the top of the remaining 4" of cone. This is the base for the smallest tree. Cut the top 2-1/2" off the 6" cone. Use the bottom of the cone for the medium sized tree base. Coat the three tree bases with Smooth Finish™, allow them to dry, then sand the bases smooth. Paint the bases silver and let dry.
8. Insert toothpicks halfway into the tops of the bases and glue the trees in place.
9. Embellish the trees with the metallic yarn. Pin the end of the yarn to the top of the tree and spiral it down around to the bottom. Secure the yarn with a pin at the bottom of the tree.