





BERTHA **THE BATHING** *beauty*

A summer birthday cake with a sense of humour, Bertha makes sure there are ample portions for all! Shaping the cakes takes a little practice, and you should allow plenty of time for creating the colourful decoration. The realistic hair is achieved by using a sugar shaper.

Ingredients

10 egg 28cm (11in)
square madeira cake

Buttercream

2 kg (4lb 8oz) sugarpaste:
1.2kg (2lb 10oz) flesh colour
800g (1lb 2oz) white

Modelling paste:
400g (14oz) deep pink
75g (3oz) orange
75g (3oz) yellow
15g (1/2oz) black

Sugar glue

White vegetable fat

Paste colours:
pink, orange, yellow,
blue and brown

Dust colour: peach

Piping gel

1 Trim the crust from the cake base, level the top and cut in half vertically. Spread the top of one half with buttercream and stack on the other half. Freeze until firm. Position the top template (p.104) and cut around it vertically. Place the profile template (p.105) on one long side of the cake and cut around for the basic body shape, marking the position of the arms and head. Curve and shape the cut edges. Cut the head from the body. Place the body in position on the board, spread with buttercream and cover with flesh sugarpaste. Smooth and trim.

Mark fingers on the hands with a Dresden tool.

Use the other end of the tool to mark

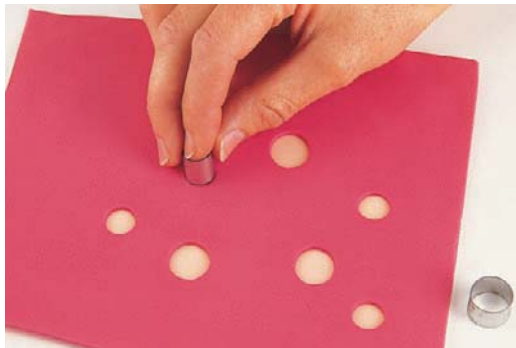
fingernails. Place the head on waxed paper,

spread with buttercream, cover with sugarpaste,

smooth and trim. Fix in position and dry.

TIP

To make a realistic flesh colour use brown with a touch of orange and pink.



2 Knead the pink paste and roll it between narrow spacers. Paint glue over the body where costume will go. Cover the body, smooth and trim. Shape the costume top by removing paste from the back to form straps and cut away around the arms. Cut random circles (we've shown this flat for clarity, but your costume will already be on the cake). Roll out orange paste slightly thicker than the pink. Cut rounds with three cutters, place into the holes on the costume and smooth to fit. Paint glue around the straps. Soften orange paste and squeeze from the sugar shaper with a medium round disc. Trim to fit and smooth into place around the neck and armholes.

3 For eyelashes, paint two curved lines of glue on the face. Roll out black modelling paste and cut into a strip. Thin one edge of the strip then cut out small triangles of paste to create lashes. Cut excess paste from behind the lashes and stick in place, adjusting the curve. Dust the cheeks with peach dust colour. For the bandanna, roll out orange modelling paste between narrow spacers and cut a 2.5cm x 30cm (1in x 12in) strip. Attach around the head, gathering two ends on one side. Fix a thin strip of pink modelling paste to the lower edge. Shape ears and nose from flesh sugarpaste and fix in place.



Tools and Equipment

33cm x 28cm (13in x 11in)
oval cake board

Waxed paper

Dresden tool

Narrow spacers made
from stiff card

Craft knife

Cutting wheel

Round cutters:
5mm, 1cm and 1.5cm
($\frac{1}{4}$ in, $\frac{1}{2}$ in and $\frac{3}{8}$ in)

Sugar shaper

Paintbrushes

Ribbon

TIP

To soften modelling paste for the sugar shaper, add a little white fat and boiled water, then knead until it is the consistency of chewing gum.



4 For the hair, soften yellow modelling paste and place in the sugar shaper fitted with a large mesh disc. Paint glue over the top of the head and below the bandanna at the back. Squeeze out approximately 1.5cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) lengths of paste, remove with a Dresden tool and attach, covering the head completely. For the bandanna tie, cut oval shaped pieces from orange modelling paste and edge each with a thin pink strip. Stick ties over the gathered join in the bandanna and finish off a small orange ball for the knot.

5 For the sea, colour the remaining white sugarpaste a range of blues. Roughly knead together then cut the paste in half to reveal the marbled pattern inside. Place the 2 halves next to each other, cut side uppermost, and rub the join closed. Roll out the paste and cut into two strips and wrap these strips around Bertha, adjusting as necessary. Smooth the joins closed and trim to fit the board. Leave to dry.

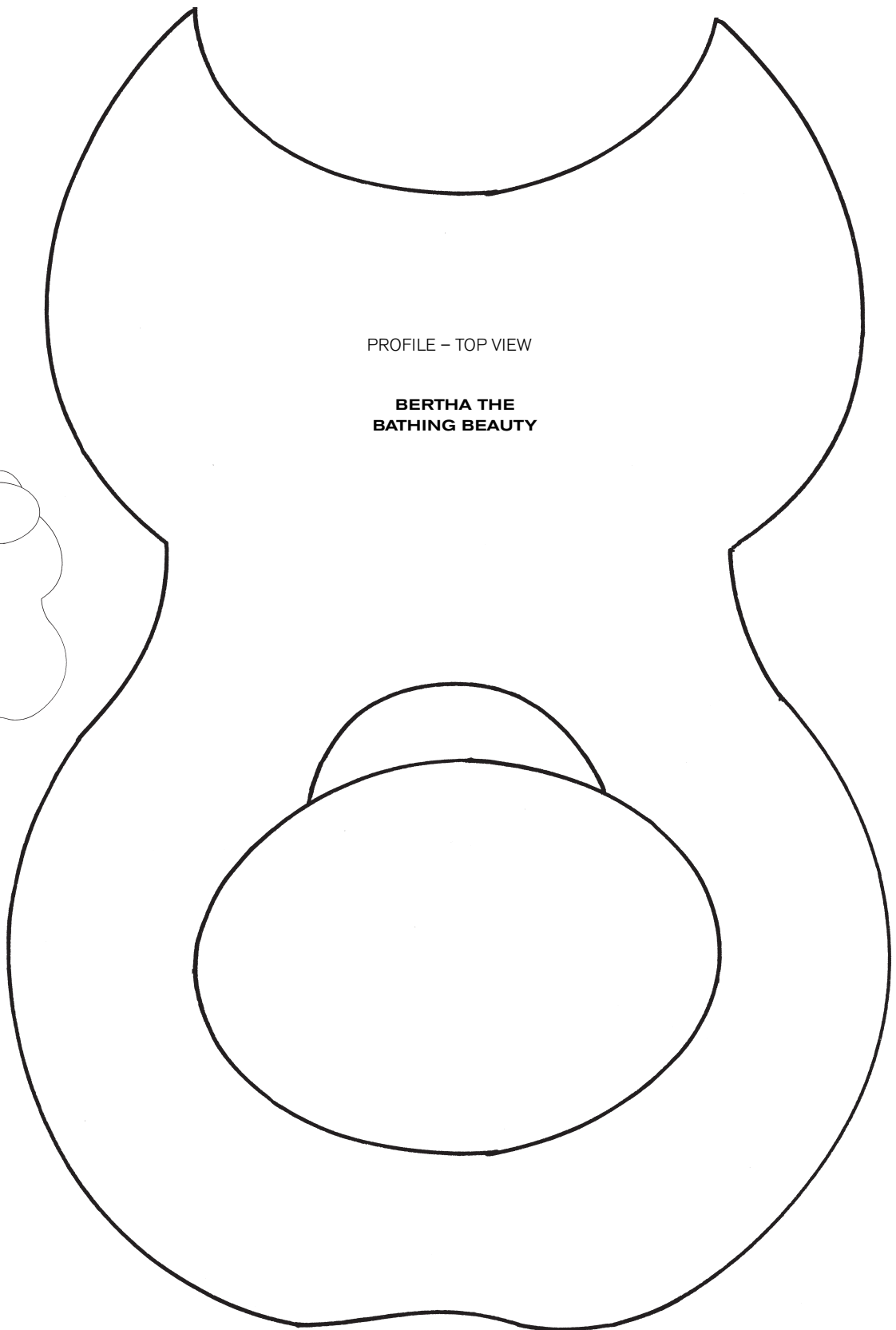


Variation

For a really special friend or family member's birthday, you could personalise the hair and facial features, or add a favourite sunhat made from modelling paste. Or, make a male version of Bertha for a very special fella! Add extra detail to the water such as fish heads or tails made from modelling paste.

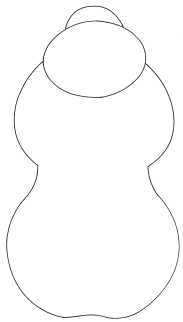


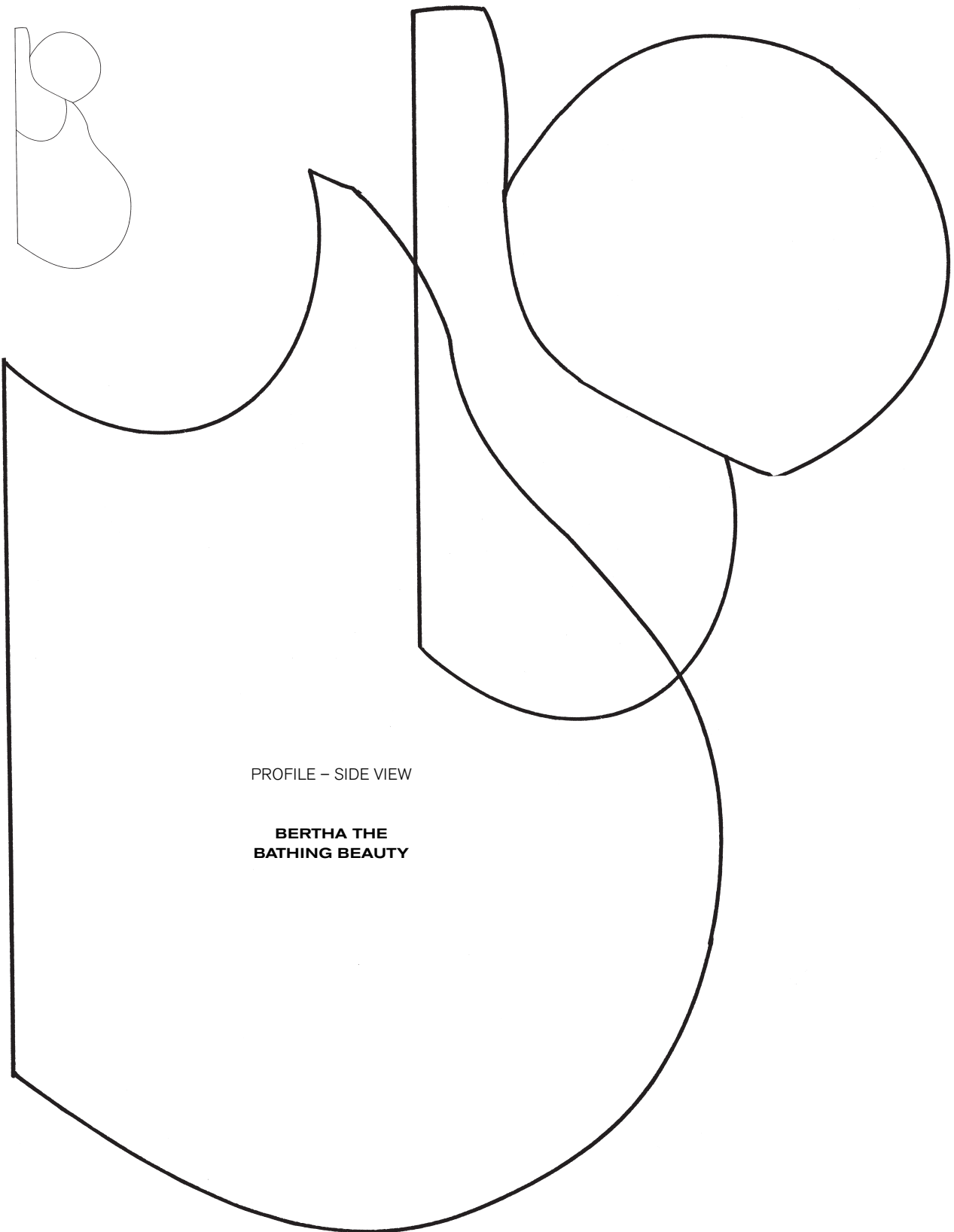
6 With a large paintbrush apply piping gel to the board so that the water becomes reflective and the colours intensify. Pour some gel on to the board and paddle it with your brush to remove any lumps before spreading. Once the board is covered run the brush through the gel to create ripples. Finally, attach a ribbon around the board.



PROFILE – TOP VIEW

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PROFILE - SIDE VIEW

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