

Suzie Thompson Zimbelman's Wisteria

The drooping clusters of this woody pea-family vine are not only strikingly beautiful, but they are also delightfully fragrant. The cluster of blooms hangs from 3" to 3-1/2" in length. Colors range from white to blue, lilac, purple and pink. The leaves are straight across from each other on a stem with an odd one at the end. Lots of leaves top the cluster of blooms. Some have tendrils, some do not.

First fire:

Start at the top of the vase or plate with a dark color of your choice, blues, greens, or rubies. Make the bottom edge of the leaf area irregular. Carve out the stems and leaves with a wipe out tool. Wipe out leaves from outside edge to center vein set brush down at center vein and pull at an angle to the outside edge with your synthetic brush (angled brush). Starting at the bottom edge of the leaves, start your wisteria clusters forming the purple or pink as you would a grape shape (just the shape). Be sure you have the outside edges uneven. Refer to the picture for shapes, etc. Start wiping out the blooms on the outside edges first, then on top of the cluster. Make sure they hang in different lengths and sizes. Think in terms of irregular, uneven, angles etc. Fire at .015.

Second fire:

Go over the top part of vase with dark color going right over the leaves, wipe out leaves again and shade half the leaf where the sun does not hit it. Start adding different colors on leaves, don't paint them all the same color. Use yellow on some, turquoise on some and different shades of green and yellow red. Paint yellow red underneath the edges of the background color to give it some glow. Fire at .016.

I seldom do the same thing twice. Design as I go along. One thing will call for another and on and on. It is not necessary to have ground at bottom of the clusters, but if you do, ivory would be pretty. You could also paint the same dark color at the bottom of the vase to tie the top and bottom together. Don't go very far up from the bottom. Fire at .017.

Third Fire:

Basically, I just strengthen the shadows and do accents on the leaves and blooms. Do some shadow clusters if you so desire with a grey blue.

