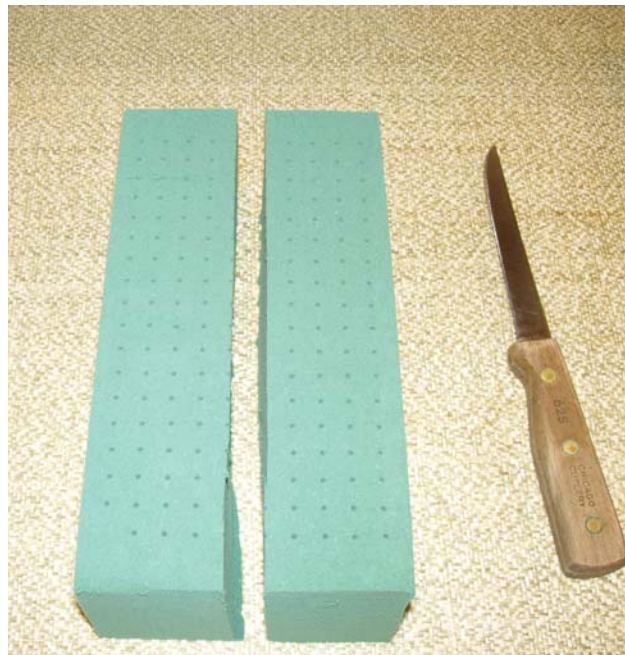


## *Icon Flowers—New Haven Style*



**Begin with plastic kitchen drawer divider trays; spray paint dark green.  
You'll need three long and two small squares.**



**Take a brick of oasis floral foam and split it in half lengthwise.**



**Turn one half on its side and split off another ½ - inch (or so) strip.**



**Insert the trimmed piece into your frame. Repeat with remaining oasis, cutting to size.  
(The small strips can be saved and combined—5 of them make a full-sized block.)**



**When they are all filled, they will look something like this. Save any remaining oasis for next time. It takes about 2 ½ bricks of oasis to fill these frames.**



**Place the filled frames in the sink and soak the oasis for a few minutes while you gather your flowers, make a cup of coffee, and start a video to keep the preschooler busy while you work.  
Drain the oasis well before you start, and drain it again at the end.**



**Start adding your flowers. Some people go for the flat, uniform surface with a distinct pattern. This is for Pentecost, so I'm going with a more free-form, spirited, "this looks pleasing to me," approach.**





**I broke one of my cardinal rules this Pentecost: “no alstroemeria!” But they were the only flowers the wholesaler had that suggested any sort of flaming tongues. The problem with a-m is that their stems are incredibly weak, and therefore difficult to insert into the oasis without bending, and thus ruining them. The trick I worked out this year was to grab a piece of carnation stem and pre-drill the holes. It worked like a charm—I may have to re-think my rule!**



**Add a few greens clipped from my bushes and it's ready to go!**



**A flat box for transport is easy to get from the produce department in your local supermarket.**

**VERY IMPORTANT: Tip the flowers over the sink to drain out any excess water before you take them to church. On a tilted icon stand, they may drip!**



**Here's what it looks like around an icon.**



**And a side view.**



**And the final product.**