**Faux Wedding Cake Instructions**

Advanced Floral Design students should learn how to effectively decorate a wedding cake with floral products. Wedding Planning is a significant component of a retail florist’s business activity. Florists are frequently called upon to decorate a wedding cake with the same flowers that are used in the wedding decorations and personal flowers. A faux wedding cake can be easily constructed using materials readily available at craft stores or hardware stores.

Materials needed:

* 18” square piece of ½” thick plywood (can be smaller but should allow to floral material placement around bottom layer of cake)
* 2” thick Styrofoam pieces (4 round circles or 4 square pieces)
* Large tub of white Spackle (used for patching sheetrock)
* 6” large drywall knife/pallet knife (used to smoothly spread the Spackle)
* Hot glue gun and glue sticks
* Several 3” wood screws
* Sharp knife to cut or trim Styrofoam
* White spray paint can (matte or flat finish is best)
* Medium grit sandpaper

Construction Steps:

* Lightly sand plywood (if needed) to remove splinters from cut edges and smooth surfaces for painting.
* Position Styrofoam to form two layers of different sizes. Choose round or square (or both if making two cakes). Ideally, there should be at least a 1” - 2” difference between the sizes of the layers.
* Apply hot glue to the top and bottom Styrofoam layers to glue them together. Be careful to align the edges as closely as possible.
* Apply glue to the bottom of the top layer and attach to the bottom layer. Let it cool to set.
* Apply glue to the bottom of the bottom layer and attach to the plywood base. Let it cool to set.
* Insert wood screws into the plywood and screw into the bottom layer to stabilize the cake.
* Stir Spackle with knife to make it smooth like icing. Begin to cover Styrofoam with Spackle. Apply a “crumb layer” of Spackle to seal the Styrofoam. Continue to spread layers of Spackle to “ice” the cake. Lightly sand between layers to ensure a smooth finish. It will take several layers to cover all of the surfaces (top and sides). Let each layer dry before sanding and applying the next layer of Spackle.
* When satisfied with the thickness of the “icing” cover, sand the surface to prepare for painting. Paint the cake to seal the Spackle and obtain a uniform white color. It will take several coats to achieve a good paint covering. Paint the plywood to match the cake to ensure a uniform appearance.
* Finished cake will be approximately 8” tall
* Store finished cake in a clean dry area and it will last for many years.