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ROYAL WEDDING GINGERBREAD GUARD

18.18.25

EASY

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WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- English Guard shaped gingerbread cookie
- 1 box of Mondo royal icing mix.
(Made to a thick honey consistency)
- Piping bags and couplers for each colour and consistency. (For this project you will need 5 bags and couplers)
- Small bowls and teaspoons for colouring icing
- Small fine paint brush
- Toothpick
- Chefmaster gel colours- Super Red & Lemon Yellow, Fleshtone, Coal Black.
- Chefmaster food colour pens - Black
- Piping Tips No1 & No2 round tips

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1. Prepare your Mondo royal icing mix according to the instructions on the box. Place a small amount of icing in separate bowls. Colour your icing a couple of drops at a time until you reach your desired colour. Add a few drops of water at a time to reach the desired thick honey consistency needed for piping.

Step 2. Pipe a round circle shape on the head using a No1 piping tip in the Fleshtone colour. Fill in outline with a No 2 tip and allow to dry.

Use your toothpick to pop any air bubbles that may occur during flooding your cookie with icing. This will prevent any holes from appearing in your icing when it dries.

Use a damp paintbrush to tidy up any icing that is untidy or piped outside the lines.

Step 3. Pipe an outline in black with a No1 tip for the pants for the Guard on the lower part of the cookie body, then fill in with icing with a No2 tip. Allow to dry.

Step 4. Pipe the outline of the Guard hat with a No1 tip and fill in icing with a No2 tip. Allow to dry.

Step 5. Pipe two small dots as eyes in black icing with a No1 tip. Using a Chefmaster food colour pen in black, draw a small curve as the mouth.

Step 6. Pipe the outline of the jacket in red with a No1 tip and fill with icing using a No2 tip. Allow to dry.

Step 7. Outline the hat, the jacket and the pants in black icing with a No1 tip. To add further detail, pipe squiggly lines on the hat for extra effect.

Step 8. Pipe a white belt on the jacket in white and pipe a small square in yellow for the buckle, all with a No1 tip. Then pipe little dots as buttons down the front of the jacket. Allow to dry.

Anita's hot tips for great looking cookies:

Royal Icing Mixing: Mix your icing on the lowest speed of your mixer. If you mix your icing too fast this will incorporate too many air bubbles and holes will form in your icing when drying spoiling the look of your cookie.

Royal Icing Storage: Cover your royal icing in cling wrap to avoid it setting up a crust before you get a chance to pipe it. Royal Icing can be stored in an air tight container at room temperature for a maximum of four days. It will need to have a good mix with a spoon before use, you do not have to put it back in the mixer.

Colouring: Add only a couple of drops of Chefmaster food colour gel at a time to your icing.

Adding too much at once to get a strong colour may affect the taste of your icing and possibly cause it to separate. As it's a concentrated food colour gel you do not need a lot. Allow the colour to develop over a few hours if you want a stronger colour, it will get darker over time.

Consistency: 20 second icing is like thick honey. Drag a butter knife through your icing and count to 20. When the surface of your icing becomes smooth at the count of 15 or just over you're ready to pipe. Add a few drops of water if it's still too thick, or if it's too thin add a little icing sugar to thicken it up.

Posture: If your hands are a little shaky, rest your elbow on your work surface to and use your spare hand to guide your piping hand to help steady your piping.

Practice: Do 5 minutes of piping practice before you start the project, it always helps my hands get into the flow of piping.

Piping Bags: Seal the end of your piping bag with a rubber band so your icing doesn't make a mess everywhere. It also decreases the pressure on your hand while piping your icing.

Piping: Rest your piping tips under a damp towel while not being used. This prevents them from drying out and clogging.

Clean Your Piping Tips: Always ensure your tip is clean when beginning to pipe. This helps keep your piping looking neat.

