



A basic guide to foam sculpting

Making an apple from an expanded polystyrene ball as an example of some simple sculpting and finishing techniques

1 Compressing the expanded polystyrene

Using the palm of your hand roll the expanded polystyrene ball on a hard surface to flatten the side of the ball to form a slight wedge shape giving a more apple like shape.



2 Denting the expanded polystyrene

Using the end of a paintbrush or similar dent the bottom of the apple to form the grooves on the underside of an apple



3 Carving the expanded polystyrene

Using a scalpel or craft knife with a new sharp blade carve a large conical recess in the top of the apple



4 Sanding the expanded polystyrene

Using medium grade wet and dry paper gently sand the expanded polystyrene to give a smooth surface.



5 Filling the expanded polystyrene

Use fine surface filler or similar to fill any imperfections on the surface. When dry gently sand with the wet and dry paper.



6 Sealing the surface of the expanded polystyrene

The surface of the apple can be sealed by painting with PVA glue that has been thinned slightly with water. Alternatively foam coat can be applied which is a specialist product especially



designed for sealing and gluing foam materials. Sealing the surface first allows paint to be easily applied.



7 Applying a base coat

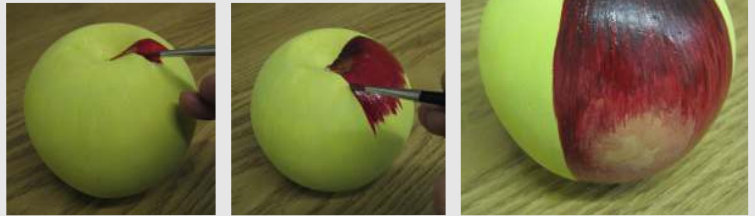
Hand paint the apple using acrylic paint mixed to a very pale green.

Alternatively the apple can be sprayed with a number of light coats of paint but make sure that the surface has been sealed with foam coat or at least two coats of PVA or the expanded polystyrene will dissolve!



8 Applying the finishing colour

Using a paint brush slowly apply streaks of the scarlet acrylic paint building up the variegated effect of the apple leaving some lighter areas and forming some darker areas by mixing in small quantities of black to the scarlet.

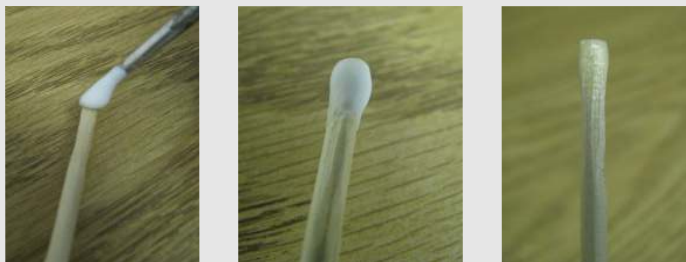


9 Making the stalk

Using a scalpel or craft knife sculpt the dowel so it thins in the middle



Apply some dabs of PVA glue to the top of the stalk to thicken it up.



When the glue is dry paint the stalk with acrylic paint mixed to a pale green colour. Then mixing in very small amounts of black to the pale green paint on some shading so the stalk is not finished in a flat colour.

Glue the dowel into the apple at a slight angle using PVA glue to give a more natural look to the finished apple

10 Sealing the acrylic painted surface

Paint on a thin layer of PVA glue as before to seal the paint and give the satin finish of a polished apple.



A basic guide to foam sculpting

Materials used:

stock code	description
SB91086	Polystyrene sphere 80mm
AP00019	Fast tack PVA glue 115ml
FO15048	CIT Scorpion Green Acrylic Paint
FO15025	CIT Sunburst Yellow Acrylic Paint
FO15000	CIT Chaos Black Acrylic Paint
FO15001	CIT Skull White Acrylic Paint
FO15021	CIT Red Gore Acrylic Paint
TK10014	Scapel No3 & 5 x 10a blades
TA10150	Wet & Dry abrasive paper 150grit 230 x 280mm black
FF00004	Red Devil filler, 250ml
SR90011	Birch dowel 3.0mm dia 915mm
FB10008	Fine hair 5 paint brush



alternate stock item that is essential
for more complicated foam sculpting projects

FT00013 Foamcoat 500ml

