

Wedding Cake

Text, drawings and photography by Nanci Jarvis

This fancy cake is made from several plastic caps that are stacked and decorated, with mostly free or inexpensive items. The base was a 25-cent thrift store find. I did nothing to it. I found a plastic cap that fit the base, and started to build and embellish. Some of the "flowers" came from a bush I spied one day, others are from the craft store. The bow once belonged to an Easter Bunny toy. One day I counted over 150 pieces on this project! Use your imagination and feel free to substitute with items you think are pretty!

What You'll Need:

- 5 round plastic caps, 1" tall: 3", 2", 1½", 1" and ½" diameters
- ¼" wide lace with a loop design
- ⅛" white pearls
- Tacky white glue
- Clear pony beads, approximately ⅜"
- Acrylic paints: White, Light Pink, Valentine Pink, Sheer Blossom, Magenta
- Acrylic clear iridescent sparkle paint
- Tiny flowers like baby's breath
- Tiny flower-shape pine cones (from real bushes; sorry, I don't know what kind of bush!)
- Small white bow
- 1½" length of scalloped doily, cut from larger piece
- Tiny plastic leaves
- 1 flower about ¼" wide
- 2 fabric flowers, ⅛" wide
- 1 base (can be candle base)
- Clear fishing line, approximately 2"
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Paintbrushes

Before you begin building layers, paint all caps white. Let dry. Paint some of the tiny flower pine cones white; paint others the five colors of pink. Let dry. *Tip: Use tweezers to hold them. Paint each twice to get a vibrant color.*

Bottom Layer

1. Glue lace strip around 3" cap.

You may need to slightly overlap two strips to cover the cap. Paint top of cap with clear iridescent paint.

2. Make three pillars of six pony beads each. Glue beads, one at a time, on top of each other. Let glue dry between each bead before starting the next bead; they tend to slip out of place if not fully dry.



Second and Third Layers

1. Glue ¼" looped lace to outer edge of 2" cap, letting loops hang beyond the bottom. Glue a second strip around top edge, as in step 1 of bottom layer.



example of looped lace

2. Glue the 1½" cap on top of 2" cap. Glue two layers of lace around edge.

Fourth and Top Layer

1. Glue 1" cap to top of 1½" cap. Glue lace layers around edge of 1" diameter cap.
2. Glue a tiny doily on top of 1" cap.
3. Glue ½" cap on top of 1" cap. Edge with lace. Top with bow.
4. Glue plastic leaf behind bow. Glue scalloped flower in front of bow. On each side of scalloped flower, glue fabric flowers, rose style. Tuck baby's breath beside scalloped flower.
5. Cut two strands of fish line so they poke up behind arrangement. Glue tiny pearl on top of each strand. Glue other end beneath white flower.
6. Glue pink pine cone bud under white flower. On each side of bud, glue one white pearl. Tuck and glue baby's breath in front of green leaf.

Embellishments

1. For all five layers of lace loop edging, glue one pearl into each loop.
2. Glue flowers to cake in a cascading effect. Glue baby's breath

behind flowers. Glue tiny pieces of green leaves here and there among flowers.

3. Glue pillers to underside of the 2" layer. When dry, flip over and glue the other end of pillars to 3" layer. Let dry.
4. Glue three rose pine cones by each pillar. Add pieces of baby's breath and tiny green leaves.
5. Glue pearls around top edge of 3" layer, making sure each touches the next. To keep them from slipping out of place, it works best to glue three to four pearls and let them dry before going on.

6. When all are dry, go behind the circle of pearls and glue one pearl behind every third pearl. Let dry. On top of each pearl behind the circle of pearls, glue one pearl.

7. Paint the cascading flowers with the clear iridescent sparkle paint to make it look as if fairy dust has been sprinkled over them! ■

Nanci has been the ultimate DIY miniaturist for 10 years. She delights in using inexpensive and found items in her settings. Nanci lives in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

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