

The Couture Lace Journal

GELATIN-FREE EDIBLE LACE - STUDIO TEST • SEPTEMBER 27, 2026



Today's lace tests: translucent petal-dust lace, opaque pink versions, and the darker gel-colored lace.

What I was testing

Today's test helped me understand something I had seen before but could not isolate. In earlier batches I added white gel color to the entire mixture at once. Today I kept using the same base mixture and changed the coloring step by step, which made the differences much easier to see.

Base Formula Used Today

INGREDIENT	AMOUNT
Boiling water	100 g
Tylose / CMC	10 g
Glucose syrup	15 g
Vegetable glycerine	5 g
Powdered sugar	12 g
Cornstarch	6 g

Recipe origin: adapted from the original gelatin-free edible lace formula generously shared by Priscilla Melbourne Cakes.

Important: the coloring amounts were not weighed today. They were added visually as part of the experiment.

1. Hydrating the Tylose

THE FIRST VISUAL CUE



Tylose + water after the 30-minute rest.

I pour the **water over the Tylose** and stir it. Immediately after stirring there can still be large white lumps or chunks of Tylose. I do not worry about those or keep fighting them with the whisk.

I let the mixture rest for **30 minutes**. During that time the Tylose hydrates and those visible white pieces disappear. I know it is ready when I no longer see the white Tylose pieces and the mixture has become **clear/translucent and jelly-like** - not hard, but no longer loose either.

30 MINUTES - wait for the white Tylose pieces to disappear.

2. Adding the Remaining Ingredients

Once the Tylose is hydrated, I add the **glucose and glycerine first** and mix them very well into the hydrated Tylose. Then I add the **powdered sugar and cornstarch** and mix.

Because glucose and glycerine are sticky, exact transfer can be difficult. If I need 15 g of glucose, I would rather weigh approximately 16 g than 14 g, because some will remain on the plate or utensil when I scrape it into the mixture. I scrape as thoroughly as I can.



Finished mixture after the dry ingredients: thick, cohesive and jelly-like.

3. Coloring Experiment

ONE BASE MIXTURE - COLOR ADDED STEP BY STEP

I started by sifting a small amount of **petal dust** into the finished mixture. The petal dust gave me a pale pink while allowing the finished lace to remain translucent.



After a small amount of sifted petal dust.

Batch 1 - Petal dust only

The finished lace remained translucent. It was very dry/almost non-sticky, flexible, and I did not observe shrinkage. It was elastic, although not as elastic as the later batches.

Next, I added a **very liquid white gel color** to the same remaining mixture. The mixture became opaque instead of translucent.



After adding the very liquid white gel: noticeably more opaque.

Batch 2 - Petal dust + liquid white gel

The lace became a beautiful opaque pink. It was more elastic, but also noticeably stickier when it first came out. It also needed slightly more oven time than Batch 1.

I then added a **dusky-pink gel color** that was very different in texture from the white gel: thick, creamy and almost paste-like.

Batch 3 - Additional thick dusky-pink gel/paste

This batch behaved very similarly to Batch 2 and took about the same time in the oven. It was a little sticky, but not as sticky as the white-gel batch.



The mixture after substantially more dusky-pink gel/paste was added for the darkest lace.

Batch 4 - More dusky-pink gel/paste

I added more of the paste to make the color much darker. This lace was very sticky when it first came out, so I placed it upside down and allowed it to continue air-drying. From this test and previous batches, I know the darker/stickier pieces improve with additional drying time and become less tacky.

4. Oven & Readiness Test

I used **175°F** for all of today's batches. I also kept the **oven door slightly open with a wooden spoon** for every batch.

My first check was at approximately **23 minutes**. I gently peel only a small corner of the lace. If the lace **breaks while I am peeling that corner**, it is not ready, so I stop and return it to the oven.

For Batch 1, I checked again about seven minutes later, at approximately **30 minutes**. At that point it peeled without breaking and felt elastic.

Then I place a **finger underneath the silicone mat** and gently push/bend the mat upward. When the lace is ready, the section above my finger begins to **lift and release slightly by itself** as the silicone bends.

PEEL TEST: breaks = not ready.

BEND TEST: lace begins lifting from the silicone = ready.

The batches containing gel color took approximately **33 minutes** in today's test. I still checked them around 20-23 minutes rather than assuming the final time.

5. Today's Comparison

TEST	APPEARANCE	DRYING	FEEL / FLEXIBILITY
Petal dust only	Translucent	~30 min	Very dry/almost non-sticky; flexible; no shrinkage observed
+ liquid white gel	Opaque pink	~33 min	More elastic; initially stickier
+ thick dusky-pink paste	Deeper opaque pink	~33 min	Similar behavior; slightly sticky
+ more dusky-pink paste	Darkest / opaque	~33 min*	Very sticky initially; improves with additional air-drying

*Approximate timing from today's test; readiness was judged by the physical peel and bend tests, not by the clock alone.

What I finally understood today

Before today, I had been adding the white gel color to the entire mixture at once, so I did not have a direct comparison. By changing the color step by step in the same base mixture, I could finally see that **the type and amount of coloring can change how the finished lace behaves**.

The petal-dust-only lace stayed translucent and was the driest/almost non-sticky result. The batches containing gel colors became opaque, more elastic and initially stickier. The very liquid white gel was also associated with a slightly longer drying time in today's test. The darker pieces become less sticky as they continue to air-dry.

This is a studio observation from today's experiment, not a claim that every brand or type of color will behave the same way.

My takeaway

The clock is only a guide. I am looking at the lace itself: how it peels, whether it breaks, how it responds when I bend the silicone from underneath, and how it feels after additional drying. Today's side-by-side color experiment helped me understand results I had already seen in previous batches.

The Couture Lace Journal records my own studio tests and observations. Oven behavior, humidity, mat depth, application thickness and coloring products can all affect results.