

# *Mud Floral Design*



**Skill level:** All

**Surface:** Shown here on etched glass but the design can be done on any surface.

Unique Glass Colors White and Black MUD used for design over etched glass. Created using a decorating bag with a stainless steel writing tip and Margot's Miracle Brush. This design is shown air-dried but MUD can also be kiln-fired depending on its function.

### Supplies:

8" glass circle

Margot's Miracle Brush (included in the MUD Kit)

Deluxe MUD Kit

## Preparation

### Glass Blank

Because this design is shown in a non-fired version the glass has been etched for better adhesion of the MUD. If you were going to kiln-fire this step would not be necessary.

### Pastry Bag Set-up



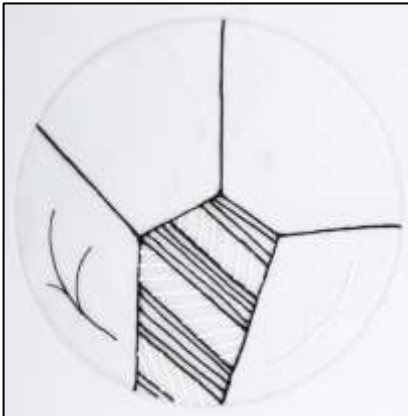
Photos – Filled decorating bag, storage container and lid used as palette (shown ready for storage) and the bag ready to be used in a work session.

Prepare the decorating bag for use - Drop the inner portion of the coupler into the disposable plastic bag. Work it down into the tip of the bag until it fits snugly but do not force it or you will tear the bag. Cut off the end of the plastic bag even with the end of the coupler. Place writing tip at the end of the coupler, place the outer portion of the coupler over the tip and then screw down the coupler ring to hold everything in place. I also have a video on loading the decorating bag on [vimeo.com/margotclark](https://vimeo.com/margotclark)

Wet the sponge from the storage container with water (sponge should be dripping a bit) and place inside the storage container. Do this before you fill the pastry bag!

Place about 1/2 of the jar of MUD into the bag. Twist the end of bag until the MUD comes out the tip then place the tip down into the wet sponge and close the end of the bag off tightly with a rubber band. Cut off excess pastry bag. *Be sure to keep the tip of your filled bag moist at all times when not in use by using the storage container and the wet sponge!* Push the steel tip into the wet sponge when not actively using the MUD to create a design. For longer storage be sure the lid is on the storage container securely. This can be stored for over a year if the sponge is kept wet and this allows instant access to using your MUD!

## Create the Design

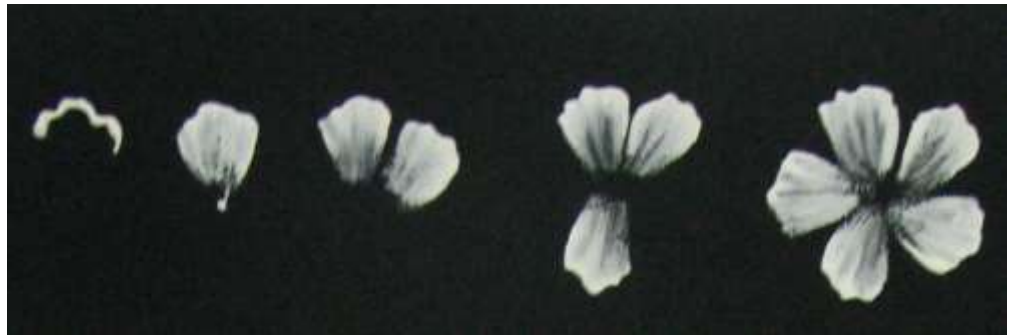


Create the lines first. Lay the glass over the pattern and add the main dividing lines in Black MUD. Add the smaller lines in both Black and White MUD. Do not try to be absolutely perfect!

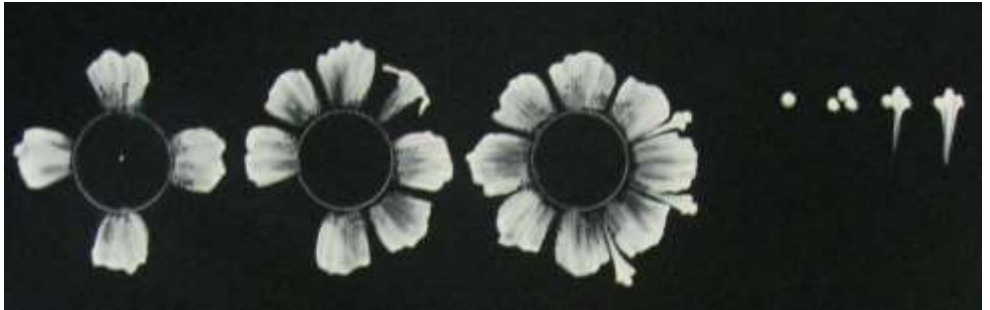
Add the main stem lines .



Add the black five petal flower with dots for the center.



Add the sunflower with the crosshatched center. Shown here is a variation to this flower.



#### Basic Leaf Construction

Start at the tip and come halfway down the outer edge of one side. Don't touch the actual tip when you create the other side of the leaf, stay down from the tip just a bit and make the connection. Pull in the center first to establish direction, then pull in from each side towards the center vein area. The last pull of the brush on each side will catch the end of the MUD and allow it to fade away.

Shown here are some other ways to use these basic leaves as leaves and also as a flower variation.

## Finishing

Air dry for 24 to 48 hours for maximum hardness. Do not try to dry harder in oven or any other type of heat as this will cause MUD to crumble. Either let it air-dry or kiln-fire.

## Kiln Firing

If you would like to kiln-fire your design keep the following in mind. The MUD needs to fire at least to 1370F to allow the glass particles to make the proper adhesion to the surface. The hotter you fire the MUD the shinier it becomes and it will tend to flatten.

This is a sample firing schedule from my digital, programmable fire brick kiln. Do a test fire in your own kiln first to see what results you get in your own kiln on your own surface.

4 segments

- 1) 450 degrees to 1400 and hold for 10 minutes
- 2) 9999 degrees to 1000 degrees and hold for 10 minutes
- 3) 200 degrees to 850 degrees and hold for 20minutes
- 4) 9999 degrees to room temperature

Have fun with this and soon you will be MUDDING on everything!

*Margot*

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