

# How to...

FREE  
information

## Create a Floral Display

Flower arrangements are changing greatly from the usual posy table centres and baskets of flowers that everyone is familiar with. The new trend is for more modern minimalist arrangements that are often seen in homes today. This leaflet will explain how easy it is to get started.

### Equipment needed

- Suitable container
- Floral foam
  - Wet (green in colour) is for fresh flowers
  - Dry (grey in colour) is for silk or dried flowers
- Anchor tape – used for securing the foam to the container.
- Plastic frogs – another option for securing foam in the container.
- Floral fix – a putty like substance for securing sundries such as candles, frogs, ornaments etc.
- Reindeer moss – a soft natural moss available in a range of colours used to conceal the foam. Alternatively you could use Sisal which is a string like medium used for the same purpose, also available in a range of colourways.
- Florist wire – used for extending silk or dried stems and can be trimmed to length.
- Stem tape – used to wrap the wires as above to look like a natural stem.
- Stay soft – this is similar to plasticine in texture and is used to add weight to arrangement bases. As it is flexible it can be used for filling small gaps. It is re-useable so is useful for beginners.
- Dry hard – an air drying clay that dries hard and is used for adding weight. It is useful when making topiary trees as it will not expand when it dries and crack the pot.



## Optional extras

- Aluminium wire – this can be twisted into loops to fill space in your design.
- Bullion wire – a thinner wire which is slightly crinkled, used in the same way as aluminium wire.
- Beads – these can be threaded into wires and used in your design.
- Skeleton leaves – these can be wired either individually or together to enhance your arrangement.

## Tools

Scissors

Wire cutters

Knife

Glue gun & glue sticks

## Useful tips

Always take time in getting the mechanics of your arrangement stable. Ensure that the foam is anchored correctly before adding your design.

Choose moss or sisal to blend with your colour scheme and / or container.

Use your space wisely - make sure each flower can be easily seen.

Make sure that each flower head in your design is facing a different way.

Don't be afraid to cut stems really short, even removing them altogether for some designs.

Never let wet foam dry out. It will not hold water a second time once it has dried.

## Making a typical modern arrangement

Choose a container – a tall one is most suitable for this type of arrangement, either round or square.

Cut floral foam to fit the container leaving 1" above the rim and cover the foam with sisal.

Bundle three or four twigs together and put them in the centre of the container.

Select five tall floral stems, lilies or similar. Place the stems at different heights through the design leaving one flower head facing forwards at the top edge of the container.

Arrange three large leaves around the top of the container at different angles.

Finish by threading some beads onto a length of wire and entwining this around the arrangement.

If using a glass container, small pebbles can be used to secure stems, as an alternative to floral foam.



## Making a table arrangement

A table centrepiece is ideal for a dinner party or at Christmas. Select a colour scheme to suit the occasion, the room or to match your table linen.

Stand a floral foam ring on a plate to prevent any marking on your table.

Stand a large chunky candle in the centre of the ring and anchor it down with floral fix.

Cover the floral foam with leaves and reindeer moss. Cut flower heads and add them to the foam in groups of three to give a modern feel. Any type of flower can be used provided they are not too big.

Finish by adding embellishments threaded onto wire.

## Making an arrangement using the Japanese art of Ikebana

Select a shallow bowl like container. Use floral fix to attach a plastic frog to the container.

Cut a square of floral foam and fix it securely onto the plastic frog.

Place three straight poker like stems such as gladioli in the foam. Recess three large flower heads into the foam – gerberas or camellias are good for this.

Add five medium sized straight leaves, two at the back and two at the front so that they flow over the empty part of the container.

## Finishing touches

Raffia – available in a range of colours, adds a rustic natural look to an arrangement. It can be made into bows and woven around handles.

Paper ribbon – this is available in a range of colours and can be used in its packaged form or opened out to form bows or strips for wrapping.

Curling ribbon – this is a thin pre-cut ribbon used for small bows and wrapping. It can be curled with a scissor blade to produce streamers.

Tearing ribbon – this is a wider width version of curling ribbon and can be reduced to thin streamers by tearing or curling and made into large bows. It is especially useful for outdoor events as it is water resistant and colour fast.

Fabric & wired ribbon – this can be used for all of the above but cannot be curled.

Other materials such as feathers, skeleton leaves etc can be added according to the occasion and who the design is for.

## Project ideas

For any occasion:

Conical arrangement, Table decoration, Bouquet, Vase of flowers Etc.

## For weddings:

Bridal bouquets, Corsages, Bridesmaids posy, Buttonholes, Chair back decorations, Pew ends, Table centrepieces, Top table garlands, Candle holders.

## Make the most of your floral displays

### How to open fabric flowers

When flowers are made they are heated in a mould which gives them their shape. The fabric has a 'memory' and by applying a gentle heat with a hairdrier the flower will open beautifully.

Please note: never use more than the medium setting on your hairdrier and do not place too close to the flowers. Never leave the hairdrier unattended. Continue heating gently until the heads take on the shape you desire. This technique works best on open flower shapes such as gerberas and lillies but most flowers will benefit from a little heat.

### Create longer lasting floral displays

Fabric roses mix well with many types of foliage. You can use fresh or artificial foliage. If you use fresh foliage, replace it when it looks tired, or put the fabric flowers away to be used again.

When using fabric or artificial flowers don't be afraid to cut them to the length you require. In most cases a set of side snips will be needed. Try to have flower heads at different heights. Alternatively, leave the stems uncut to provide height and improve the structure of the arrangement.

Why not keep a range of 'silk' flowers on standby? You can easily achieve a fresh look by changing the flowers and mixing with either your garden foliage or artificial foliage.



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