Wood Craft Skills Training Resource: Making a gypsy flower

**You will need:**

- Straight Hazel rod approx 2cm diameter with minimal knots.
- Small saw such as a woodlander pull saw or large toothed Japanese saw
- Draw knife
- Hand Drill and approx 6mm bit.
- Shave horse

Find your regional green wood centre for further training on how to make this.

We strongly advise you have read the section on the safe use and storage of tools prior to following these instructions.

**Method:**

1. Use saw to cut a hazel rod into half a metre or so.
2. Use a hand drill to form a hole at one end of the hazel rod approx 1.5cm deep.
3. Keeping the drilled hole end of the hazel towards you, grip in a shave horse and begin to shave the bark off, stopping at the end of rod (see tips below)
4. Keep turning as you shave, allowing the rod to become thinner and eventually break off
5. Insert a stick into hole and you have your flower on a stem
6. For variety, add to willow branches to make a flower bush

![Images of wood craft skills](http://www.forestschoolwales.org.uk)
5. Insert thin rod into hole

6. Or add to willow twigs

**Tips:**

- Usually the petals are easier to cut if you have the bevel facing up on the draw knife.
- Try to make your petal cuts consistently thick and go as near to the previous petal base as possible.
- By slicing/shearing the draw knife diagonally across the wood will give more spiralled petals.
- You will get more curled petals the drier the hazel rod is.