

## Florentine Fuchsia

By Anna Marie Skonieczny

Brushes: Square Shaders 8,4, and 2, liner, (berry, scroller, round #6 or medium size quill brush) Something you can use for a comma stroke.

Supplies: Normal supplies, plus a wipe out tool, magic marker or pencil that writes on china for designing your piece, practice tile. There is a line drawing for those that would like to use it.

Any piece of china at least eight inches in size.

Paints colors will depend on what color you want to paint your flowers. The color combinations for flowers are:

1. Two different colors of pink, a light pink and a dark pink for a flower combination
2. A purple and a red for another flower combination.
3. A pink and a red for another flower combination.

For all flowers and leaves you will need:

For first fire: Yellow brown, a light green and a medium green plus your flower colors.

For Second and third fire: All first fire colors plus black green and bright blue.

Third fire: A bright blue.

Directions for a pink and a red flower:

For designing your own plate, divide your plate into thirds both horizontal and vertical. In the middle of the top three squares, draw a curve from the left to the right and down or if you prefer from right to left and down the side depending on how you like to design. In the top area, where the lines cross, draw another curved line. Make the curve line on the same side as your first line. These lines represent your branch lines. Paint these lines in using a yellow brown just to hold the line. Some of your leaves will go over these lines and erase part, so don't love your lines so much they can not disappear.

Note on the leaves: Leaves can either be painted across from each other on the branch or in groups. Fuchsia plants seem to have them both ways, but do remember they are long thin leaves. On my pieces, I used a combination of both placements to give interest to the leaves.

Fuchsia flowers:

Step 1: The fuchsia flowers are painted by using a square shader No: 6. Fully load your No.6 brush with the petal color. I used a dark pink. Make chisel strokes with your square shader. This is done by having your brush on an angle with one corner pointed

down. Make two or three chisel strokes toward you. The flower is below the branch allowing for a stem. Paint in a second and third row of chisel strokes completing the bottom part of the flower. These strokes should also angle toward the center of the flower and vary some. If needed, go over your petal again this time wiping out irregular highlights.

Step 2: Still working on the flower. This time you will be painting the top of the flower. Using a brush that you can make a comma stroke, put in the center top of the flower. I used blood red. The center is a little ball made by a comma stroke facing right and another facing left. Now you are ready to do the other petals in the same red. I start with the one facing me in the center of the flower. Make sure you have a strong highlight in this petal. Paint the other three petals using comma strokes and have them attach to the center of the flower. Sometimes the back petal shows and sometimes it does not. Add interest to your flowers by making these petals look different on each flower. After you finish this part, on the center ball of the flower, paint a thinner long shape (red), using comma strokes again.

Step 3: Stem of the flower. At this point, I only paint in the oval green shape on the thinner long red shape mentioned above. I do not paint in the stems. I wait until second fire. If you prefer, you can paint in the stems.

Step 4: Stamens and pistils. These can be painted in any color used in your flower. Paint six stamens of varying lengths and a longer pistil. I noticed in some flowers the pistil is the same length as the stamens. At the end of each, place a very small oval dot in yellow brown.

Step 5: Paint in some of the blooms that are not opened. I use red painting a ball with the long thin oblong shape above. I usually wait until after second fire to paint these in. Remember the long oval shape on top.

Fire the piece at 018 or 016. Your choice, if you are using gold colors, I would fire at 016.

Second Fire:

Step 1: Resist the whole piece. Let the resist dry.

Step 2: At the top of your piece, fully load your largest square shader with black green and paint the top area of your piece and down along your top branch on both sides. Make sure the black green is on both sides of your branch. This is to avoid trapped color. Below the black green at the top, paint your medium green. Also, go down with the medium green along the black green too; slightly blend the edges of the two colors. Do not make it smooth; don't make it a straight lines of color. Below the medium green, paint your lightest green. Blend the edges of this also. On your piece you should have an area that has no paint on it. This area is for your viewer to rest while they are looking at your finished piece. Towards the center of the piece paint some of your flower color.

The edges of the lightest green and the flower color should be blurred out (a very soft edge.) Make sure the white china area is still there.

Step 3: Take a silk cloth folded in an irregular shape and stamp the painted area with this cloth and turning it to make different shapes. This should give a look of soft leaves.

Step 4: Remove the resist.

Step 5: Spruce up the leaves and branches if needed. Paint in the stems of the flowers with green if you left it for this fire. Use the different greens on your leaves to make your leaves interesting. Leave a highlight in your leaves which could be your lightest green or white china. Paint the branches again with a mixture of yellow brown and yellow brown II. Do not paint your branches so dark that they become very important. You could use just yellow brown if you choose. This is your piece. Make yourself happy.

Step 6: Paint blue over portions of your bottom part of the flowers to put some petals in shadow. Under the top petals is a good place to do this. Do not do this on every flower. Each flower should look slightly different. The blue is painted on very lightly. Darken portions of the top petals with red if that was your color. Leave highlights. Do the buds too.

Fire the piece at 018 or 016.

The third fire is where you would do washes of color.

Step 1: Do a wash of blue over all the dark green and middle green areas. Over the light green area use a light green wash over it. The light green wash should cover some of the middle green. Blend the washed so that there are no hard lines of colors.

Step 2: On the branches on the shadow side paint a pink color.

Step 3: Look at your leaves. Is there enough color variation to make them interesting? If not, paint some of your flower color here and there.

You should be finished at this point. Sign your piece.

Fire the piece at 018 or 016.

