



CREPE PAPER FLOWERS

The Beginner's Guide to
**MAKING & ARRANGING
BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS**

LIA GRIFFITH

Includes
**Printable PDFs
& SVG Files**



*In memory of my mother—
my first teacher of art and of crafts,
a true queen of DIY, and a lover
of all things that bloom.*

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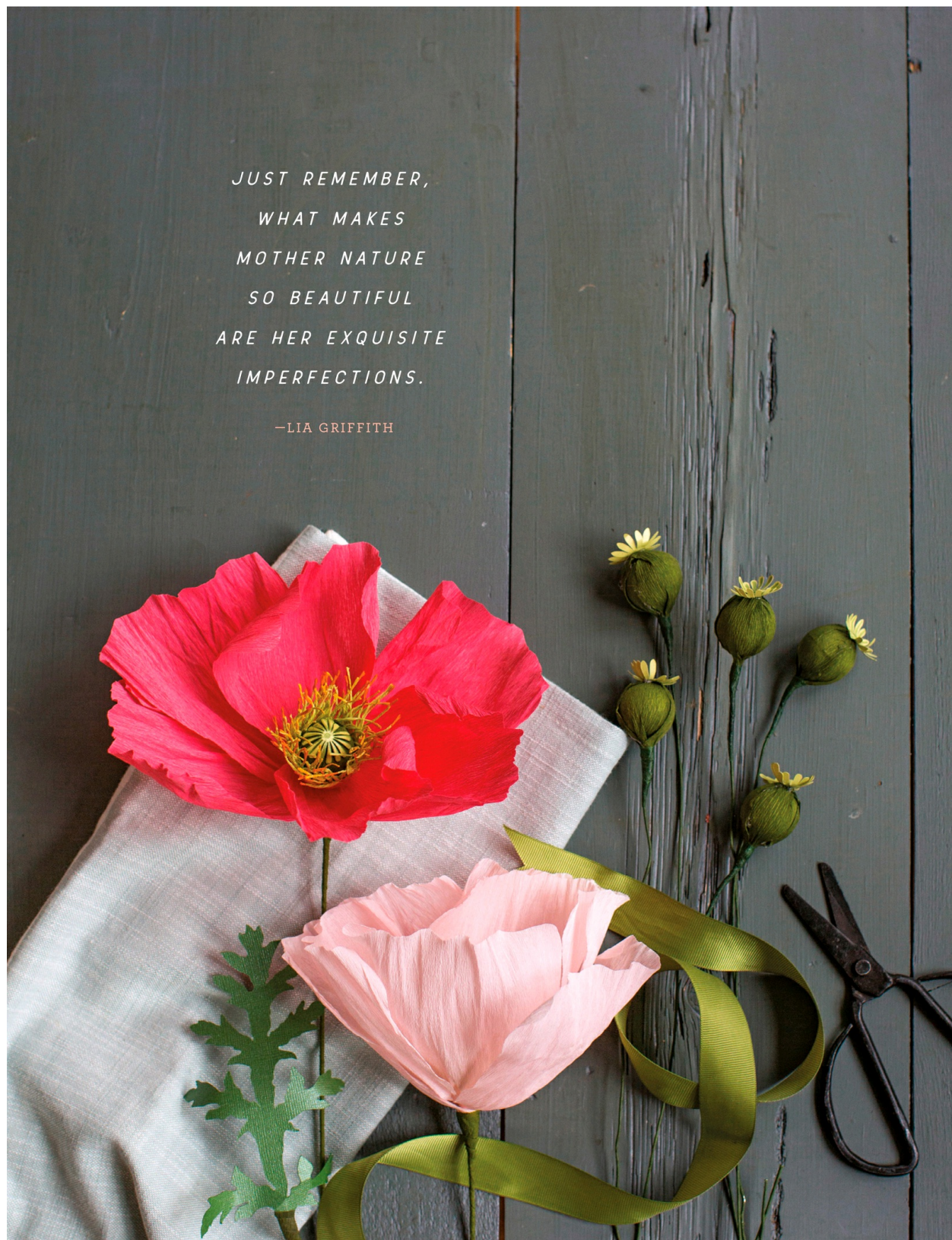
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*JUST REMEMBER,
WHAT MAKES
MOTHER NATURE
SO BEAUTIFUL
ARE HER EXQUISITE
IMPERFECTIONS.*

—LIA GRIFFITH





contents

A NOTE FROM LIA ALL ABOUT CREPE PAPER MATERIALS & TOOLS HOW TO MAKE PAPER FLOWERS



THE FLOWERS

Anemone



Apple Blossom

Calla Lily



Chrysanthemum

Cosmos



Crocus

Daffodil



Dogwood

Gerbera Daisy

Hellebore

Hibiscus

Iris

Lily

Paperwhite

Peony

Poppy
Ranunculus
Rose
Sunflower
Tulip
Wild Rose

HOW TO ARRANGE PAPER FLOWERS

Wedding Bouquet
Flower Crown
Corsage
Boutonniere
Centerpiece
Flower Backdrop
Wreath
Garland
Potted Blooming Plants

TEMPLATES
RESOURCES
THANK YOU



a note from lia

As a designer, educator, and founder of a website with thousands of crafting projects and numerous resources, I want to welcome you to the beautiful world of crepe paper flowers. I am passionate about helping beginners learn to make lifelike crafts out of paper, and I am honored that you chose me as your teacher. Get ready to live your most creative life yet.

I made my first paper flower for a headpiece that graced my Papier Couture runway show in 2006. It was a jumbo red rose that complemented an eighteenth-century-style red paper gown. I then repeated the rose design to top pretty gifts for my friends. A few years later, when working as a creative director for a wedding stationery company, I decided to start designing paper flowers that the readers of our blog could easily make. That's when my love for paper flowers really bloomed.

Since then, my team and I have designed 260 flowers made from different types of paper to share with crafters of all experience levels. But once I learned how to make flowers with crepe paper, I never looked back. It's the perfect material for beginners: not only is it forgiving, malleable, and fun, but it also forms lifelike petals.

Whether you're looking to try something new or discover a passion that will last a lifetime, let this book take the mystery out of flower making and show you how simple it really is to craft gorgeous blooms. This is the ultimate crepe paper-flower reference— an alphabetically

organized book that's straightforward, inspiring, and instructive. First up, you'll find detailed glossaries and helpful techniques to complement your crafting endeavors. Then you'll discover twenty-one stunning flowers to practice making and perfect. In the back, you'll learn how to arrange your blooms into bouquets, plants, garlands, crowns, and more. I'm excited for you to explore each and every one of these lovely works of art. A whole garden of handcrafted beauty awaits you!

Crepe paper flowers may be my favorite craft, but the inspiration doesn't stop here. Join us at LiaGriffith.com and share your DIY journey with us by using #madewithlia and #crepepaperrevival. You are our greatest muse!

With love from my craft room to yours,

A handwritten signature in a cursive script, appearing to read 'Lia', written in a dark ink or paint.







all about crepe paper

A BRIEF HISTORY

Crepe paper has been a beloved crafting material for more than a century. Dating back to the late 1800s, it was used in the creation of ball gowns, home goods, and, yes, gorgeous paper flowers. The art of making crepe paper flowers became a popular pastime in the early 1900s, and the resulting blooms were the first replacement for real flowers. Its popularity lasted through the 1950s.

I'm never surprised when I hear someone reminisce about their mother or grandmother making paper flowers. I have a collection of vintage booklets about crepe paper-flower making in my library, many of them published by the American crepe paper maker Dennison. I love to study the pages and get insight into how these makers used the resources around them to perfect their craft. Though crepe paper has continued to be manufactured over the years, it has most often been known for its use in party decorations. Until recently, the art of crepe paper-flower making seemed to have disappeared altogether.

CREPE PAPER REVIVAL

Currently, there are only three manufacturers of crepe paper in the world, aside from those in China. In the United States, there is Dennecrepe (formerly known as Dennison). In Italy, there is Cartotecnica Rossi. And then there is the German manufacturer,

Werola. Since crepe paper has started to resurface in recent years, the European manufacturers have begun to broaden their distribution in the United States and other countries. A few years ago the owners of Dennecrepe and Werola merged to strengthen their offerings and invited me and my team to bring our passion for paper flowers to the table to create the ultimate paper-crafting line. Our aim has been to ignite and support a modern day “crepe paper revival.”

THE DIFFERENT CREPE PAPERS

Chinese & American: I started making crepe paper flowers with Chinese crepe paper many years ago. It was the most accessible and inexpensive material at the time. At this point, I have donated all of my Chinese rolls. I find that paper made in China doesn't have the stretch I need and that the colors are primarily on the neon spectrum, which is perfect for parties but not for natural-looking blooms. If you're working with Chinese crepe paper, you'll have success making some flowers, but know that the paper has its limitations. While crepe paper made in the United States is nontoxic and great for kid's crafts, some of it doesn't have the stretch that European manufacturers have achieved.

Italian: I next discovered the beautiful Italian-made crepe paper. This manufacturer offers papers in different weights and stretches, though the most commonly available weights are 140 gsm and 180 gsm (grams per square meter). This heavy crepe paper offers a lot of stretch and comes in a wide array of colors. My only disappointment with Italian crepe paper is that the machine lines that run across the

grain of the crepe paper disrupt the smoothness I like to achieve in my petals.

German: When we discovered the German-made paper, we knew this was what we wanted for the Lia Griffith line. Werola is the only factory that creates a double-sided crepe paper, also referred to as Gloria, Duplex, or Doublette, which features a different color or shade on each side. Knowing this would be a favorite, we created our own color palette of twelve gorgeous double-sided papers (see [this page](#)). We chose a beautiful extra-fine crepe paper, creating twenty-five colors with 130 percent stretch. To finish out our offerings, we recently added a heavy crepe paper in thirty-two colors with 250 percent stretch. None of these papers have the machine lines to break up the beautiful grain, and they work so well together to create the most gorgeous blooms.

THE LIA GRIFFITH CRAFT LINE

It was such a sweet surprise when the German crepe paper company Werola approached me a few years back to see if I wanted to develop a line of my own crepe paper. I was thrilled to finally have an opportunity to create the ultimate paper for flower making! We're constantly working on developing new colors to introduce to our palette. We want to offer as many shades that are as true to nature as possible. Shortly after we joined forces with Werola, we were approached by Fiskars. They were interested in helping us develop tools for the crepe paper-crafting process. Our core collection is used here in this book.

CREPE PAPER WEIGHT

The weight of crepe paper is often a point of confusion for most crafters. Don't let it trouble you! Choose a paper for its feel and workability, not for the number on its package. The weight of crepe paper is measured in grams. However, this measurement isn't the weight of the paper itself, but the weight of the whole roll. A roll of the heaviest Italian crepe paper is 180 grams. Our crepe paper rolls are half-sized, which is a first for the crepe paper industry. A single roll of our extra-fine crepe paper is comparable to 60 grams, and a roll of our heavy paper is comparable to 160 grams. All things considered, our lighter, finer paper offers more stretch and forgiveness—a dream come true for paper flower making.

HAPPY CRAFTING!

In this book, I have collected my favorite flower designs specifically made from our gorgeous crepe papers. If you don't have access to my crepe paper, don't let this stop you! One of the best things about exercising your creativity is being resourceful. So work with what you have. The more you practice, the more your skills will blossom.



MATERIALS & TOOLS



EXTRA-FINE CREPE PAPER

- Use this paper for flowers with delicate petals that call for a transparent look and lighter texture.
- This paper has 130 percent stretch and a fabric-like texture.
- For flowers that call for a fine, transparent look but still need structure, adding wire works well (see [this page](#)).
- Try creating your own double-sided paper to add weight and stiffness to your petals (see [this page](#) for instructions).





HEAVY CREPE PAPER

- Another name for heavy crepe paper is floristic, as it was originally used by florists to wrap their cut flowers or pots.
- It is perfect for beginners, because it is a bit more forgiving than extra-fine crepe paper.
- Heavy crepe paper has 250 percent stretch.
- This material holds its shape well and works best for larger flowers with heavier petals, as it is stiffer than extra-fine crepe paper.
- The deeply grooved texture works well for flowers that need more depth in their petals (such as sunflowers or daffodil trumpets).



EGGNOG

VANILLA

CHIFFON

NECTARINE

MANGO

TANGERINE

POPPY

AMBER

CORAL

SNOWFLAKE

GOLD



BLUSH

HONEYSUCKLE

PINK HIBISCUS

RASPBERRY

AUBERGINE

PLUM

FUCHSIA

AZALEA

MERLOT

RUBY

CHERRY

SILVER

TEAL

JUNIPER

PEAR

FERN

BASIL

CLOVER

CYPRESS

EMERALD

EVERGREEN

DOUBLE-SIDED CREPE PAPER

- Other names for double-sided crepe paper are Doublette, Duplex, and Gloria.
- Double-sided crepe paper has a beautiful, thick, velvet-like finish.
- Each side of the double-sided crepe paper is a slightly different shade, which gives a sense of depth to your blooms.
- This type of crepe paper is perfect for flowers with flatter or larger petals, such as anemones or roses.
- Double-sided crepe paper has a smooth, fine finish. It offers less stretch than either extra-fine or heavy crepe paper, since it is made from two layers of extra-fine crepe paper that have been glued together.
- You can make your own double-sided crepe paper by using extra-fine crepe paper (see [this page](#)).



VANILLA

WHITE

CHIFFON

VANILLA

BLUSH

CHIFFON

PETAL

PEACH



CRAFT MATERIALS

Frosted Text-Weight & Card Stock Paper

These are great for making intricate leaf shapes that are not attainable with crepe paper. There are templates in this book so you can cut patterns by hand or download the SVG cut files (see [this page](#)). Find the sources for these papers on [this page](#).

Paint

Simple craft paint is great to have on hand for adding details to flower centers. I often dip stamen tips into craft paint to add color and shape (see [this page](#)).

PanPastel Pigments

Using these pastels to add color variation to my flowers has become one of my favorite techniques. PanPastel pigments are an investment, but a little goes a long way. You can use pastel sponges or paintbrushes to apply and blend the color into the grooves of your crepe paper (see [this page](#)).

Paper or Foam Balls

Premade balls give the centers of certain flowers (such as anemones, roses, and poppies) a running start. Though you can often find hard foam balls in craft stores, I love the German-made paper balls, as they

hold their shape and are lightweight like the foam balls, but are eco-friendly. I use ½-inch (15mm), ¾-inch (20mm), and 1-inch (30mm) balls in this book. You can substitute with porous foam, large wood beads, or balled crepe paper and tissue scraps.

Fine-Point Markers

Water-based and/or alcohol-based markers are a great way to add detail to your flower centers, petals, and leaves. I always test new markers on scraps of crepe paper to ensure they will achieve the color and effect I am looking for (see [this page](#)).

Oven-Bake Clay

I find the Sculpey brand clay to be the best solution for creating anthers, stigmas, and spadices for calla and tiger lilies. You can shape the clay right onto your wires, then bake as directed. (The oven is at a low enough temperature that it won't burn the paper-covered wire.) Once the clay is cool, I secure it onto the wire by sliding the pieces off the wire, adding glue into the holes, and then sliding them back onto the wire (see [this page](#)).

Floral Wire

My favorite floral wire is paper-covered and comes in both green and white. I prefer paper-covered wire because it holds glue better than bare metal wire. It also has a more natural look, and is easier to color with paints, markers, or pastels. The green is great for stems and leaves. I use white for wiring petals or for projects where I need to

paint the wire to match my crepe paper. In this book I use 18-gauge wire for stems, and 24-gauge to wire leaves and petals (see [this page](#)). Note that you'll want to use uncovered wire for crepe paper-flower arrangements that you mix with fresh flowers and greens in water.

Paper-Covered Branch Wire

I keep a roll of this wire on hand for creating a quick wood-like wreath or a blooming branch. It is easy to glue crepe paper blooms onto the brown paper-covered finish and the wire is strong enough to hold its shape (see [this page](#)).

Floral Tape

Floral tape is crepe paper covered with wax. Though it is not initially sticky like other tapes, stretching and warming it with your fingers will activate the wax (see [this page](#)). I use floral tape for finishing stems and attaching one stem or leaf to another. I have a collection of six colors, including three shades of green, cream, gold, and brown.

Wood Branches

When creating apple blossoms and dogwood, real branches create the perfect base for a beautiful finished piece. I collect fallen branches on my walks in the woods, then let them dry completely by keeping them indoors for a few days before using them for my paper blooms (see [this page](#)).





MY TOOLBOX

Scissors

When making paper flowers, a great pair of scissors is your most important tool. With a sharp pair, you can cut smoothly through multiple layers of crepe paper. A nice-fitting handle will keep your hands happy!

Pinking Sheers

When I want to cut an edge for a simple fringe, I feel pinking sheers give a more artful, jagged finish than the straight cut created by regular scissors. Look for higher-quality scissors in the fabric department of your local craft store—sharp blades will cut the crepe paper beautifully.

Detail Scissors

These scissors are my new favorite! I use them alongside my full-size pair. They are sharp and precise and perfect for fringing, as well as for making smaller, more detailed cuts.

Wire Cutter & Needle-Nose Pliers

I love having this two-in-one tool, which is essential for both trimming my wires and forming the wire tips to hold paper blossoms.

Curling Tool

After years of using the edge of my scissors to curl paper, Fiskars finally designed a tool that offers steady control for the perfect curl (see [this page](#)).

Hot Glue Gun

My favorite hot glue gun is a low-temp model in either a mini or cordless version. I like to use low-temp hot glue when making paper flowers because it cools quickly, doesn't dampen the delicateness of the crepe paper, and holds very well.

White Craft Glue

When joining angle cuts for wired petals and leaves, I prefer white glue to hot glue because it doesn't add bulk or cause stiffness for bending (see [this page](#)).

Dowels & Skewers

I like to keep a few sizes of dowels or skewers on hand for alternative curling options. These will help you form a smaller, more delicate curl (see [this page](#)).

Paintbrushes

A collection of inexpensive stiff and soft brushes can be used for applying PanPastel pigments, craft paint, and white glue.

Sponge Brushes

I use PanPastel sponges when I want to firmly apply the tint onto the paper.



OTHER HANDY TOOLS

Iron: Your iron will remove any unwanted creases on crepe papers (depending on the flower you're making, experiment with this technique to find the best results). There's no need to use an ironing cloth; simply set a clean iron to a medium to high heat with no steam and apply it directly to the paper.

Iron-On Adhesive: I use this adhesive with my iron to join two pieces of crepe paper to each other for customized double-sided crepe paper. It comes in sheets or rolls, which you can cut to fit the size that you need (see [this page](#)).

Rotary Cutter, Mat & Ruler: These tools make it easy to cut long pieces on an angle or clean, precise stacks of crepe paper.

Cutting Machine: This is my go-to tool for cutting frosted text-weight paper leaves. The new Cricut Maker also cuts crepe paper with its advanced rotary blade (see [this page](#) for instructions for downloading the templates).



HOW TO MAKE PAPER FLOWERS



CUTTING CREPE PAPER

1. Grain: The grain, or “crepe,” of crepe paper is what makes this craft material unique. It is also what allows you to form and shape your petals and leaves so easily and beautifully. The grain is created by crimping the fine paper, allowing it to expand and shape. It is important to notice the direction of the grain when you are cutting, as it will inform your shapes. If you cut a petal against the grain, you might find it limp and oddly shaped. I also use the grain of the crepe paper to simulate texture in some leaves and petals by making two angle cuts and then gluing the two cuts so the grain forms a V shape.



2. Templates: When cutting with patterns, align the pattern's grain marks to match the grain lines of your paper, then cut around the pattern with your favorite scissors. I like to print my patterns onto card stock paper—the stiffer paper nicely supports the softer crepe paper. You can save your leftover flower pattern sets in a marked envelope to

be used again later.



3. Layering: With sharp scissors you can cut petals and leaves by stack cutting. Simply cut a strip of crepe paper along the grain the width of your pattern, then cut equalsize pieces from the long strip, placing each on top of the last, to form a stack. I can easily cut multiple layers

while maintaining crisp cuts. Experiment with scraps to find what works best for you.



4. Angle Cuts: When you cut diagonally across the grain you create what is known as an “angle cut.” A quick trick for making diagonal cuts in layers without wasting paper is to align the pattern marks with the

grain, trim to fit the height of the pattern, then cut the angle. Simply rotate the cut piece of crepe paper to align with the grain of the piece under your pattern, align the two angle cuts, and trim around the pattern to make two pieces at the same time. Once your two matching pieces are trimmed, turn the top piece so the centers are aligned. This should make a *v* in the grain of your crepe paper, creating a beautiful texture that simulates that of a leaf or petal.



5. Fringing and Pinking Sheer Edge: Always fringe along the grain of the crepe paper. The grain is a perfect guide for your scissors to fringe. I love using my detail scissors to fringe, as they allow me to cut the fringe very fine. A simple cut with pinking sheers gives your fringed edges a softer, more angled look rather than a blunt cut. You can make this cut before or after you fringe.



TIP ON STORING CREPE PAPER We like to store crepe paper in storage boxes on bookshelves with each box marked according to the type or color. Store your paper away from direct light—it will fade over time. Moisture does not mix well with any paper, so store in a dry

place.

ADDING COLOR TO CREPE PAPER

PanPastel Pigments: Though PanPastel pigments are made for fine artists, we were delighted to discover how beautifully they work on crepe paper. The round pans of caked pastel pigment are an investment, so see [this page](#) for our recommended starter set. I generally add color to my crepe paper after I have cut the petals and leaves, and after I have assembled my wired petals and leaves. This prevents wasting precious pastel, and offers a clear look at the finished result. A pastel sponge is an easy way to apply the color, working with the grain and using the sponge edge to fill the crepe paper creases. They also make sponge brushes with removable tips. My personal favorite method for applying pastel pigment is to begin with the sponge, then blend the pastel into the petal with a soft-bristle paintbrush. Note that pastels can be messy, so placing a piece of scrap paper under your petals as you paint makes for easier cleanup. Since the pastels are a powder, they will rub or slightly flake off your finished petal. You can briefly use a hair dryer on cool setting to remove excess pastel pigment.



Fine-Point Markers: To get tiny details, lines, and dots onto your petals and leaves, fine-point markers are a great tool. Our studio favorites are Tombow and Copic because of their paintbrush tips. We also use the good old Sharpie at times. You can use both water- and alcohol-based markers on crepe paper. It's always a good idea to test a color on a

piece of scrap crepe paper before adding the detail to finished petals. For the list of marker colors we use in this book, see [this page](#).



Paints: Acrylic craft paints are another great option for adding small details. My favorite way to use paints with crepe paper is to dip my twisted crepe paper stamens into a contrasting color to create a slightly

rounded top with a pop of color. For stamen tips, I generally choose shades of yellow, orange, and metallic gold.

TIPS: USING A CRICUT CUTTING MACHINE I have been making text-weight paper flowers with my Cricut Explore cutting machine for more than four years now. It is my go-to choice when I am adding frosted text-weight paper leaves to my crepe paper blooms. The Cricut Maker machine is the first personal cutting machine with a rotary blade that cuts crepe paper beautifully. There are a few tricks to aligning your crepe paper grain with the pattern correctly. It is important to peel the petals off the mat in the direction of the grain to avoid unwanted stretching. The machine will cut all three types of crepe paper.

We have created SVG cut files for those of you who have a Maker. If you have a different brand or one of the older Cricut machines, you will not have success cutting crepe paper with the standard blade, but you can use the leaf patterns for cutting text-weight or card stock papers. You can download the SVG cut files by entering the case-sensitive code 8sL9-62qY-KTfw-Q2aT at liagriffith.com/crepepaperflowers. You can also download PDFs from my site if you'd like to print the leaf patterns on card stock and cut them out by hand.



- **STORING FINISHED FLOWERS** After years of making hundreds of crepe paper flowers, we find that the best way to store them is upright in heavy vases or jars, with space in between the flower containers. Crepe paper is fragile and will permanently crease or re-form if pressed in any way.
- **REMOVING DUST** One of our readers shared the ingenious tip of using the low setting on a hair dryer to easily remove any collected dust from your blooms or arrangements.
- **SHIPPING FLOWERS** Before shipping, arrange the flowers or bouquet to face in one direction. Lay the back sides onto cardboard, then wire or tape the flowers securely into place. Fasten the cardboard into your shipping box. The best filler around the flowers is plain air.

MAKING FLOWER CENTERS

Round Centers: Six flowers in this book have a round ovary center. From largest to smallest, they are the rose, peony, poppy, anemone, ranunculus, and wild rose. For the first five, I used hard foam balls because they are both sturdy and light. For the wild rose, I used a small $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch wood bead. My go-to technique to create these round centers is to poke a hole in the foam with an 18-gauge floral wire. Remove the wire and bend the tip of the wire back onto itself to double the wire. Insert hot glue into your premade hole, then slide the bent wire into the hole. This will keep the ball in place and your finished bloom on its intended stem. To cover the center, cut an oval of crepe paper three times wider than the ball. Wrap and glue the long ends under the ball's head and onto the wire, then gently stretch the crepe paper to form around the ball. Gather the crepe paper at the base, twisting the ends around the wire with your fingers into a spiral. Peel back the ends enough to add hot glue, then press back into place. It is great to have a handful of these premade, ready-to-add stamens and petals.



Stamen: Fifteen of the twenty-one flowers here have some form of stamen surrounded by petals. You can purchase premade stamens, called “pips,” but as a DIY studio, we prefer to make our own. Since stamens are tiny and often fringe-like, we have found two techniques that work well:



Paper Thinning: When creating a flower from heavy crepe paper, stretch the cut stamen piece as marked on the pattern. This will give your fringed piece a finer look. Note that extra--fine crepe paper does not need to be thinned and double-sided crepe paper will not stretch enough to make a difference.

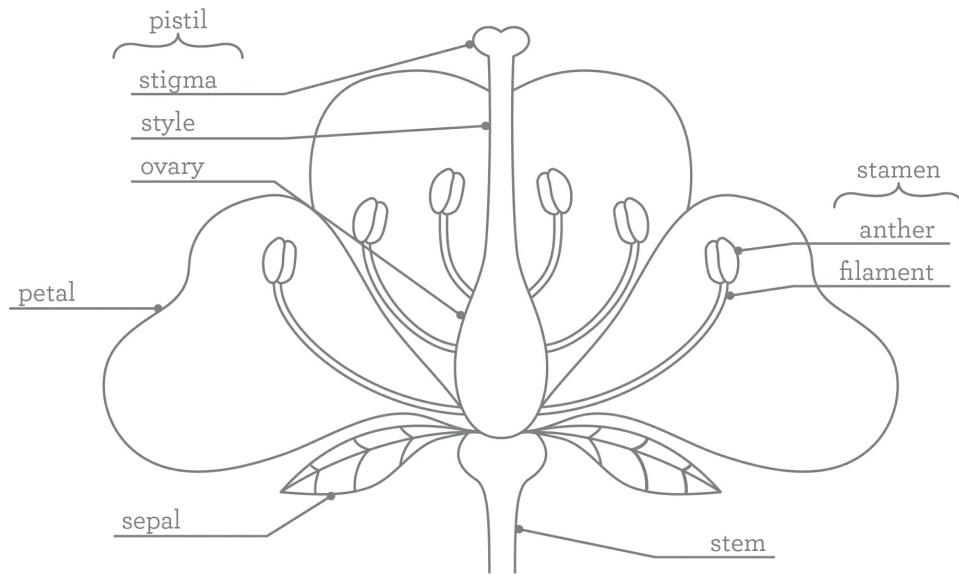
Rolling & Twisting: When creating a flower that has a stiffer, thicker stamen, cut your fringe as marked on the pattern, then twist each piece by rolling the tiny strip of paper between your fingers. Start at the base of the cut and move up to the other end. An option to finish this look is to carefully dip the tip of each twist into craft paint and let it dry.

Anthers, Stigmas & Spadices: The lily and calla lily both have unique centers, and rather than trying to form them from crepe paper, I discovered bakeable Sculpey clay offers the perfect solutions.

Anthers & Stigma: For the lily, cut seven 4-inch 24-gauge white wires. Use needle-nose pliers to bend the tips of six of them to a 45-degree angle. Make six small, rice-like shapes from the clay. Make one stigma shape, as shown to the left. Slide the wires into the clay and lay them onto a baking sheet. Bake at 250 degrees for ten minutes and let cool. Once cool, remove the wire, fill the hole with white craft glue, and replace the wire. Repeat these steps with all of your pieces and let them dry. Use markers, paint, or pastels to color the white wires.

Spadices: For the calla lily, form a long roll of clay between your hands to measure $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide and 2 inches long. Round both ends. Slide a 2- to 3-inch-long piece of 18-gauge green wire into the full length of the clay, but not through to the top. Bake at 250 degrees for ten minutes and let cool. Once the wire is cool, remove it, fill the hole with white craft glue, and reposition the wire.





SHAPING PETALS & LEAVES

1. Curling: There is a trick to shaping with the curling tool. You need to drag the tool in the same direction as the grain. You can hold the tool at an angle to shape your curl as long as your movement matches the grain of the paper. You can also use an 18-gauge floral wire, dowel, or skewer to curl your paper by forming it around the hard surface with your fingers.



2. Cupping: When holding a piece of crepe paper, think of it as clay and gently form the cup between your fingers. Always start at the center and stretch outwards. But note that creating the proper shape often means leaving the edges untouched.



3. Ruffling: Gently use your fingertips to stretch the edge of the crepe paper in different directions, one small section at a time. Try this technique on a scrap of paper first to discover how much stretch you can make before the paper tears.



4. *Twisting*: Several of our twenty-one flowers use a twisting technique to gather the base of a petal and give it a cup-like shape. I find this technique works great with extra-fine crepe paper and that one or two twists are plenty to gather the crepe paper and form the petal.



5. Wiring: Adding wire to petals and leaves is one of my favorite methods for creating dimension and shape. I have also found that wire adds the structure that extrafine crepe paper requires when I want to create a larger petal from this delicate paper. Perfect examples of this are the parrot tulip and iris blooms. The patterns for the wired petals and leaves will be designed in halves, often with an angle cut. I use a

24-gauge white or green paper-covered floral wire and white craft glue. My tip for applying glue is to lay the wire on the center edge of the petal or leaf, placing my fingers at the base of the crepe paper. I then pick up the wire with these fingers and slide the wire into the pointed nozzle of the glue. I squeeze the bottle to bring the glue to the top of the hole, then remove the glue-covered wire and place it onto the edge of the petal or leaf, leaving a 1/8-inch margin of paper along the edge. I place the other half of the petal or leaf over the wire as close as possible to the edge, then press down with my fingers along the wire. I turn the petal or leaf over, press again, then let it dry.



TIP ON MIXING IN FRESHNESS You can mix crepe paper, cut flowers, and greenery into any of your arrangements. If you are careful not to allow your crepe paper to mix with the water in your vase, you will be able to reuse them again and again. One of my first experiences with crepe paper flowers was making two dozen crepe paper peonies

for a friend's August wedding. The live blooms were out of season, so this was a great alternative to give her the look she wanted that would make for a wonderful keepsake as well. The florist, another friend of mine, easily integrated them into her bouquets for a stunning effect.

FINISHING STEMS & LEAVES

Floral Tape: Though you might expect floral tape to be sticky like regular tape, it is made from a wax-covered crepe paper that is activated when stretched and warmed by your fingers. With its wax finish and water-resistance, it was originally created for florists. As a paper flower artist, I use floral tape to cover my stems, attach leaves to stems, and bundle my blossoms. I will start at the top of my stem, warming the tape with my fingers, then wrap and stretch it until it sticks to itself. Then I wrap the tape at a slight angle to cover the stem. Floral tape tears easily but can be reapplied over itself. Note that your fingers will become sticky when working with floral tape. I like to save my taping until I have created all of my blooms, so I can do it all at once, keeping my waxy fingers off the crepe paper petals. If you don't have floral tape on hand, a good alternative is to cut thin strips of crepe paper against the grain and to wrap them using white glue, creating your own version of a stem wrap.



Thickening Stems: One of our ongoing challenges is to find a way of making thicker flower stems. An easy option is using the technique I mentioned above, where I cut green crepe paper into strips against the grain, then wrap the wires. You can use several layers to add bulk, but make sure you add white or hot glue as you wrap the paper to keep things in place. You can also finish this look by covering it with floral

tape.



Leaf Options: Though I love the look of crepe paper leaves and greenery for my crepe paper projects, certain leaves are not as simple to make from crepe paper. Mixing paper types works well for me, so I have added some patterns that you can use for making leaves from a

A collection of paper cutouts of various plants and flowers, including a large green monstera leaf, a yellow flower, and several green leaves, arranged on a dark textured surface. A small white and teal Fiskars tool is visible in the lower left corner.



Branch Options: Blooming branches are a gorgeous way to bring nature into your home. I have three simple ways to create the branch base. The first (my favorite) is to collect broken branches when I am out in nature, let them dry out, then simply use hot glue to secure my blooms and leaves onto the tips and branches. The second is to use brown paper-covered wire, forming a branch by twisting and wrapping the wire. The third is to use 18-gauge green floral wire to form the branch shapes, then wrap the wire with strips of brown crepe paper. All three methods create gorgeous finished pieces.



DIY TIP Double-sided crepe paper is made from gluing two pieces of extra-fine crepe paper together, so of course we decided to expand our color palette by making our own. Simply cut a piece of iron-on adhesive to the size of two pieces of extra-fine crepe paper. Place the

adhesive in between the crepe paper sheets and use an iron on high to fuse everything together. Never use steam with crepe paper, and I have found that since crepe paper is made from natural fibers, I do not need to use an ironing cloth.



[illegible]

Anemone



The ANEMONE'S classic shape is the perfect addition to any wedding arrangement or makes a stunning statement as a simple single stem in a vase. Anemone blooms come in many colors, but classic cream, set against the black center, can be the most gorgeous of them all. I've made a few different paper anemone flowers over the years and I find this crepe paper version the most unique. Featuring double-sided crepe paper, the petals have such a beautiful velvet-looking finish. You can also make this pretty bloom with extra-fine crepe paper and have the option of cutting a simple version of the leaf from crepe paper and a detailed version from a frosted text-weight paper.

the anemone flower

There are 120 different species of anemone flowers. Also called “wind flowers,” they symbolize protection, as well as anticipation.

The anemone reminds us to look forward to the future and to stand by the ones we love.



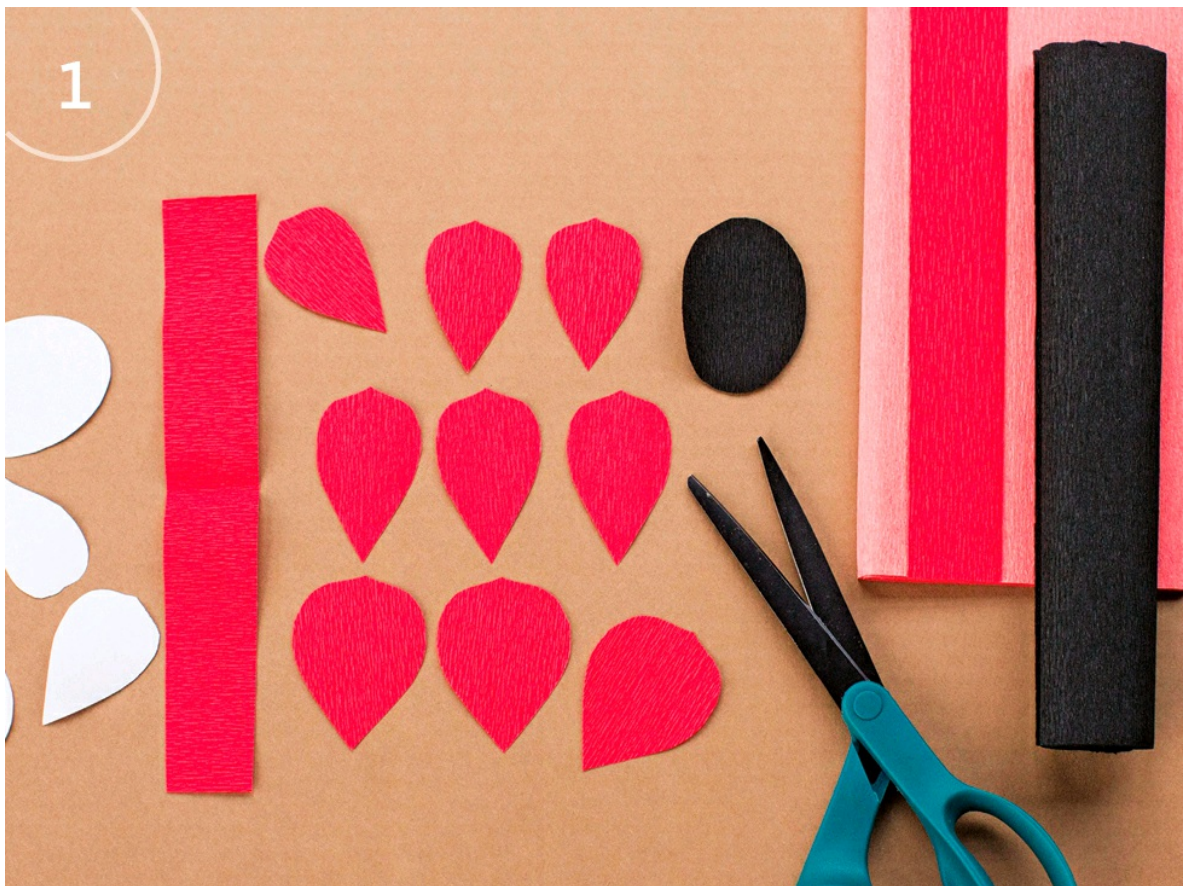
MATERIALS

- double-sided crepe paper in strawberry/tulip, flamingo/peony pink, and vanilla/white

- extra-fine crepe paper in onyx/black
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- ¾-inch foam balls
- fine-point marker in black
- frosted text-weight paper in botanic and fairway
- floral tape in moss

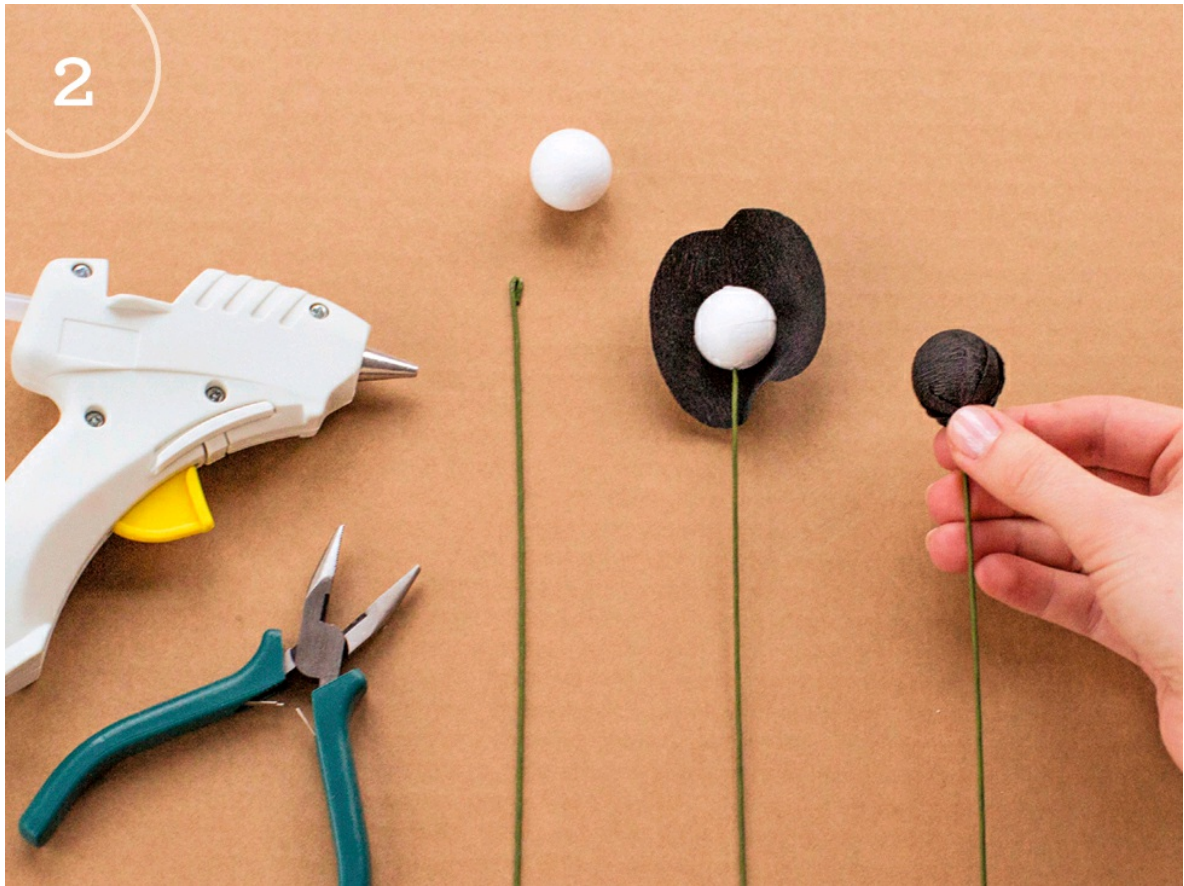
ANEMONE STEPS

1. Cut the petals and center strip from the double-sided crepe paper and the oval center from the extra-fine crepe paper, according to template notes.



2. Bend the tip of the floral wire. Create a hole in a foam ball, then add glue into the hole before inserting your bent wire. Cover the foam

ball with black crepe paper and glue into place.



3. Gently form your petals by slightly stretching the centers between your fingers. Use a curling tool to shape top two corners of all petals.



4. Color a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch line along the top of the center strip with black marker. Trim the colored edge with a pair of pinking shears. With detail scissors, fringe pinked edge the full length of the strip.



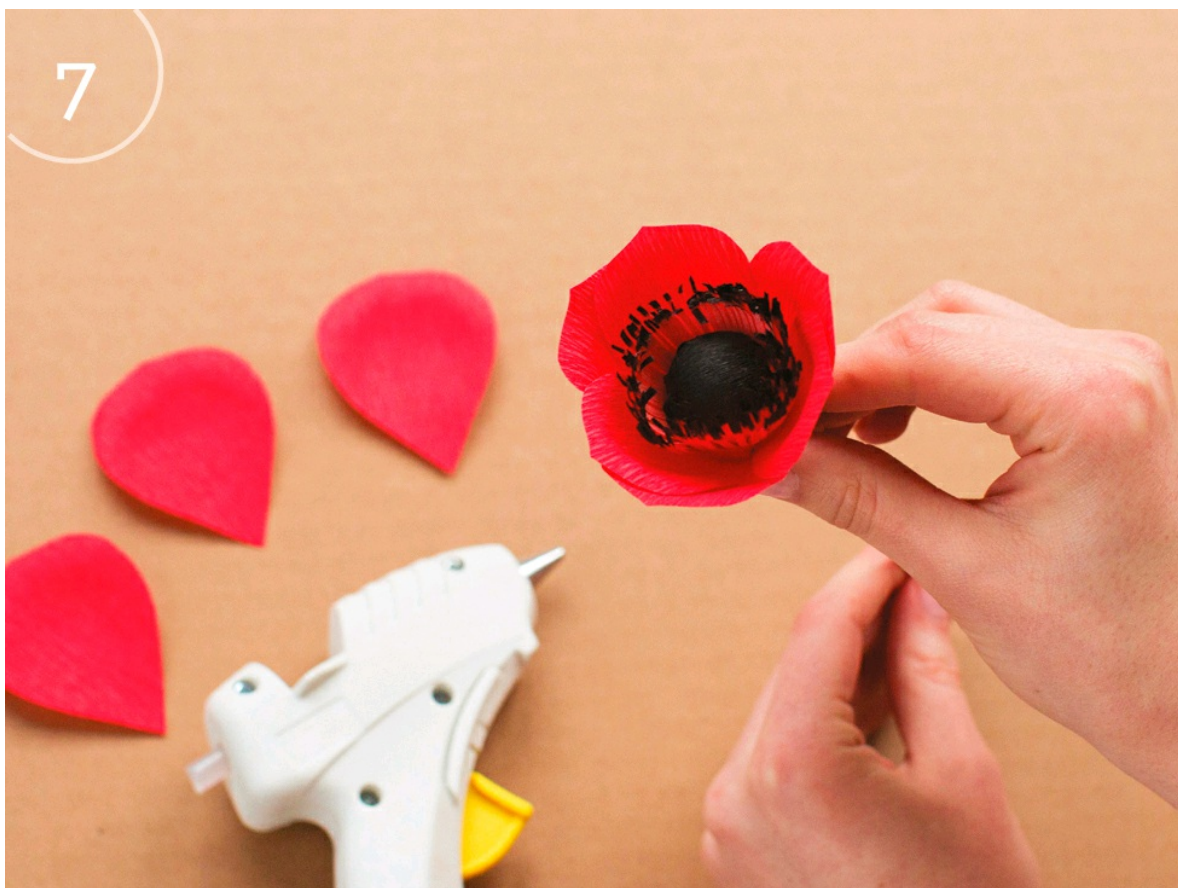
5. Glue the fringe at the base of the ball. Use the curling tool to curl the fringe toward the center.



6. Glue the three petal 1 pieces at the base of the flower's center.



7. Glue the three petal 2 pieces in rotation at the base of flower, offset from the first three.



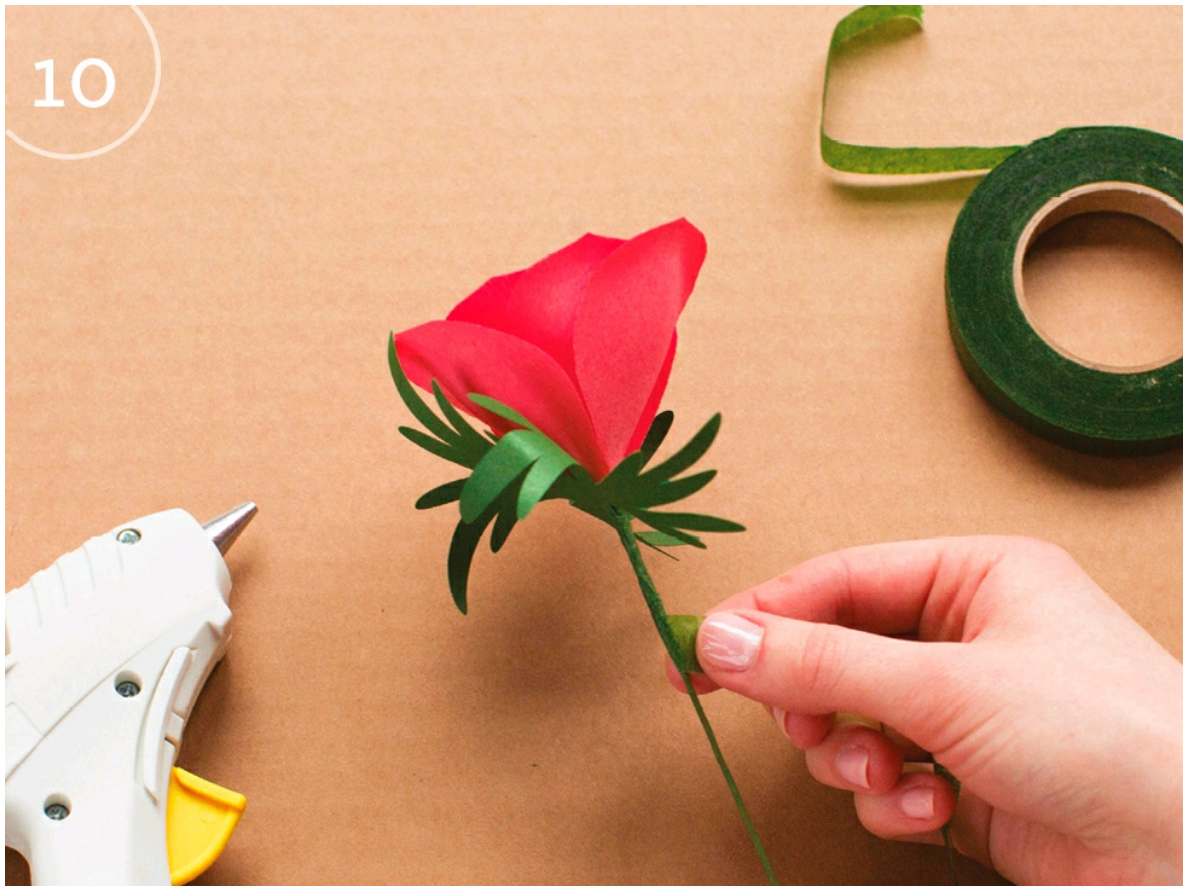
8. Glue the three petal 3 pieces at the base of the flower.



9. Cut a leaf from the frosted text-weight paper and gently curl it to create the desired shape. Glue the leaf to wire stem.



10. Wrap the stem with floral tape.



11. Bend head to arrange flower.

11





Apple Blossom



There is nothing like APPLE BLOSSOM branches to bring the sweetness of nature into your living space. This simple-to-make arrangement features our delicate extra-fine crepe paper for the blossoms and double-sided crepe paper for the leaves on the branches. Though you can easily make a wire branch (see [this page](#) for steps), my favorite and the simplest version is to use branches I have collected along the paths on my weekend walks. You can also glue these pretty blooms onto a grapevine wreath for a delightful entry piece for your home.

the apple blossom

The most common colors of apple blossoms are white or pale pink, and will vary depending on the type of apple the tree produces. These spring blooms are a symbol of love, fertility, and longevity.

The apple blossom reminds us of the arrival of spring, and the new ideas and projects that are blooming around us.



MATERIALS

- extra-fine crepe paper in linen/white, chiffon, and fern
- double-sided crepe paper in cypress/green tea

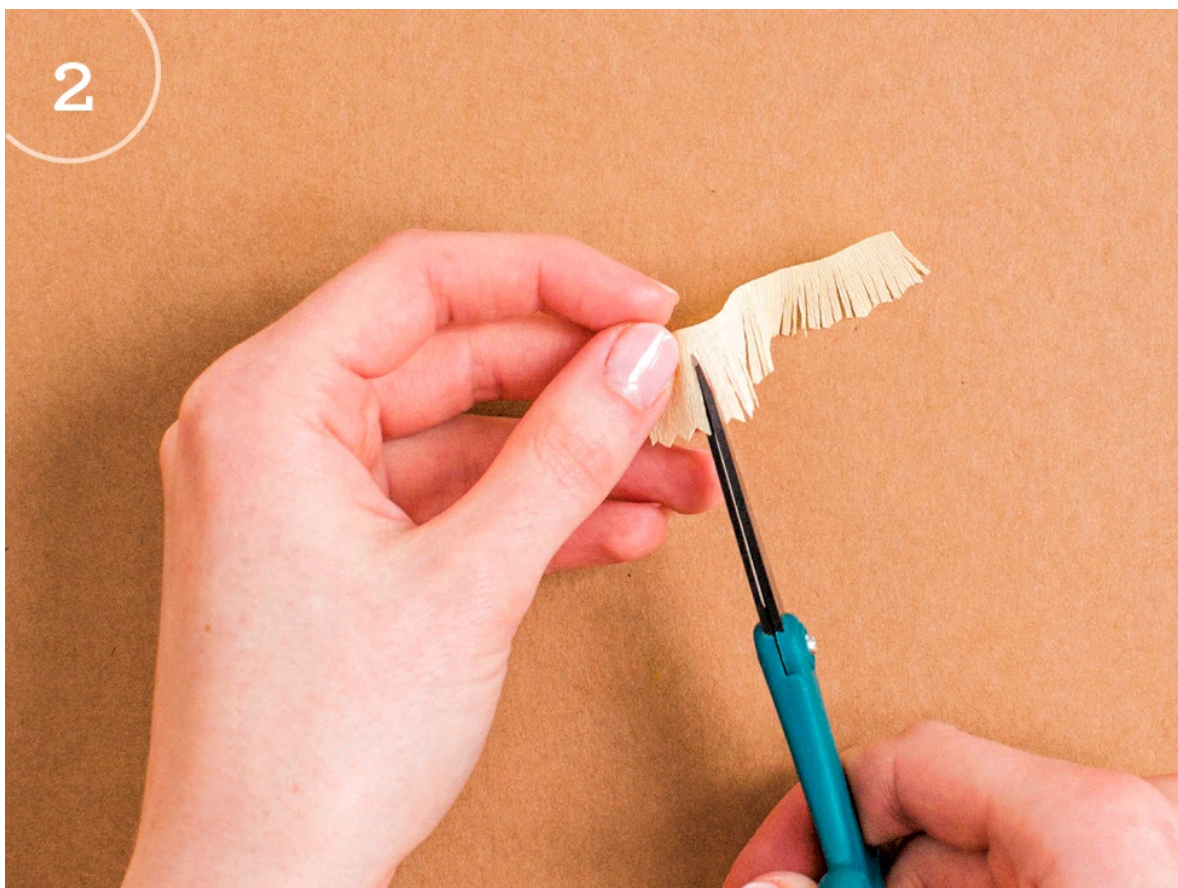
- dried or wire branches

APPLE BLOSSOM STEPS

1. Cut petals, bud, sepal, and stamen from the extra-fine crepe paper and leaves from the double-sided crepe paper, according to the template notes. Trim edge of stamen with pinking sheers.



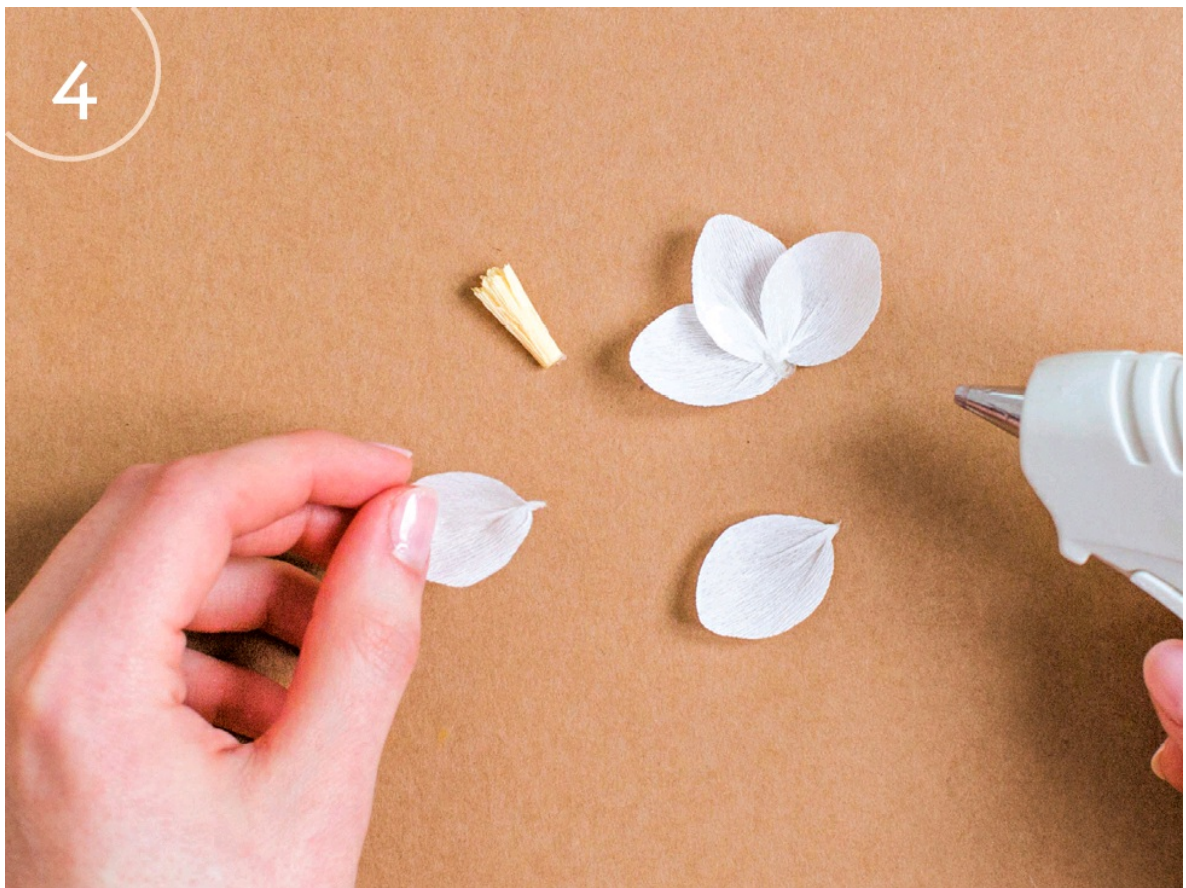
2. Fringe stamen along grain lines with detail scissors.



3. Twist base of petals to form cup shape.



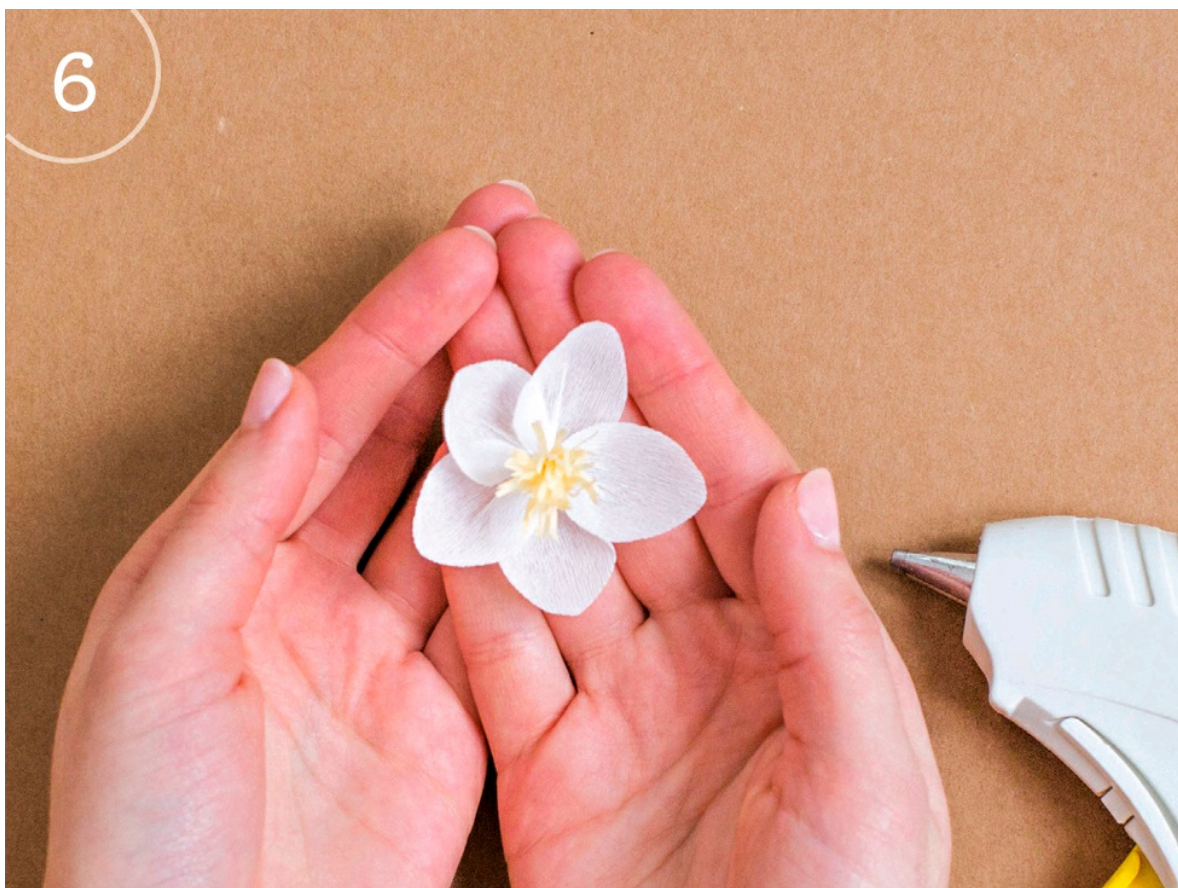
4. Glue petals at base in rotation to form circle. Roll fringed stamen into spiral, and glue.



5. Glue stamen into center of petals.



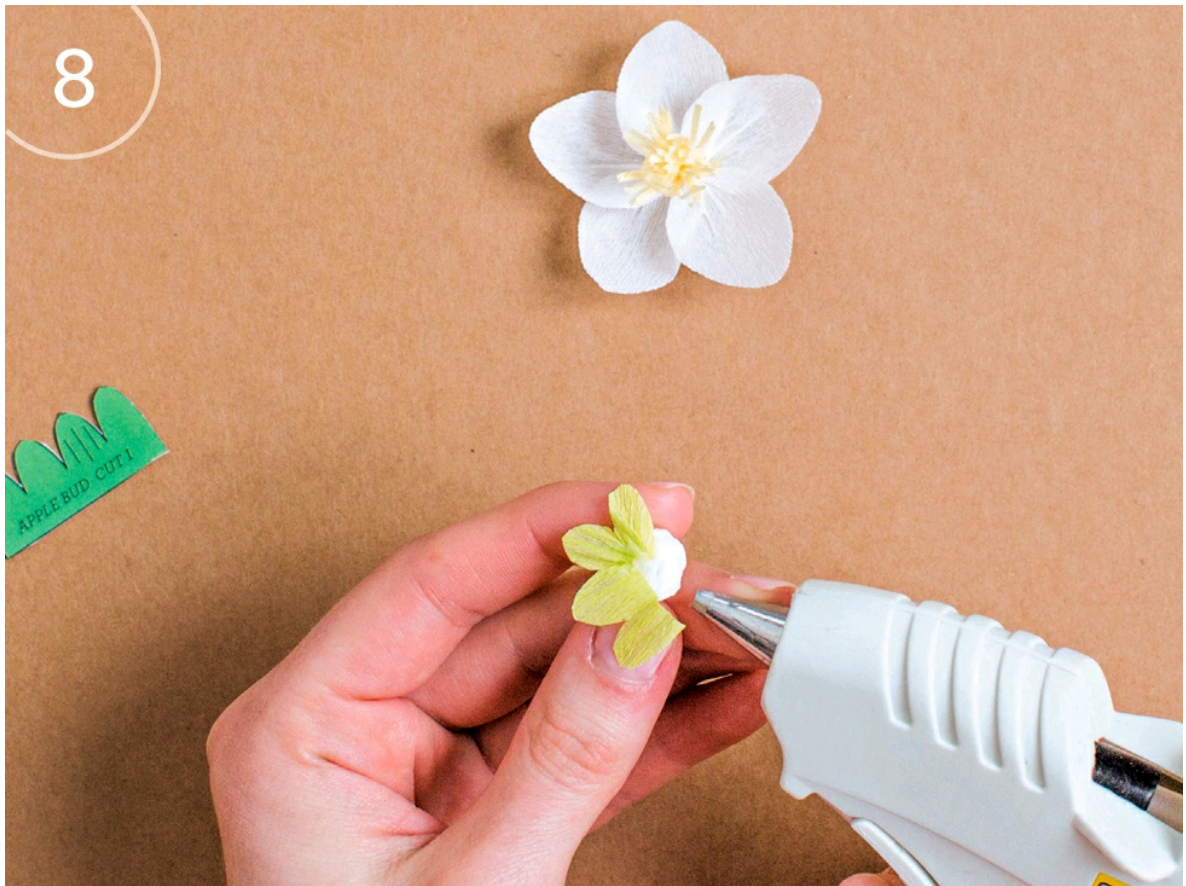
6. Repeat steps with remaining blooms.



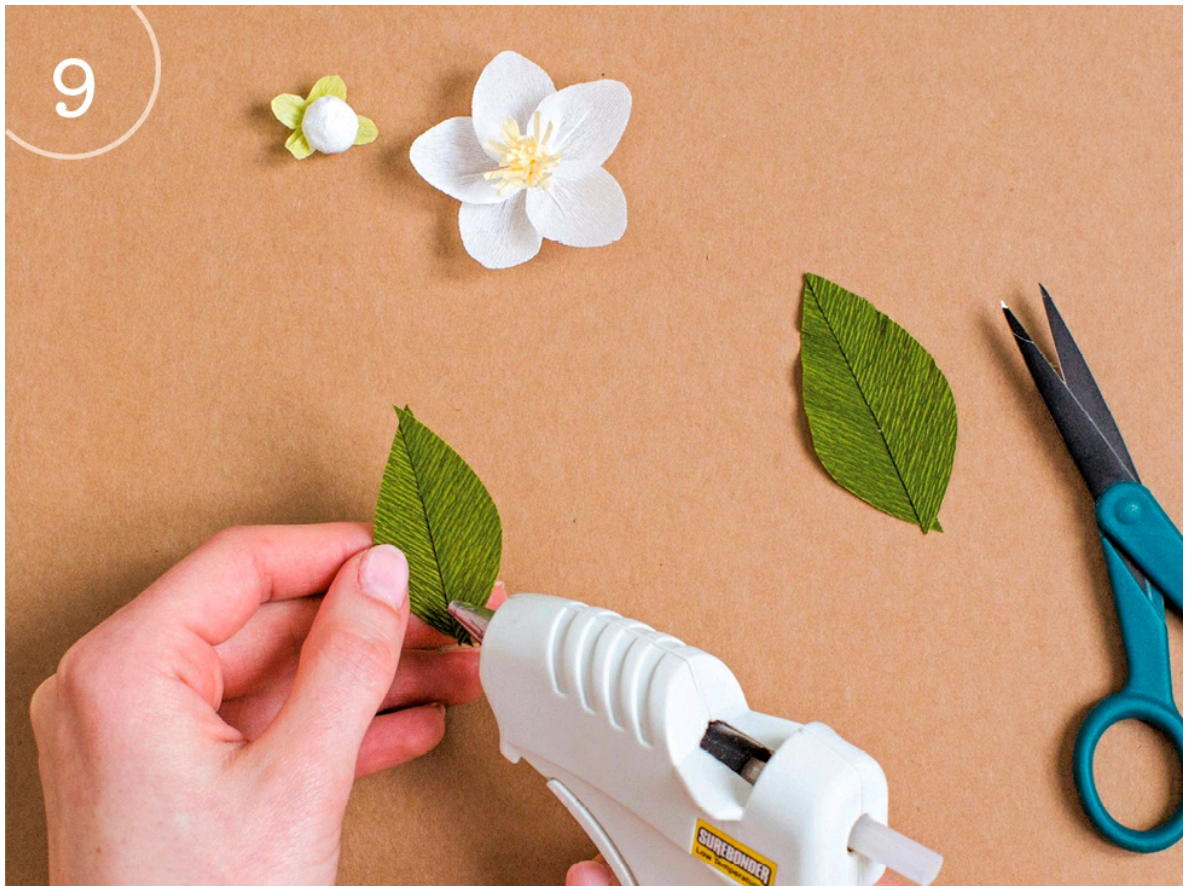
7. Roll scraps of extra-fine paper into $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch ball. Stretch oval, cover ball, and glue into place.



8. Glue apple bud sepal around the base of bud.



9. Glue leaf halves together at center to form \vee with grain lines. Repeat with remaining leaves.



10. Glue all blooms, buds, and leaves onto branch.







Calla Lily



Elegant and understated, the CALLA LILY has just one petal, which is called a “spathe.” I was delighted to find how well the double-sided crepe paper forms into a lily shape with just a bit of gentle curling and soft stretching. The lily center, or “spadix,” is made from craft clay, which gives these lilies the perfect finishing touch.

These lilies are beautiful as stems for an arrangement, or you can place the blooms and leaves into a foam- and moss-filled container to design a potted blooming plant.

the calla lily

Though white is the most common color, calla lilies come in a variety of hues ranging from yellow, to pink, to dark plum.

The calla lily reminds us to focus on the beauty around us and to hold onto our innocence and grace as we move through life's challenges.



MATERIALS

- double-sided crepe paper in blush/chiffon, petal/peach, and fern/moss
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- Sculpey clay in gold

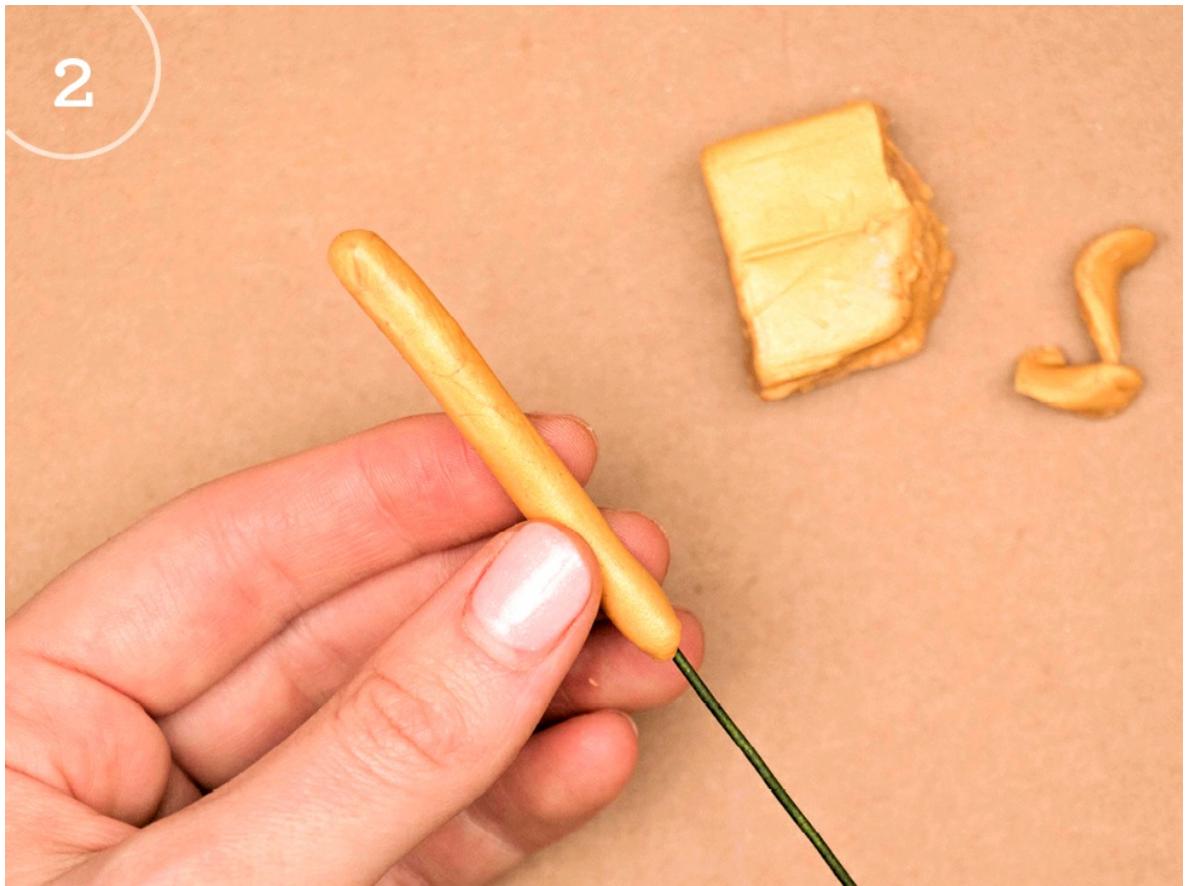
- PanPastel pigment in bright yellow green
- 24-gauge green floral wire
- floral tape in moss

CALLA LILY STEPS

1. Cut spathe and leaf from double-sided crepe paper, according to template notes.



2. Form spadix with clay on floral wire and bake. (See [this page](#) for details.) Once cool, hot glue spadix onto wire.



3. Blend pastel pigment onto crepe paper at base of spathe.



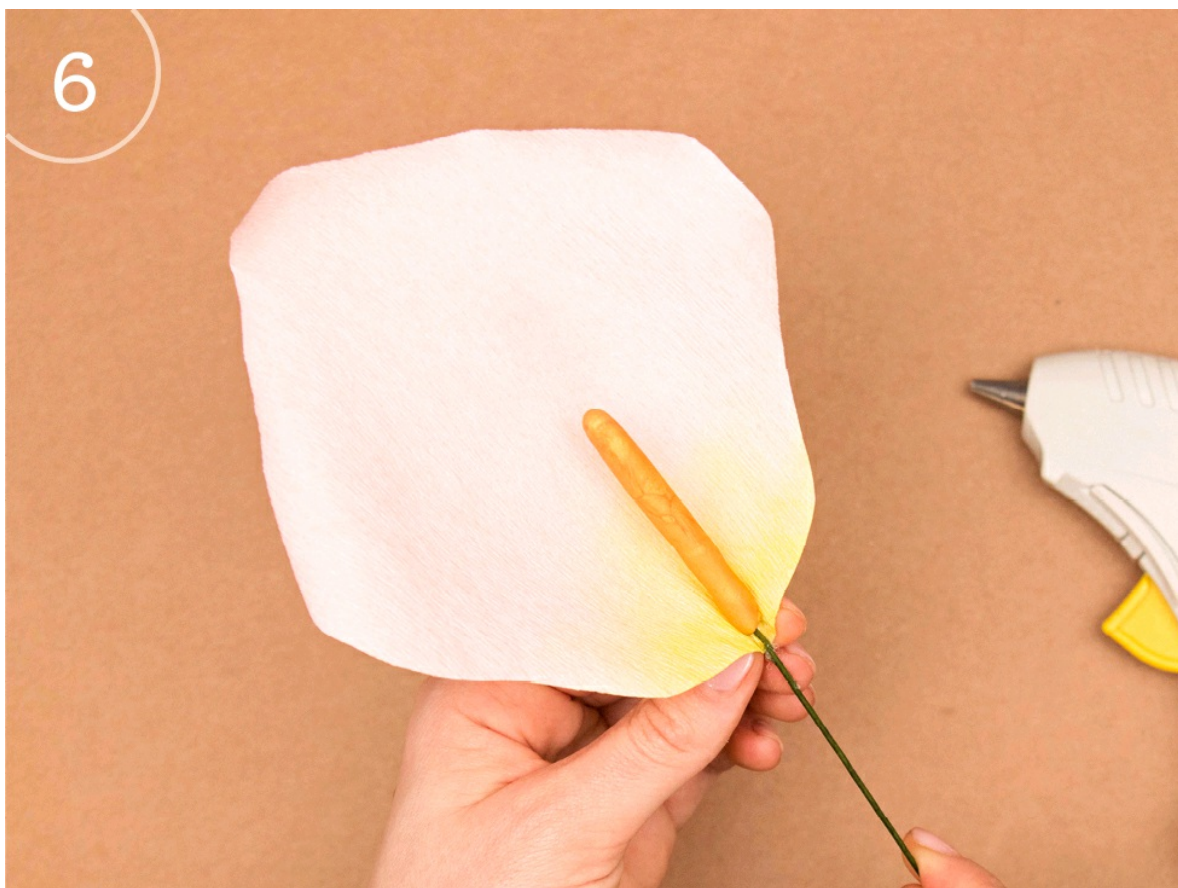
4. Glue 24-gauge floral wire between leaf halves with white craft glue and let dry.



5. With curling tool, form and shape lily.



6. Glue spathe at base of spadix.



7. Wrap spathe around spadix and glue into place.



8. Cover base of lily with floral tape, wrapping down the stem.



9. Cover stem with floral tape again to thicken it. Finish leaf by covering wire stem with floral tape.







Chrysanthemum



Despite its many petals, the CHRYSANTHEMUM is very simple to render in crepe paper. Once the cutting is done, the bloom quickly comes together, and you can choose to make larger blooms by adding more of the large petals. These flowers make beautiful late summer or fall arrangements, and can be a great replacement for a bow on top of a wrapped gift. We chose a heavy crepe paper for this flower to give it more structure and shape. There are two leaf options—one using heavy crepe paper and the other using a frosted text-weight paper or card stock.

the chrysanthemum

Also known as a “mum,” this versatile flower has endless color varieties.

The chrysanthemum reminds us to remember our friends with loyalty and love, and to honor the cycles of life.



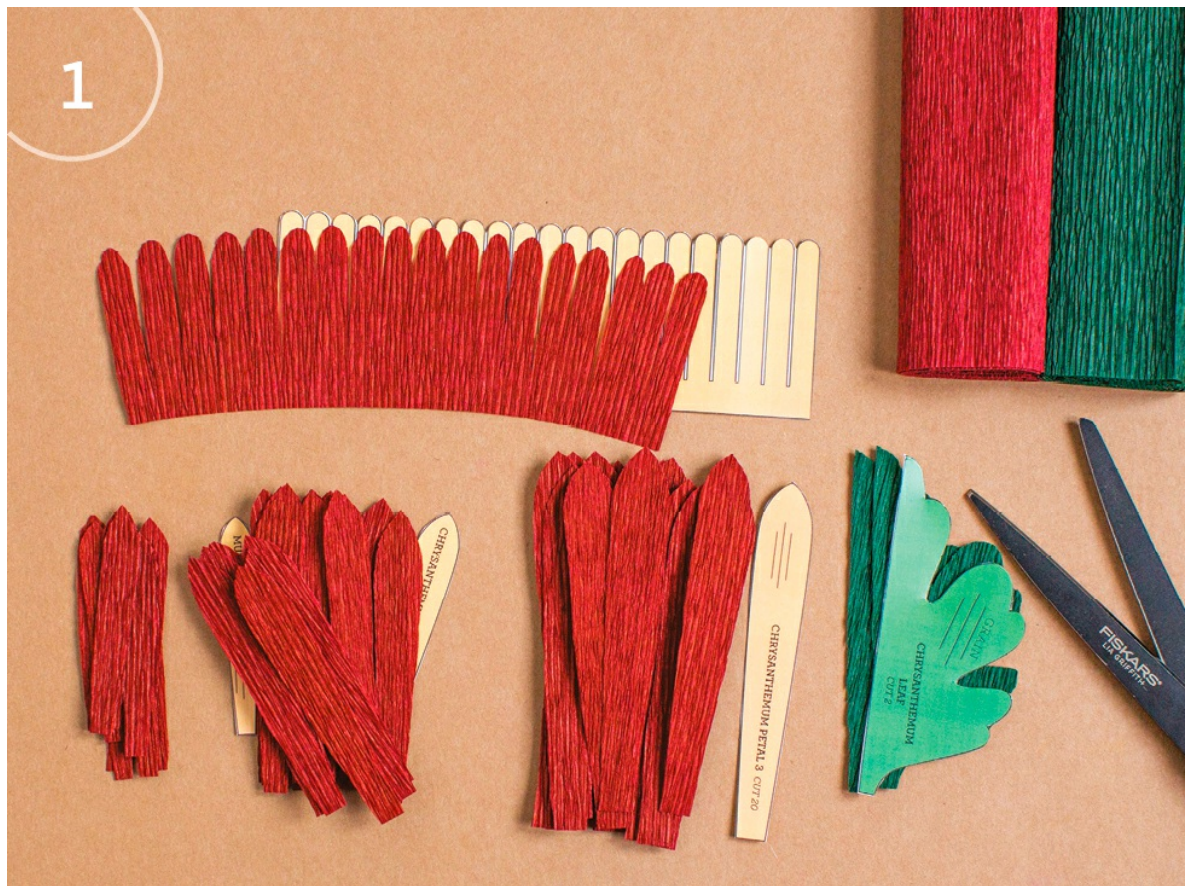
MATERIALS

- heavy crepe paper in aubergine, poppy, merlot, ruby, plum, juniper, and evergreen
- frosted text-weight paper in jellybean (optional)

- 18-gauge green floral wire
- 24-gauge green floral wire
- floral tape in pine

CHRYSANTHEMUM STEPS

1. Cut petals, center petals, and leaves out of heavy crepe paper, according to template notes. If desired, cut additional leaves out of frosted text-weight paper.



2. Gently stretch centers of each petal to shape between your fingers.



3. Wrap center strip of attached petals around 18-gauge floral wire with petals forming toward center.



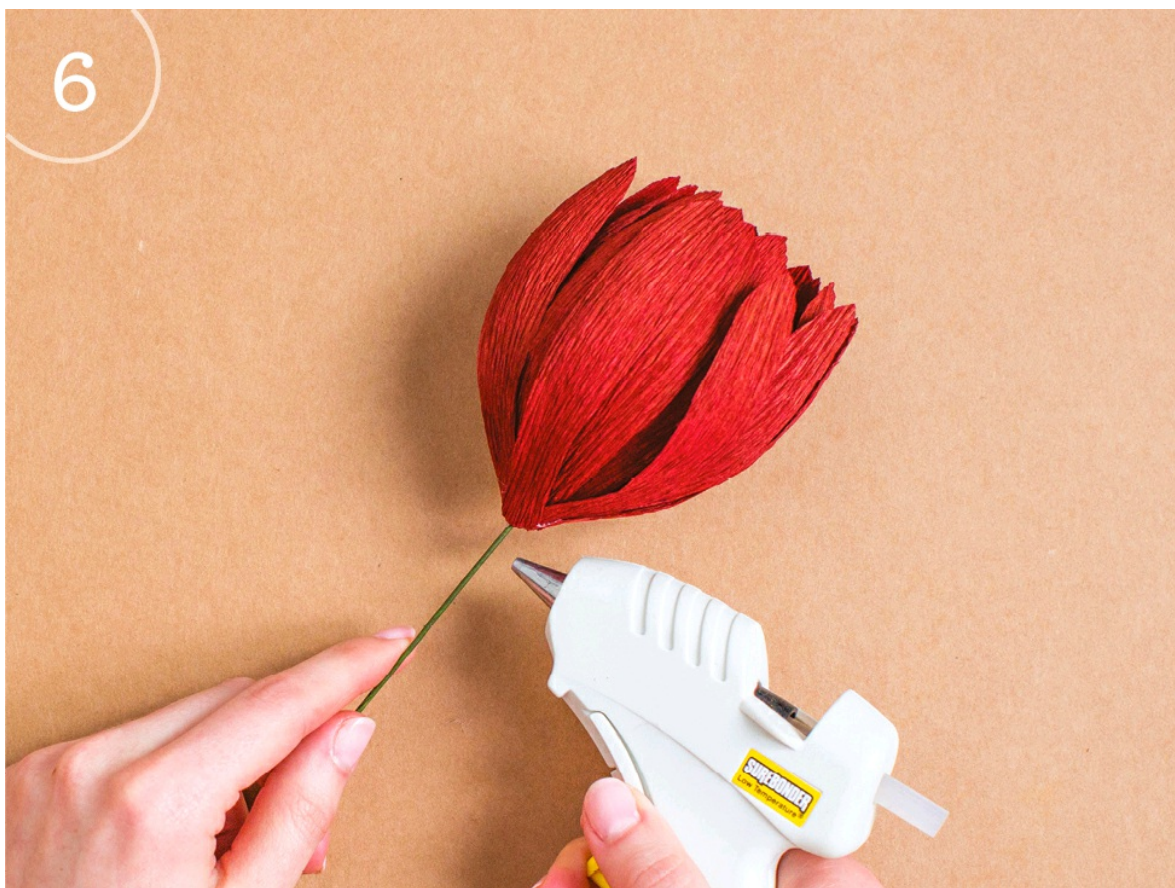
4. Glue petal 1 pieces around center, with all petals cupping toward center.



5. Glue petal 2 pieces around center, with all petals cupping inward.



6. Finish with petal 3, again gluing so petals cup toward center.



7. Starting at base of flower, wrap floral tape around stem.



8. Arrange and shape petals with fingers.



9. Dip 24-gauge floral wire into glue, place onto leaf half, then place second leaf half over glued wire. If desired, glue frosted text-weight paper leaves onto 24-gauge wire. Finish by covering stems with floral tape.







Cosmos



The autumnal chocolate COSMOS was my inspiration for the deep plums and reds that make up this bloom. I made these petals from heavy crepe paper to replicate the feathery texture of the cosmos, though extra-fine or double-sided crepe paper would also create a beautiful flower. I love to mix cosmos into bouquets with other blossoms. Their handsome simplicity also allows them to stand alone in a pretty napkin ring, gift topper, or heart-shaped twig wreath.

the cosmos flower

As a native to Mexico, the cosmos comes in many colors and varieties. The meaning of this bloom is “love flower,” and it offers a special sentiment when it is given to a sweetheart.

The cosmos reminds us to see the beauty that surrounds us every day and to treasure the ones we hold closest to our hearts.



MATERIALS

- heavy crepe paper in plum, aubergine, merlot, ruby, and gold
- frosted text-weight paper in fairway and botanic
- 18- and 24-gauge green floral wire
- floral tape in moss

COSMOS STEPS

1. Cut petals, stamens, and sepals out of heavy crepe paper, according to template notes. Cut leaves out of frosted text-weight paper.



2. Use pinking shears to trim edges of two stamen 1. With curling tool, fold stamen 2 (large) in half against the grain.



3. With detail scissors, fringe all three stamen pieces. Fringe stamen 2 along the fold.



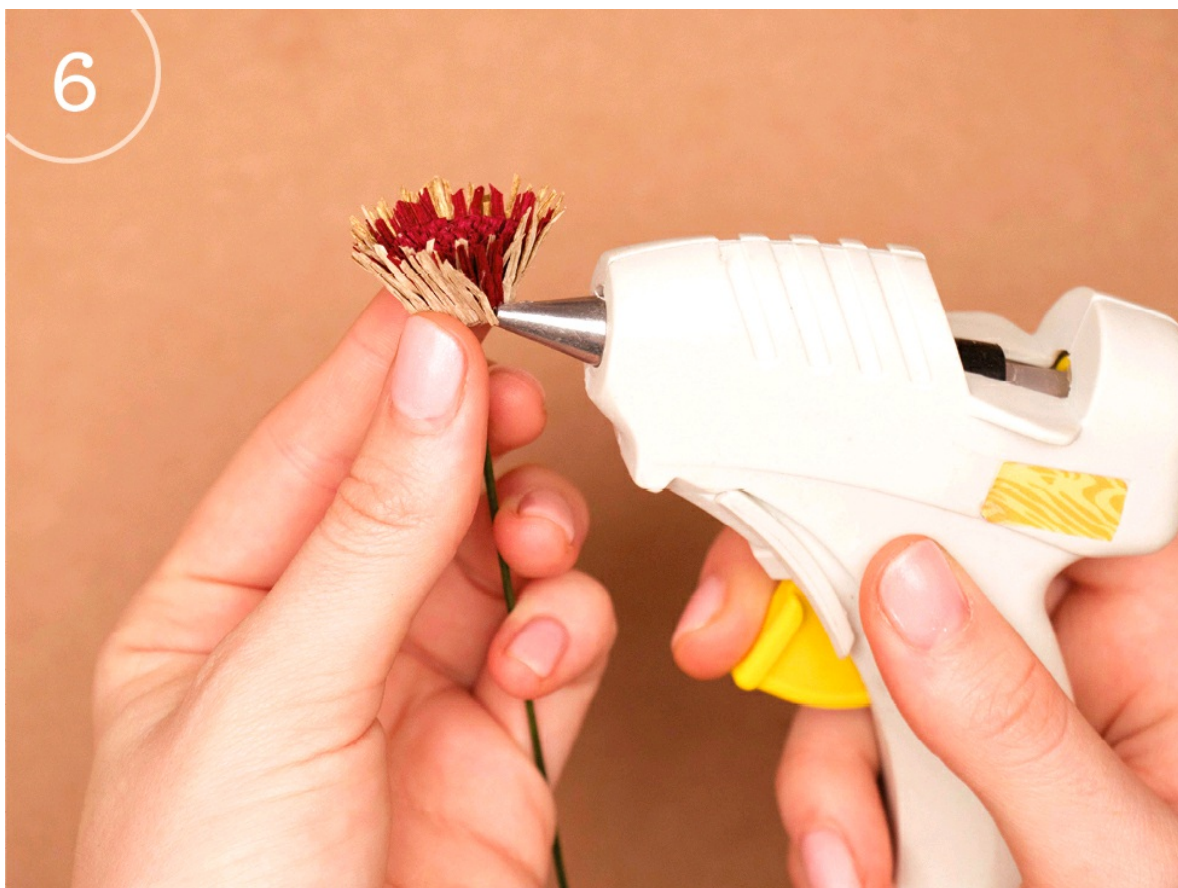
4. Bend tip of floral wire with needle-nose pliers. Wrap large fringed stamen around wire, gluing into place.



5. Glue two small fringed stamens together at base.



6. Wrap small fringed stamen around center and glue into place.



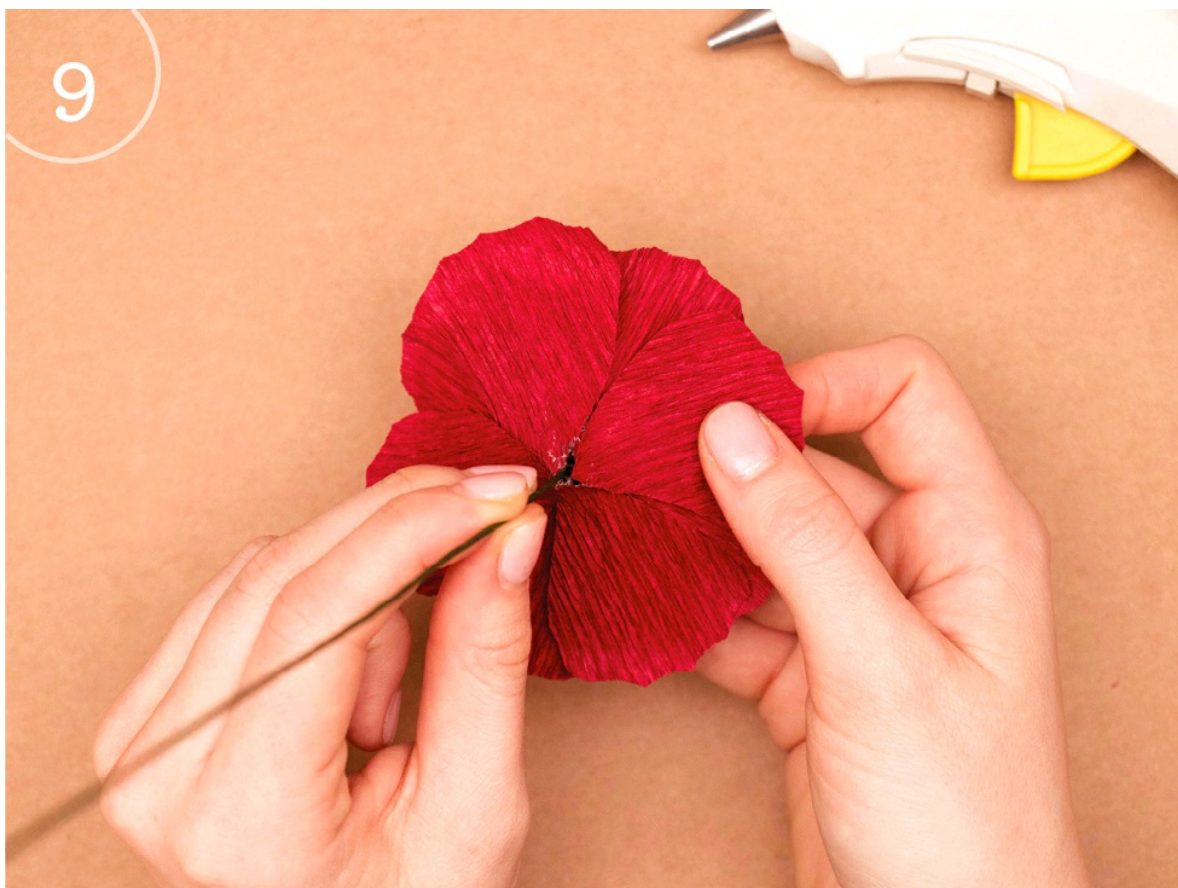
7. With curling tool, shape petals.



8. Glue four petals under center.



9. Glue remaining four petals under center.



10. Attach sepals with glue at base of flower.



11. Wrap stem with floral tape.



12. Glue frosted text-weight paper leaf onto floral wire and finish by wrapping with floral tape.

12





Crocus



The CROCUS is one of the first flowers to emerge in the spring, often poking its tiny petals through the snow. These small blooms are made from delicate extra-fine crepe paper for the petals and double-sided crepe paper for the leaves. These small potted plants make for the perfect hostess gift, dinner table decoration, or workspace whimsy.

the crocus bloom

The crocus comes in white, yellow, and shades of purple. It is known as a symbol of youth and cheerfulness. Saffron, used for seasoning food, comes from its dried stigmas.

The crocus reminds us to celebrate the return of spring with cheer and joy.



MATERIALS

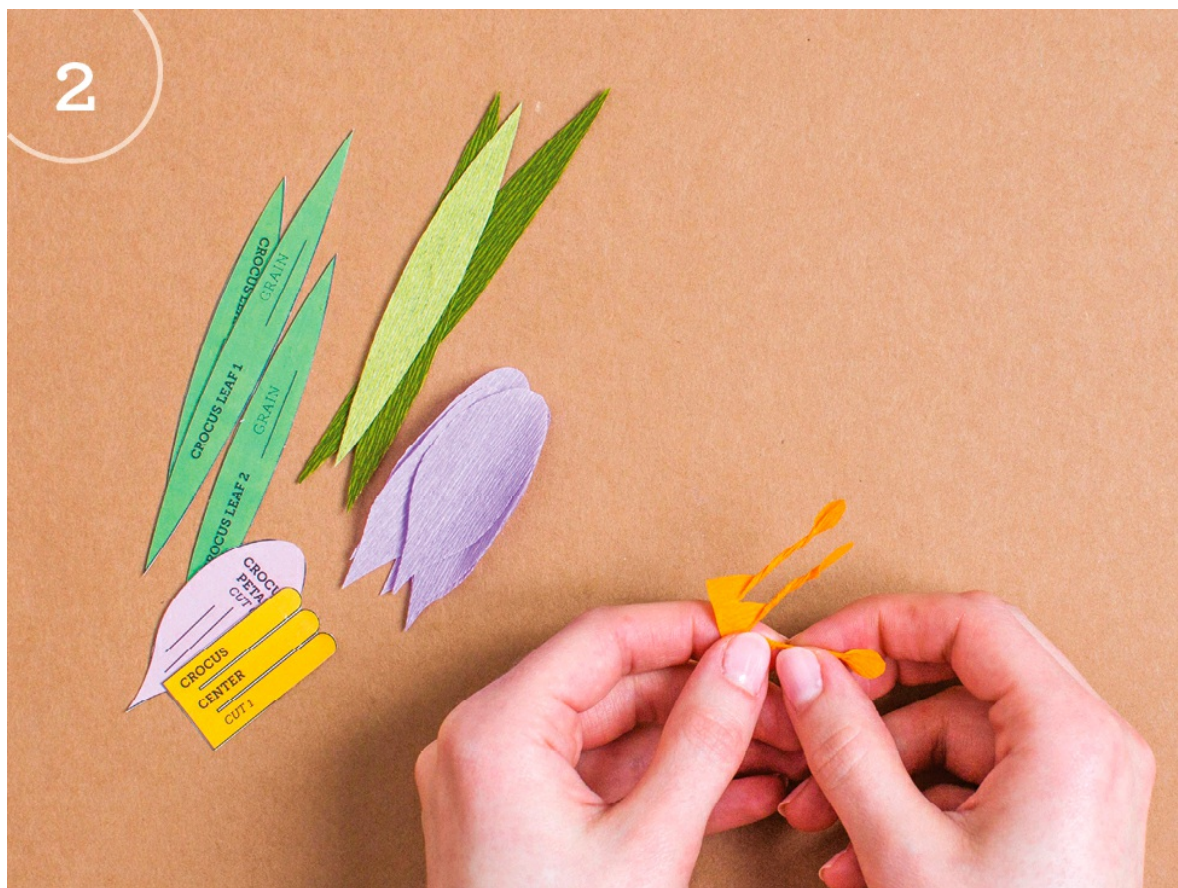
- extra-fine crepe paper in lilac and mango
- double-sided crepe paper in cypress/green tea
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- PanPastel pigment in magenta
- floral tape in moss
- container with floral foam
- reindeer moss

CROCUS STEPS

1. Cut petals and stamen from extra-fine crepe paper and leaves from double-sided crepe paper, according to template notes.



2. Twist stamen pieces, leaving each tip flat.



3. Wrap stamen around floral wire, gluing together to form one center with three tips folded flat.



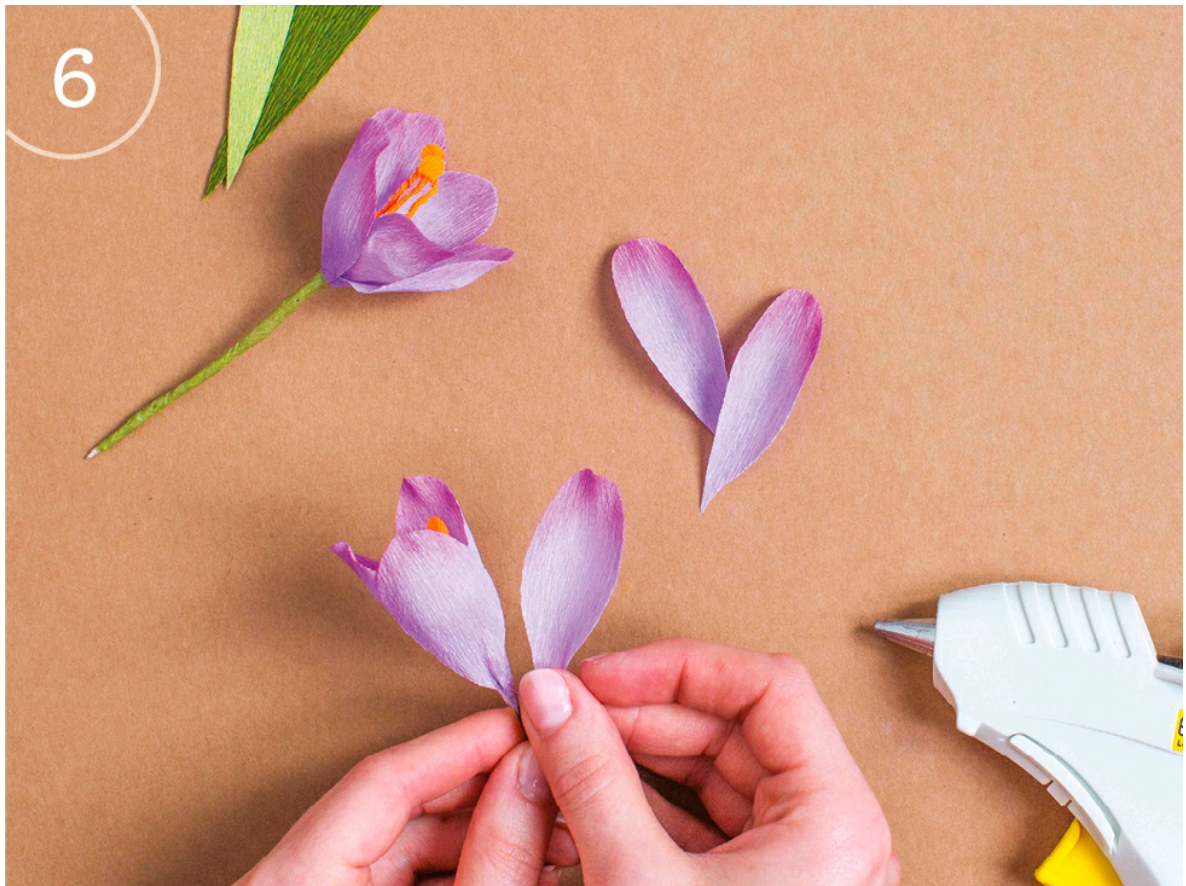
4. Color tips of petals with PanPastel pigments.



5. Gently form your petals by slightly stretching the centers between your fingers.



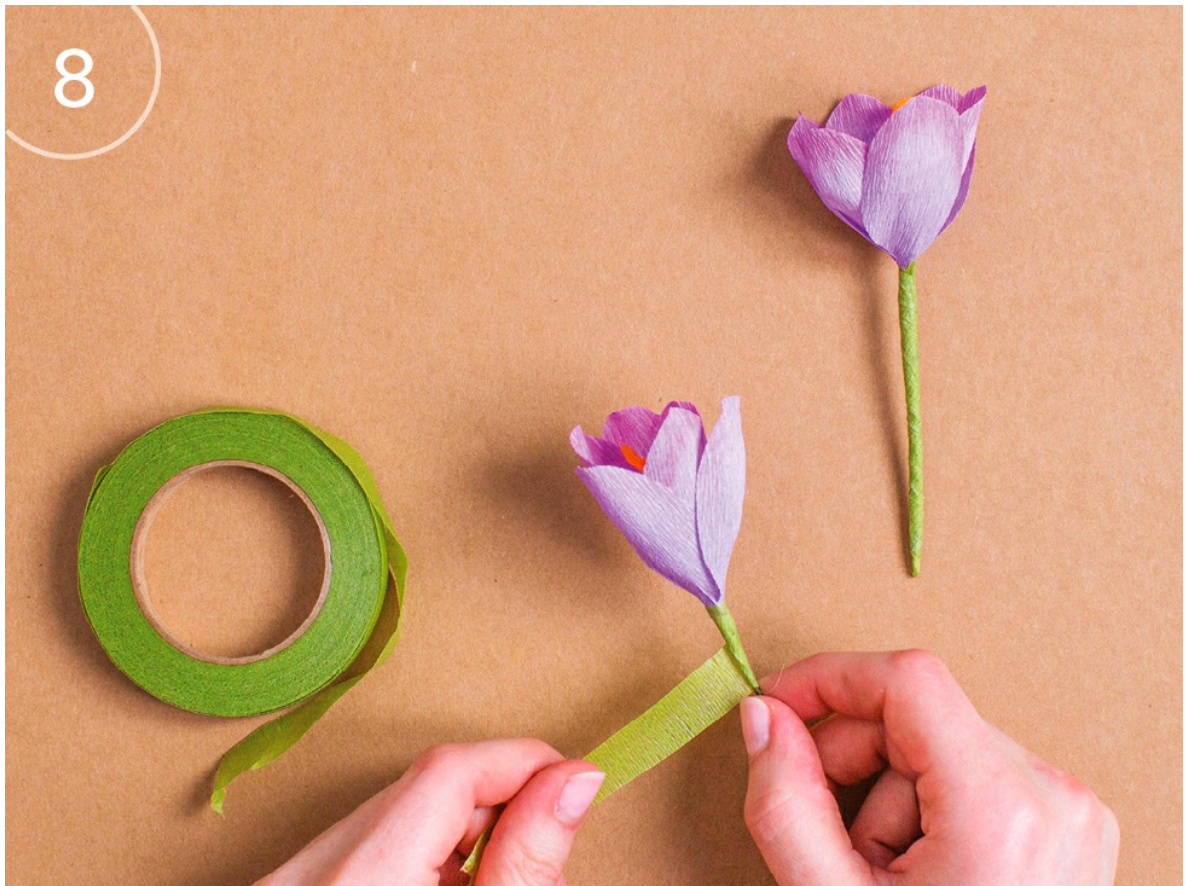
6. Glue three petals onto stem in triangle, then add second set of three between the first.



7. Glue base of leaves onto the end of short wires.



8. Cover stems of blooms and leaves with floral tape.



9. Cover foam inside container with reindeer moss. Place blooms and leaves into foam-filled pot.

9







Daffodil



These DAFFODILS were a delight to design, as we experimented with both extra-fine and heavy crepe papers. I found that all types of crepe paper can create gorgeous results, though I preferred my petals in the almost translucent extra-fine crepe paper. I love how these flowers look as a mixed bouquet of stems simply placed into a vase. You can also use this pattern to create potted crepe paper plants and experiment with different sizes of blooms.

the daffodil flower

Grown in a variety of sizes, these trumpet-shaped flowers come in sunny yellow, white, pastel yellow, and even shades of pink and green.

The daffodil is a beautiful flower to celebrate spring and new beginnings. It reminds us to tap into our creativity and to be open to new inspiration.



MATERIALS

- extra-fine crepe paper in linen/white, vanilla, chiffon, coral, cypress, juniper, and gold
- heavy crepe paper in tangerine, mango, nectarine, and coral
- craft paint in bright yellow

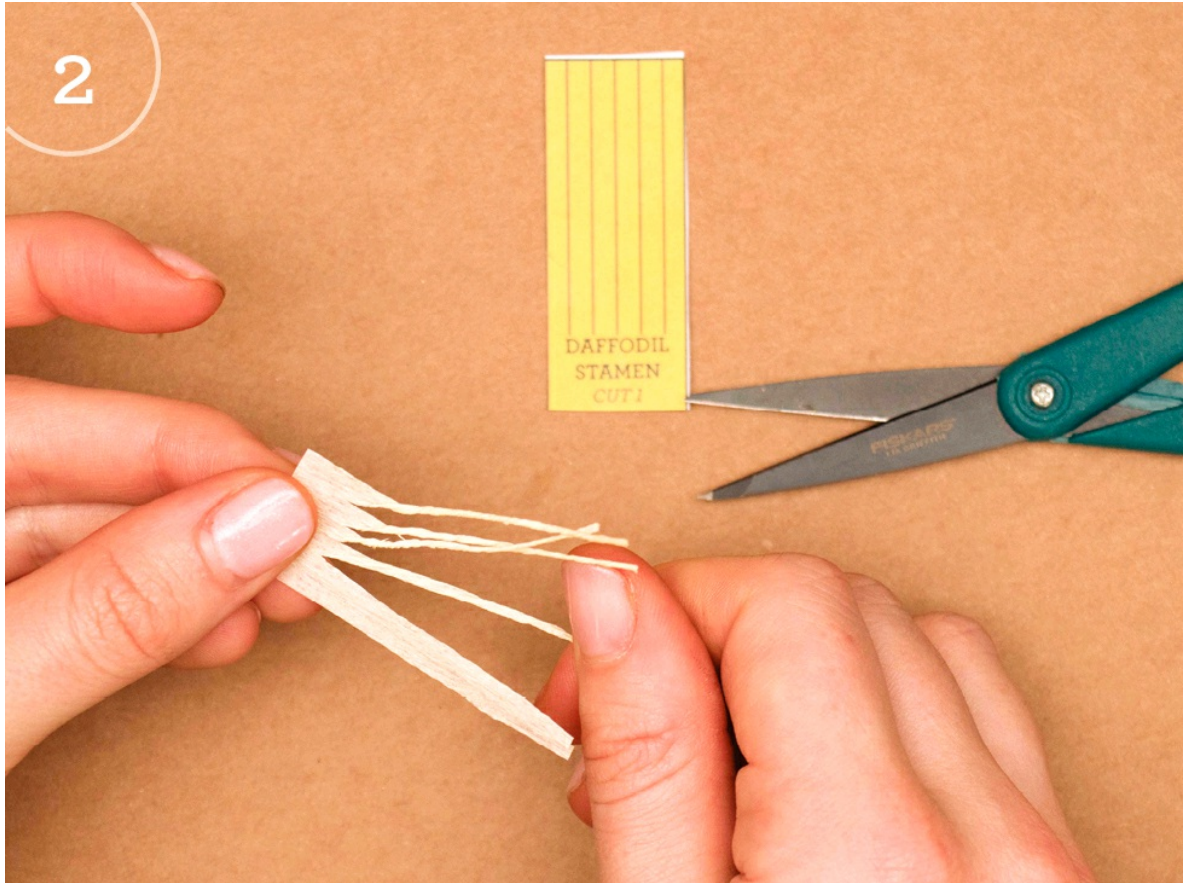
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- cotton twine
- floral tape in fern and pine

DAFFODIL STEPS

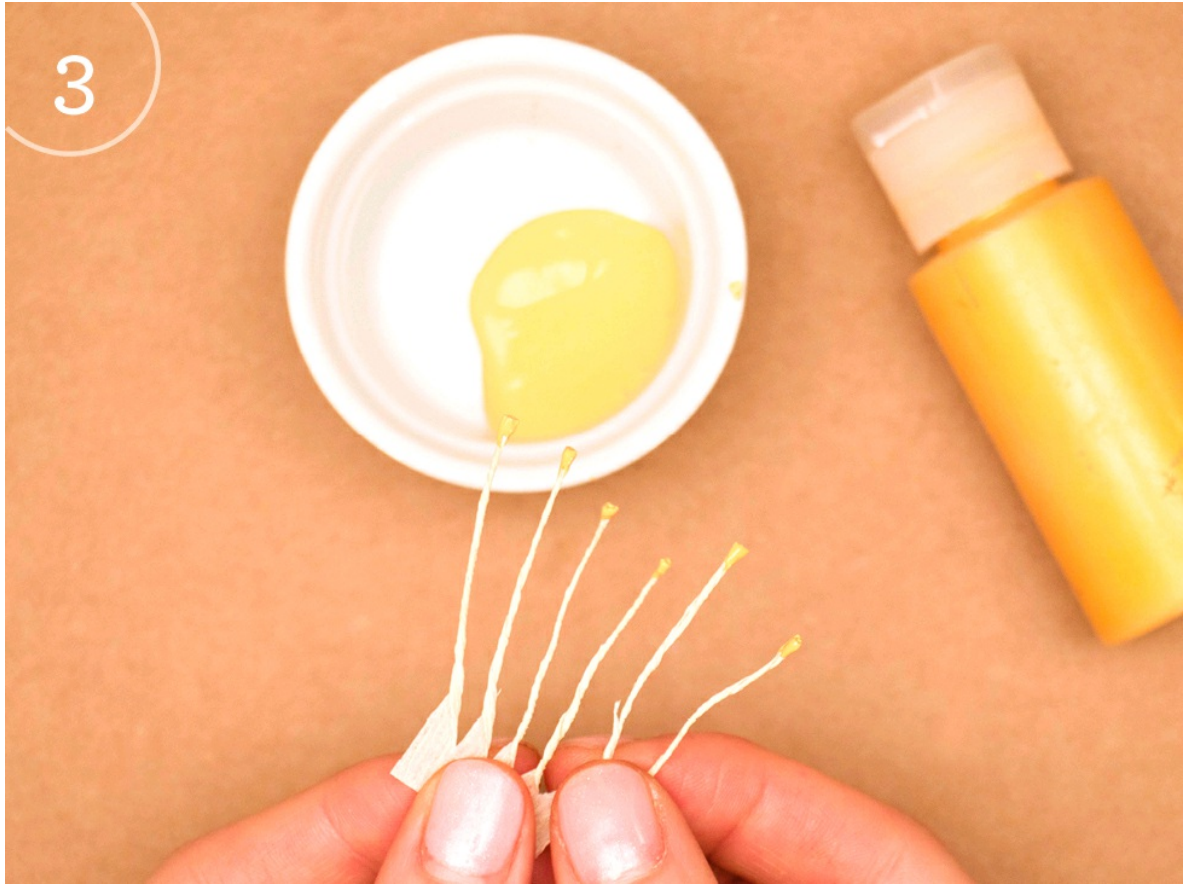
1. Cut petals, stamen, corona, spathe, scape, and leaves from the extra-fine and heavy crepe papers, according to template notes.



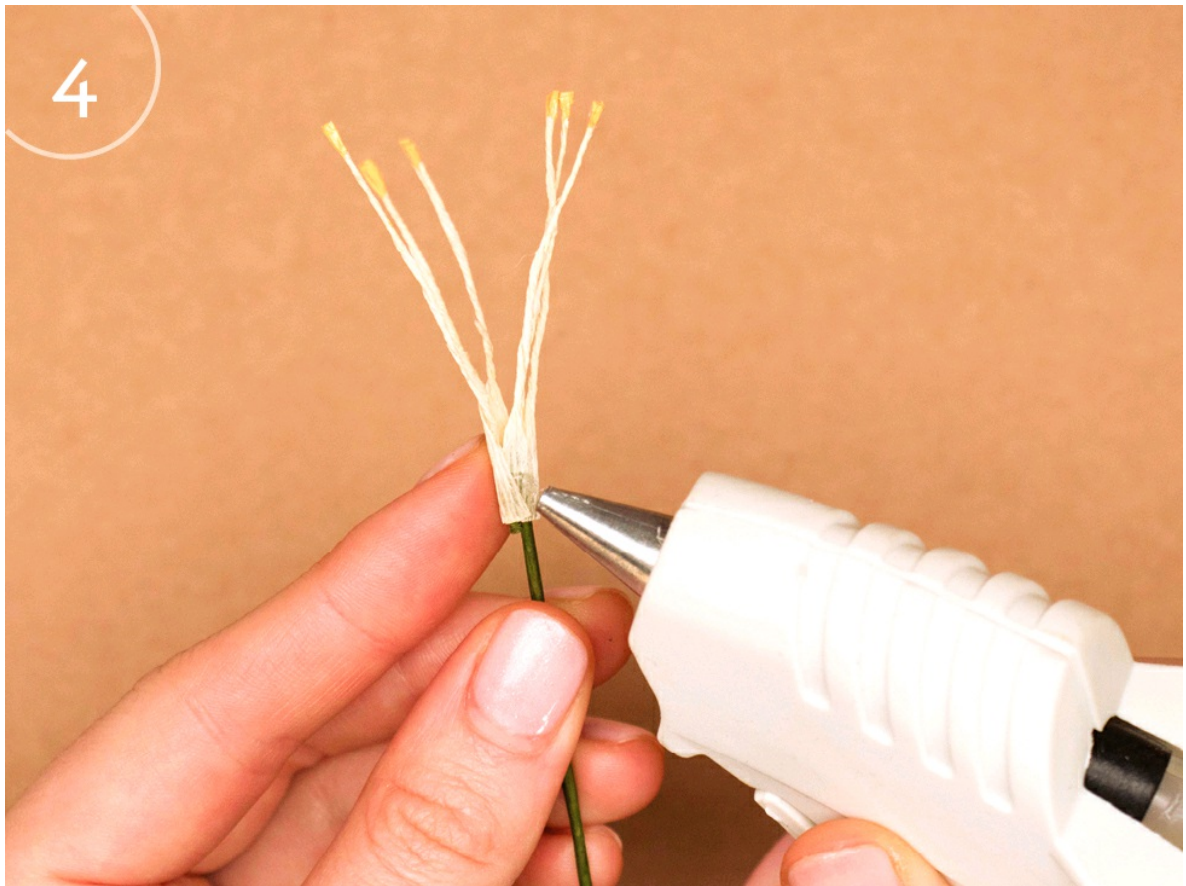
2. Cut six fringe pieces on stamen, then twist each piece.



3. Dip tips of stamen into craft paint and let dry.



4. Bend tip of floral wire with needle-nose pliers, then wrap stamen around wire and glue into place.



5. Glue edge of corona and affix to second edge, forming a tube. Twist the end of each petal for shape.



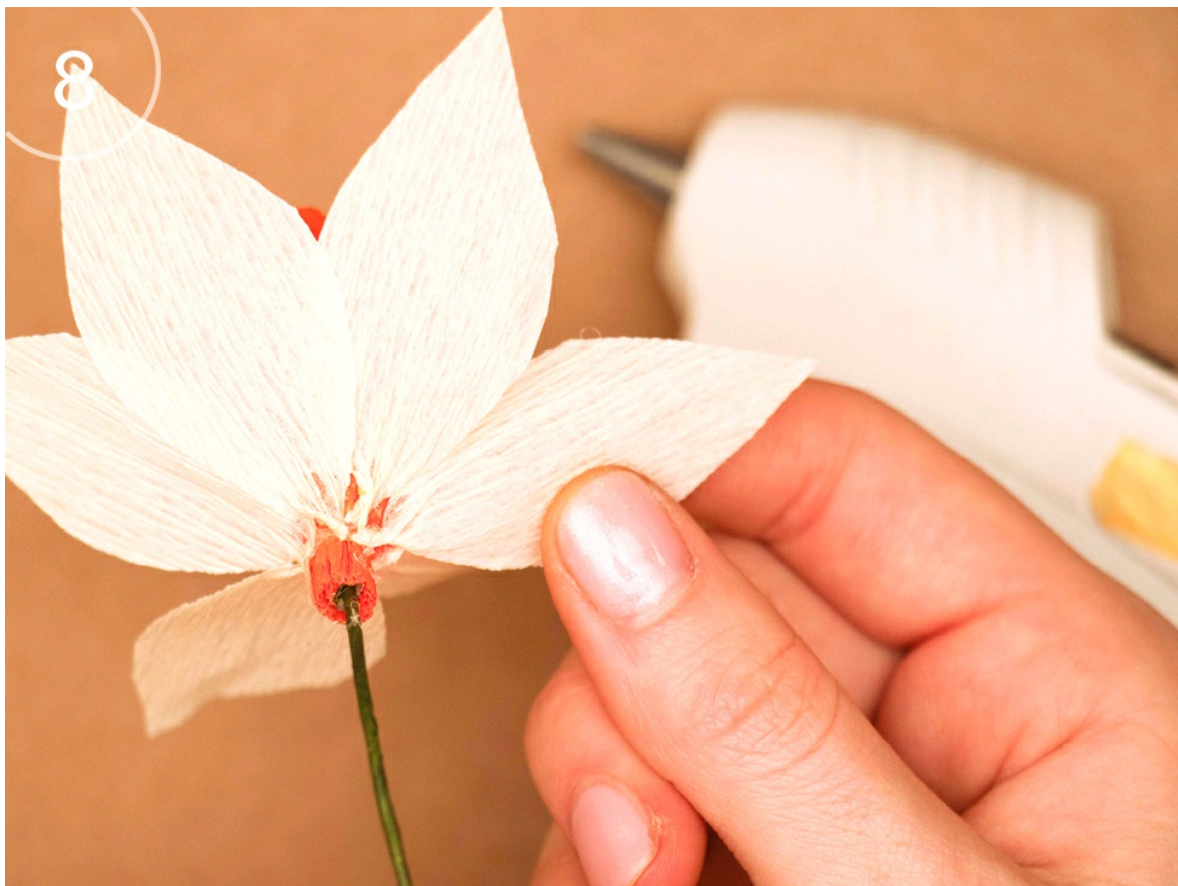
6. Slide corona onto wire over the stamen, then wrap with cotton twine. Tie at base.



7. Slide finger into corona to cup at base. Stretch top edge to add ruffled flair.



8. Glue petals in rotation under corona.



9. Wrap scape under bloom and glue into place.



10. Glue spathe under scape, then wrap stem with fern floral tape.



11. Glue ends of leaves onto wire, then wrap with pine floral tape.







Dogwood



Another favorite blooming branch is the DOGWOOD. Its four gently shaped petals are a perfect fit for double-sided crepe paper. This pattern includes three sizes of flowers to create a realistic look, especially when attached to dried wood branches found in nature. If you prefer making a wire branch, you can find the how-to tips on [this page](#). Dogwood's small leaves are also made from double-sided crepe paper. My favorite way to display dogwood flowers is simply placing the branch into a vase. I also put blooming branches in mixed arrangements and use single blooms to decorate cake toppers, napkin rings, place card holders, and head wreaths.

the dogwood flower

Dogwood trees bloom in white, pink, and dark red, with a rusty brown spot along the edge of all four petals. The tree symbolizes durability, strength, and reliability.

The dogwood flower reminds us to remember our innocence and that miracles surround us every day.



MATERIALS

- double-sided crepe paper in vanilla/white and fern/moss

- extra-fine crepe paper in fern
- dried or wire branches
- fine-point marker in brown

DOGWOOD STEPS

1. Cut petals, sepal, and leaves from double-sided crepe paper and stamens from extra-fine crepe paper, according to template notes.



2. Fold stamens in half against the grain. With detail scissors, cut fringe along the folded edge.



3. Roll stamens into spirals, glue, then attach to branch.



4. With tan marker, add color to the dip in each petal on both sides of paper.



5. Gently form your petals by slightly stretching the centers between your fingers.



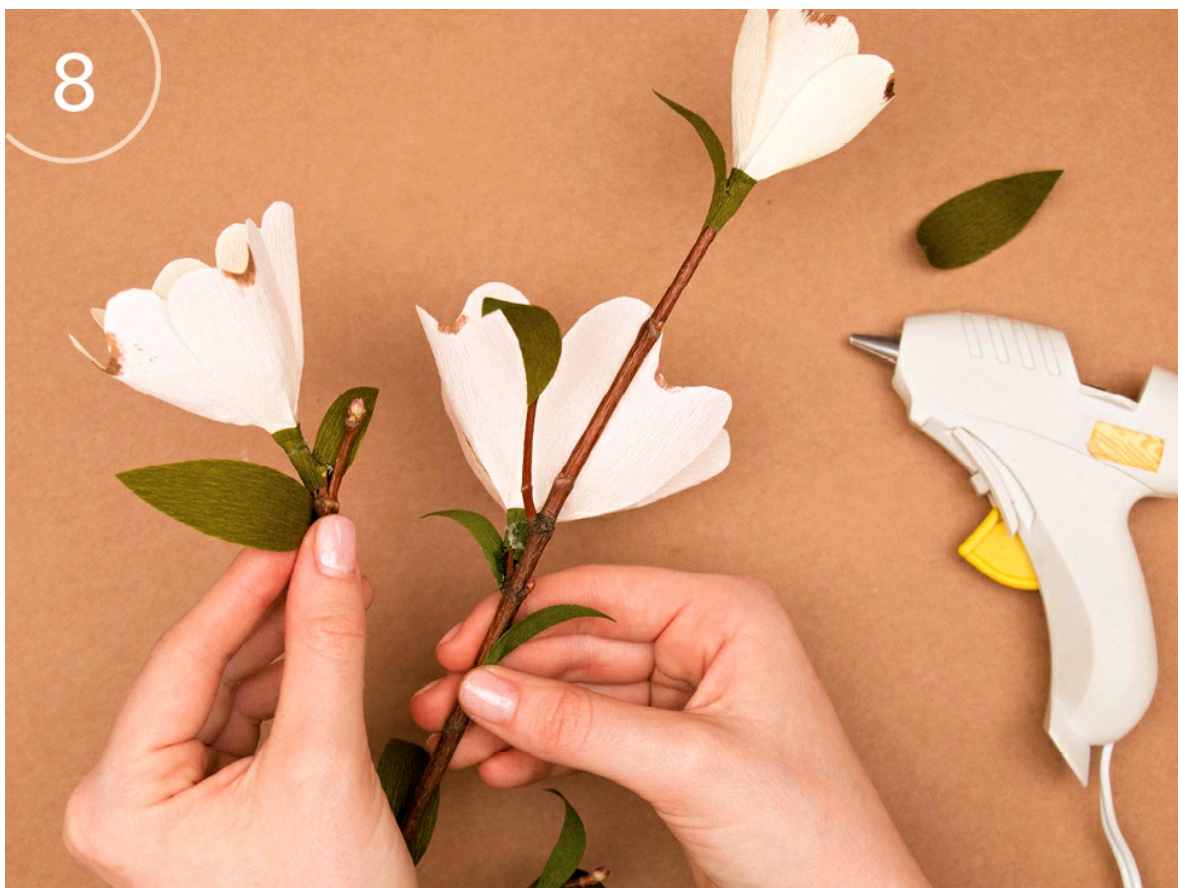
6. Wrap green sepal around base of each bloom and hot glue into place.



7. With curling tool, shape leaves.



8. Glue smaller leaves under blooms and larger leaves along branch.







Gerbera Daisy



The GERBERA DAISY is the happiest of all flowers. I chose the brightest colors of our heavy crepe paper to make these large, multipetal blooms. It is fun to experiment mixing shades of crepe paper for the mini petals surrounding the flower centers, or to add some color variation with PanPastel pigments. Once all of the petals and centers are cut, the assembly of these flowers is quite simple and will inspire you to make more.

A single flower in a vase makes a lovely centerpiece, or you can combine your favorite shades for a cheerful bouquet for a friend.

the gerbera daisy

Gerbera daisies, native to South America, are celebrated as a symbol for happiness. They grow in reds, pinks, corals, peaches, oranges, yellows, creams, and whites.

The gerbera daisy reminds us to not worry, but be happy!



MATERIALS

- heavy crepe paper in blush, nectarine, pink hibiscus, fuchsia, poppy, tangerine, and juniper

- extra-fine crepe paper in espresso and fern
- 18- and 24-gauge green floral wire
- PanPastel pigment in orange
- floral tape in fern

GERBERA DAISY STEPS

1. Cut petals, stamens, sepals, and leaves out of heavy and extra-fine crepe papers, according to template notes.



2. Fold stamen 1 in half against grain lines, and fringe on folded side with detail scissors.



3. Stretch stamen 2, and cut with pinking sheers along edge, then fringe with detail scissors along grain line.



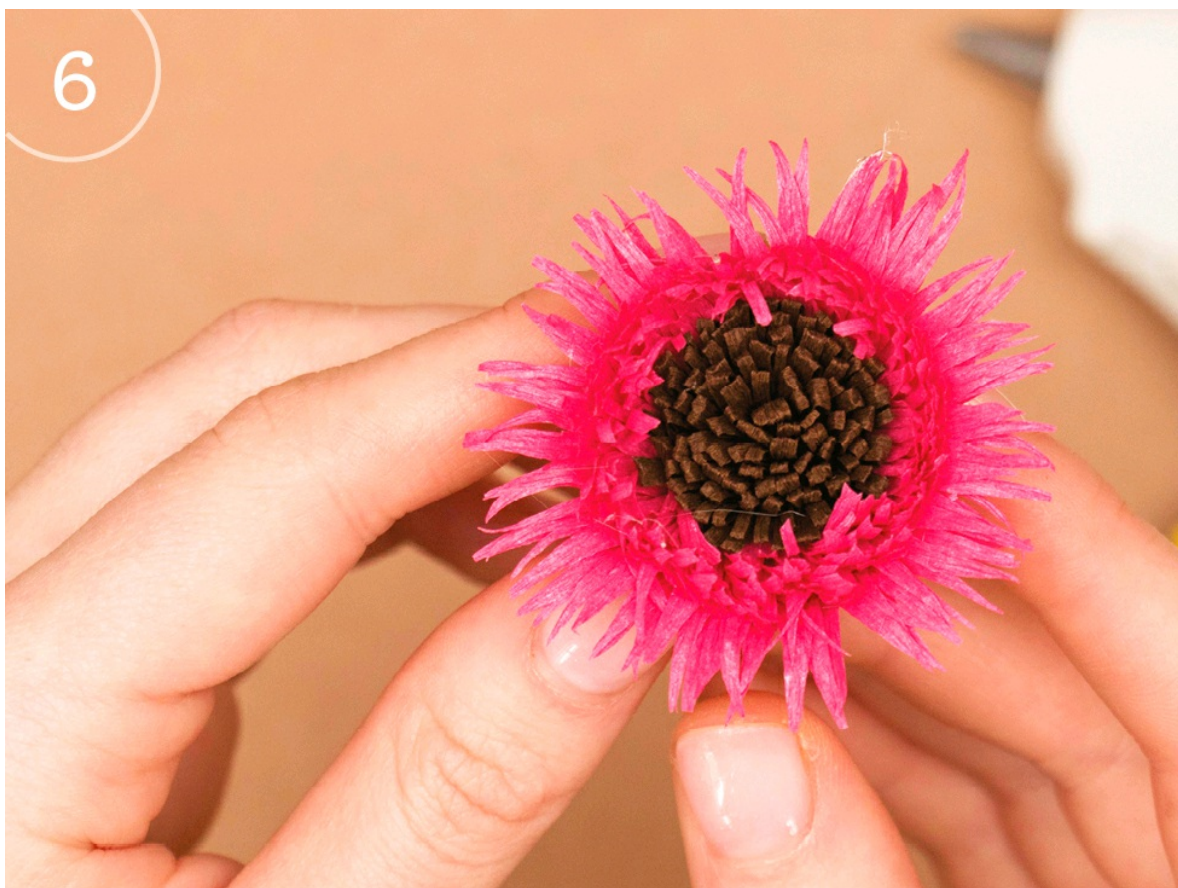
4. Fringe stamen 3 with detail scissors, as noted on pattern. With curling tool, shape tips of fringe on both second and third stamens.



5. Bend tip of floral wire with needle-nose pliers. Wrap first stamen with folded fringe around wire and glue into place.



6. Wrap stamen 2 and glue into place. Finish by wrapping the longer fringed stamen 3 with curl moving outwards. Glue into place.



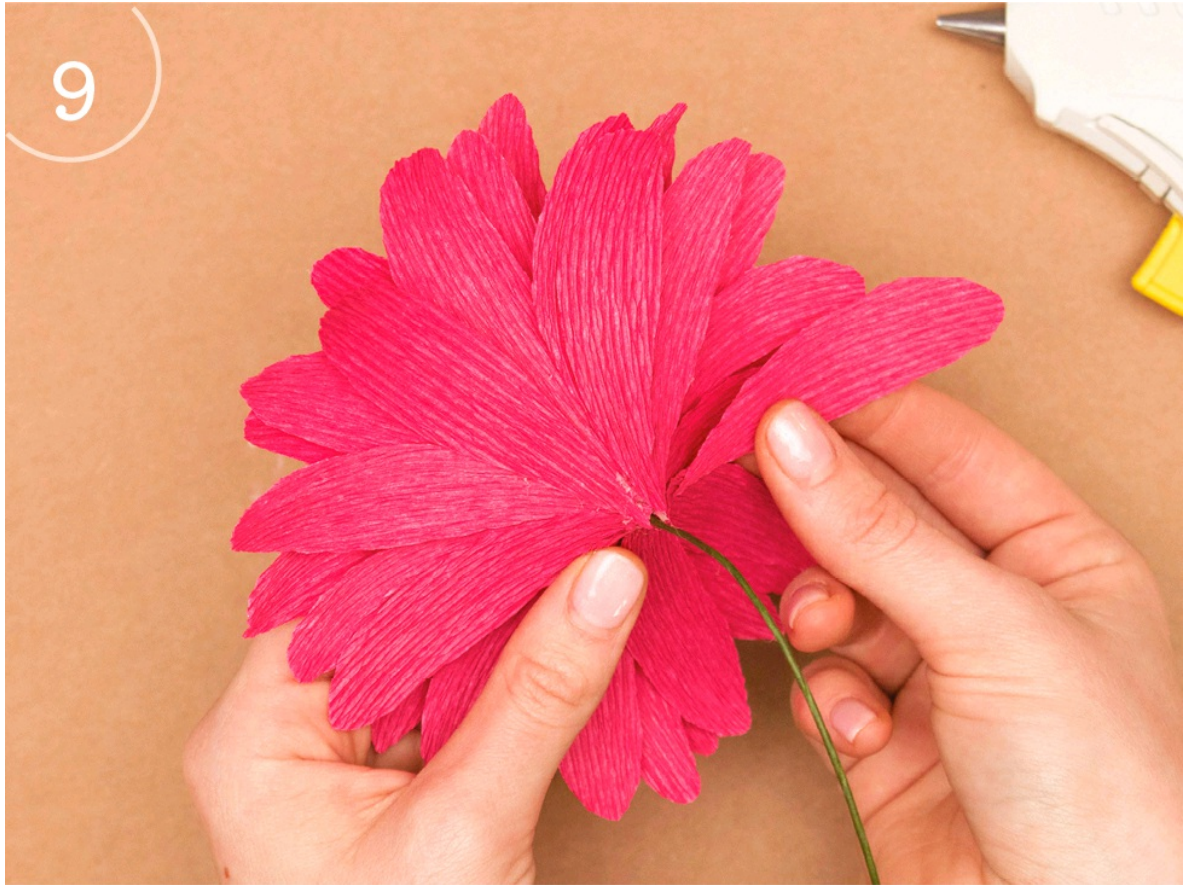
7. Gently shape all petals with curling tool.



8. Glue petals around base of center.



9. Finish gluing petals to complete a full flower.



10. Glue sepals onto back of bloom.



11. Add color to center with pastel pigment with soft paintbrush.

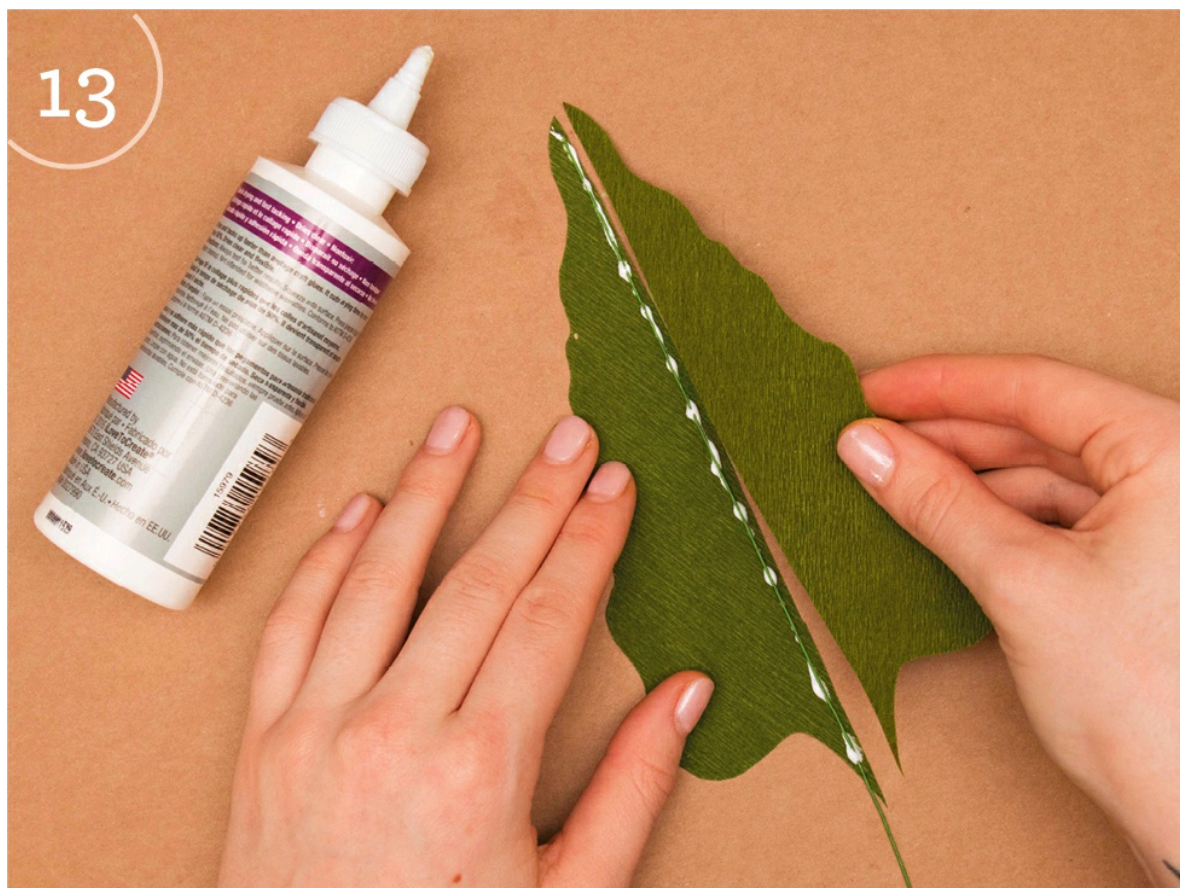


12. Wrap stem with floral tape.



13. Using white craft glue, place wire between leaf halves and press. Once dry, finish by covering stem with floral tape.

13



Hellebore



The HELLEBORE is a beloved fall and winter flower that I use in decorating, gift wrapping, and designing winter weddings. I also display these flowers as Christmas tree ornaments and for my holiday centerpieces, arranging them with freshly cut pine branches and ripe pomegranates.

These delicate blooms form beautifully with extra-fine crepe paper in all shades of pink and plum, and in fern green. PanPastel pigments enhance the crepe paper petals, giving the flowers a velvet-like texture. Using a fine-tip marker for the tiny details brings these flowers to life.

the hellebore bloom

The hellebore is also known as a “Christmas rose” or a “winter rose.” They bloom late into the season, often in December.

The hellebore reminds us of the beautiful year ahead, and its tranquil appearance relieves us of anxieties.



MATERIALS

- extra-fine crepe paper in fern, raspberry, merlot, and juniper

- PanPastel pigment in magenta
- fine-point marker in pink
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- 24-gauge green floral wire
- floral tape in pine

HELLEBORE STEPS

1. Cut petals, stamens, and leaves out of extra-fine crepe paper, according to template notes. Use pinking shears to trim edges of stamen pieces.



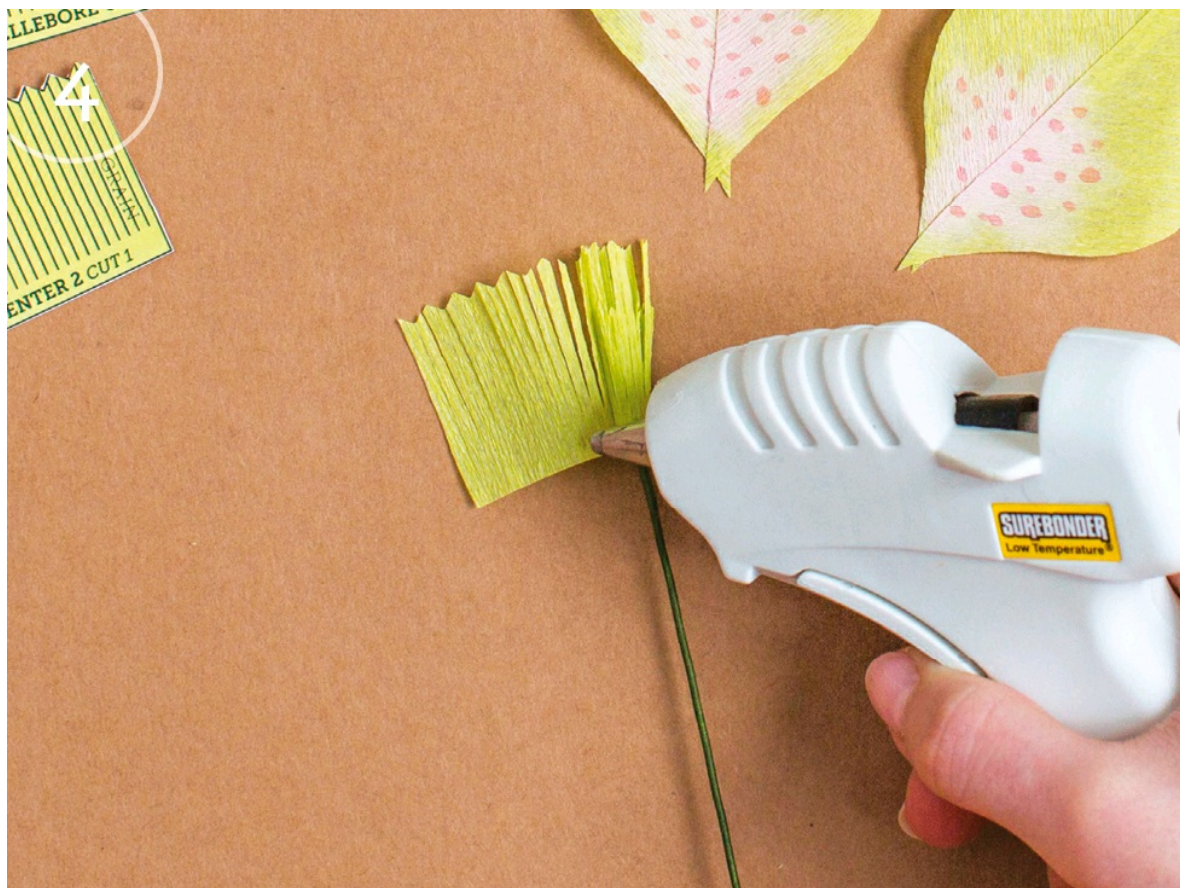
2. Glue petal halves together with white craft glue. Fringe stamens with detail scissors.



3. Add color to base of petals with pastel pigment. Create dots on petals with marker.



4. Glue stamens 1 and 2 together, wrap around 18-gauge floral wire stem, and glue into place.



5. Attach five petals under stamens with glue.



6. Dip 24-gauge floral wire into white craft glue, place onto leaf half, then place second leaf half over glued wire. Let dry.



7. Attach three leaves together with floral tape. Finish flower by wrapping stem with floral tape.







Hibiscus



This HIBISCUS brings back fond memories of breezy beaches, majestic palm trees, and fruity tropical drinks. If you are hosting a summer party, why not make a dozen of these blooms for your decorations? Place another in your hair for the perfect accessory.

Heavy crepe paper makes these flowers one of the simplest to craft. Use a bright tropical palette and add some ombré with pastel pigment—the results will be a fun keepsake for your guests.

the hibiscus flower

Found in warm, humid climates, the hibiscus offers a sunset of white, yellow, pink, purple, and red hues. The flower is also used to color and flavor many herbal teas, and is rich in vitamin C.

This exotic bloom reminds us to enjoy the beautiful moments in life.



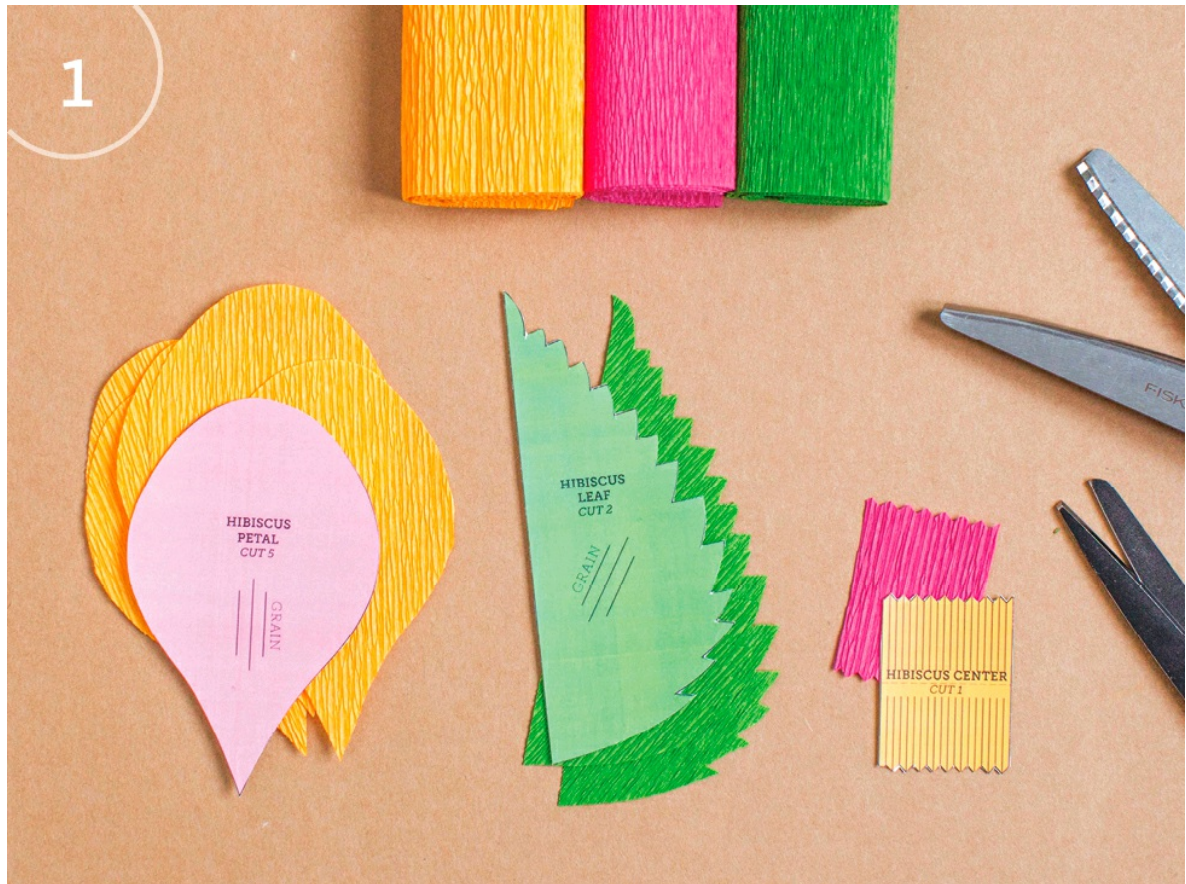
MATERIALS

- heavy crepe paper in fuchsia, poppy, mango, clover, and basil
- frosted text-weight paper in fairway
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- 24-gauge white floral wire
- PanPastel pigment in magenta

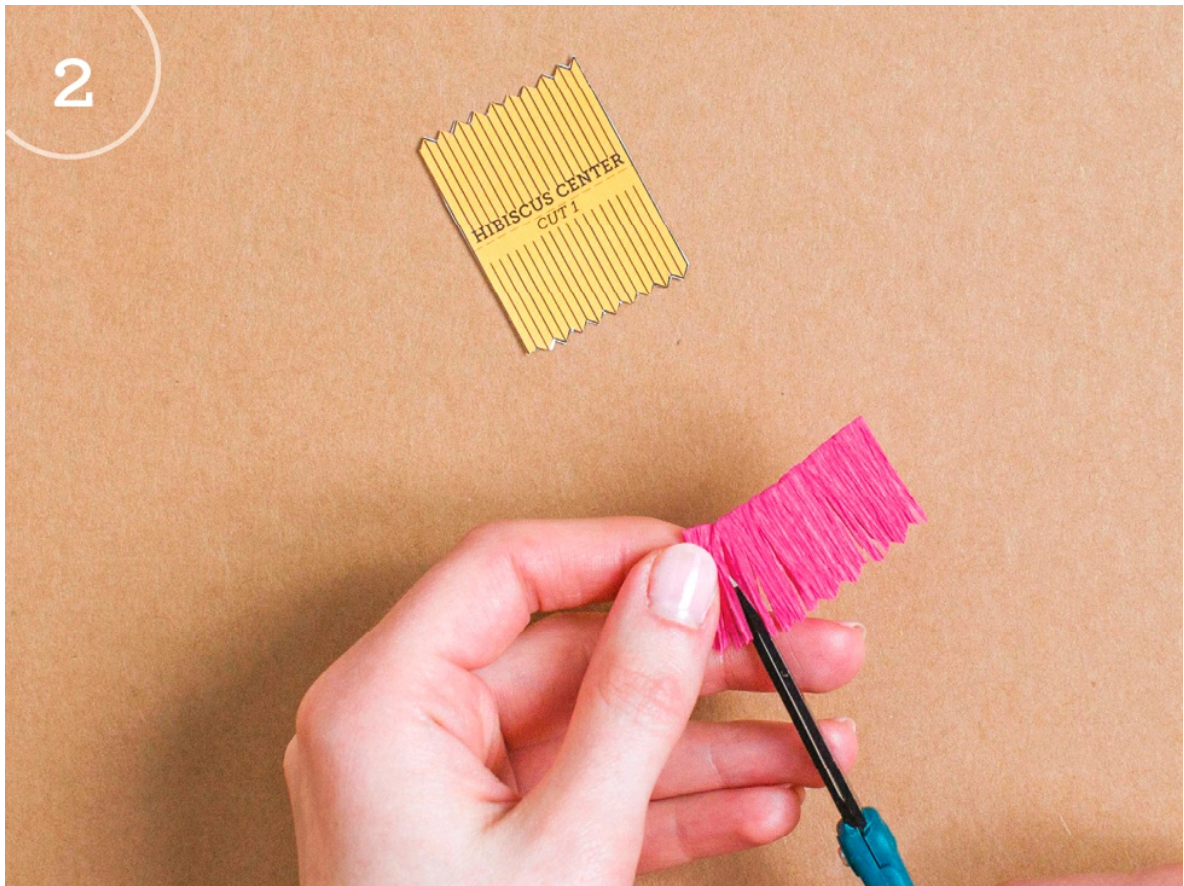
- floral tape in fern

HIBISCUS STEPS

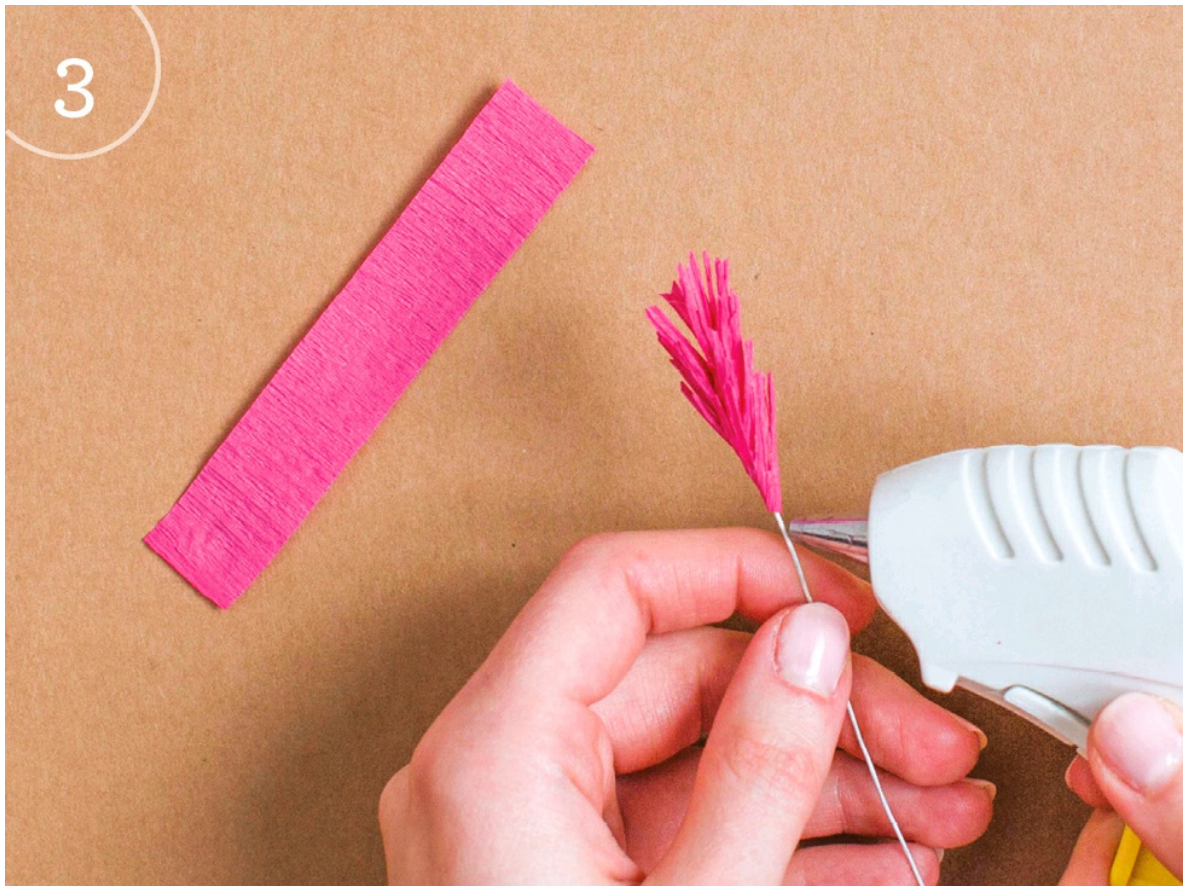
1. Cut petals, stamen, and leaves out of heavy crepe paper, according to template notes. Cut additional (tropical) leaves out of frosted text-weight paper.



2. Fold stamen in half against grain and fringe edge with detail scissors.



3. Wrap fringed stamen around tip of 18-gauge floral wire, gluing and rotating down stem. Cover 2 to 3 inches under the stamen with a strip of matching crepe paper.



4. Dip 24-gauge floral wire into white craft glue and place on center of petal. Fold petal in half and press. Open petal and press flat. Repeat with remaining petals.



5. Add color to base of petals with pastel pigment.



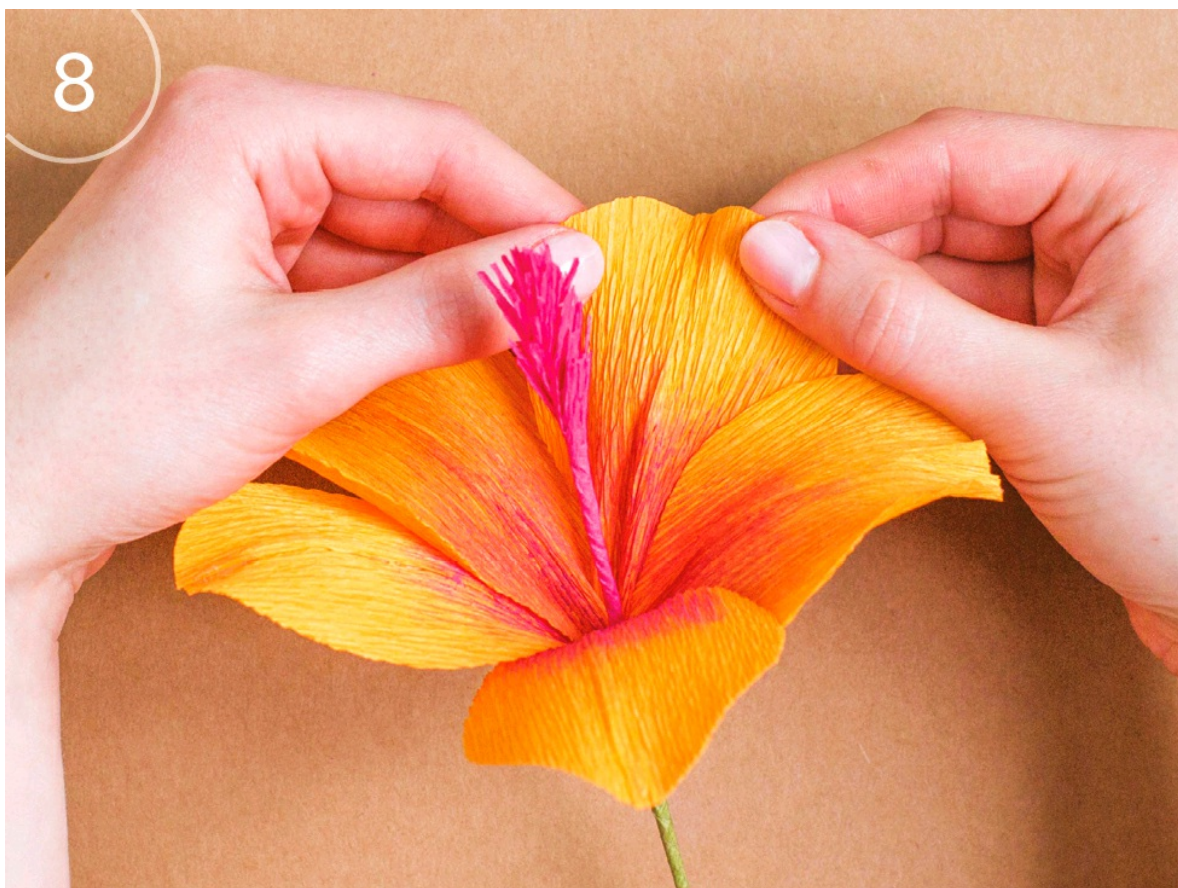
6. Attach five petals under and around stamen and wrap floral wire with floral tape.



7. Open petals and arrange in rotation.



8. Shape petals and stretch top edge to create ruffle.



9. Glue 24-gauge wire between two half pieces of heavy crepe paper leaf. Glue wire onto back of frosted paper tropical leaf. Finish leaf stems with floral tape.







Iris



The IRIS is one of the simplest and most forgiving flowers to create. You can make these ruffled blooms from either extra-fine or heavy crepe paper. The wired petals are sturdy and easy to form into their feathery poses. Brushing a bit of pastel pigment to the petals once the glue has dried adds such beautiful detail and dimension. These flowers create a full arrangement with or without other blooms, or they can be “planted” into a foam-filled pot covered with small pebbles or moss.

the iris flower

The iris is often associated with royalty due to its array of purple colors and ruffled petals. It is most commonly found in shades of purple, blue, yellow, and white, but can also be found in shades of pink and red.

The iris reminds us to respect the wisdom that is available to us whenever we need it.



MATERIALS

- heavy or extra-fine crepe paper in plum, aubergine, raspberry, lilac, linen/white, and gold
- double-sided crepe paper in fern/moss
- 24-gauge white floral wire

- PanPastel pigment in gold
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- floral tape in pine

IRIS STEPS

1. Cut petals, sepals, and leaves out of heavy or extra-fine crepe paper, according to template notes.



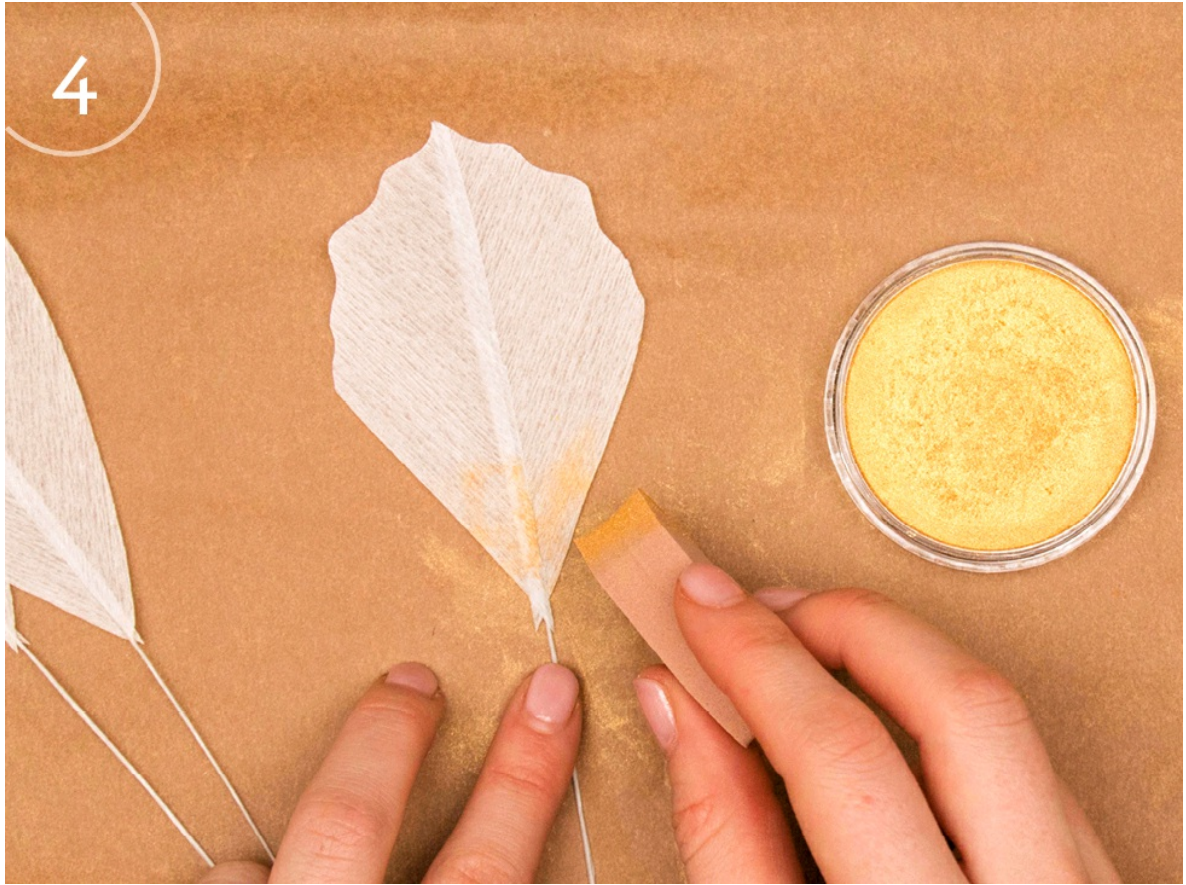
2. Dip 24-gauge white floral wire into white craft glue.



3. Place glued wire onto petal half, then place second petal over wire. Repeat with remaining petals. Let dry.



4. Add color at base of each petal with pastel pigment.



5. Glue white wire at base of first three complete petal 1 pieces onto tip of 18-gauge wire stem.



6. Shape wire and stretch top edge of each petal to ruffle.



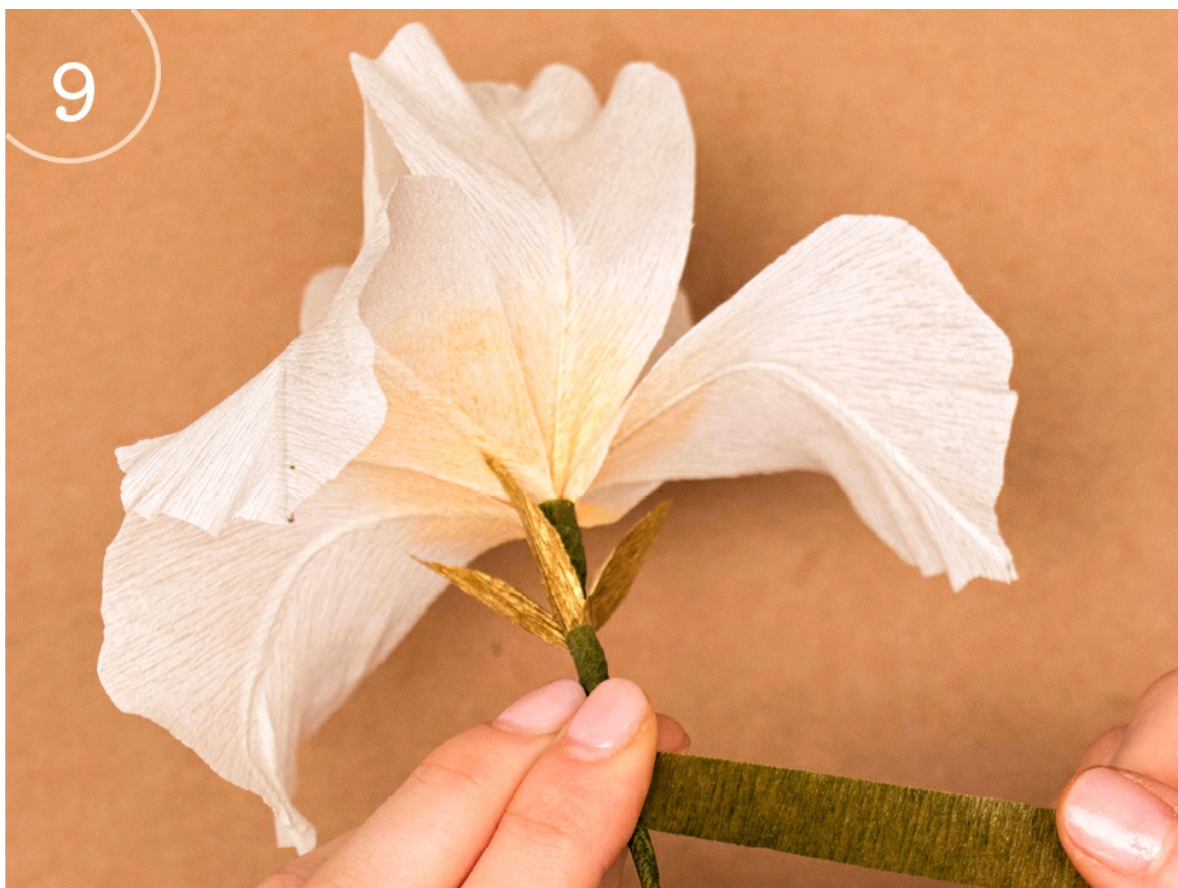
7. Attach white wire at base of three petal 2 pieces onto stem between first three petals with glue, then wrap with floral tape.



8. Shape larger petals downward and ruffle edge by gently stretching crepe paper.



9. Attach sepals under flower with floral tape.



10. Cover stem with floral tape, adding leaves at base.









Lily



Many varieties of the LILY flower are made possible simply by using different colors of crepe paper and pastel pigments. This is a coral tiger lily, which I made with double-sided crepe paper. Since the petals are wired, you can use extra-fine or heavy crepe papers as shown. My challenge when designing this flower was to create an easy-to-make flower center. After experimenting with several options, I found that Sculpey clay anthers and stigmas are both simple and realistic. Experiment with this pattern by making an Asiatic lily, an Easter lily, or a fall version of this colorful bloom.

the lily flower

Lilies are found all over the world in hundreds of varieties and colors. They are hearty flowers that never go dormant and grow well both indoors and out in nature.

The lily reminds us to embrace our own power and to remember that life cycles always present an opportunity for renewal.



MATERIALS

- double-sided crepe paper in strawberry/tulip and cypress/green tea

- Sculpey clay in tan
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- 24-gauge white floral wire
- PanPastel pigment in pearlescent yellow
- floral tape in pine
- fine-point marker in brown

LILY STEPS

1. Cut petals and leaves out of double-sided crepe paper, according to template notes.



2. Form anthers and stigma with clay. See [this page](#) for details.



3. Bake to harden and let cool.



4. Dip 24-gauge white floral wire into white craft glue, then place the glued wire on edge of petal half. Place second half over wire. Repeat with remaining petals. Let dry.



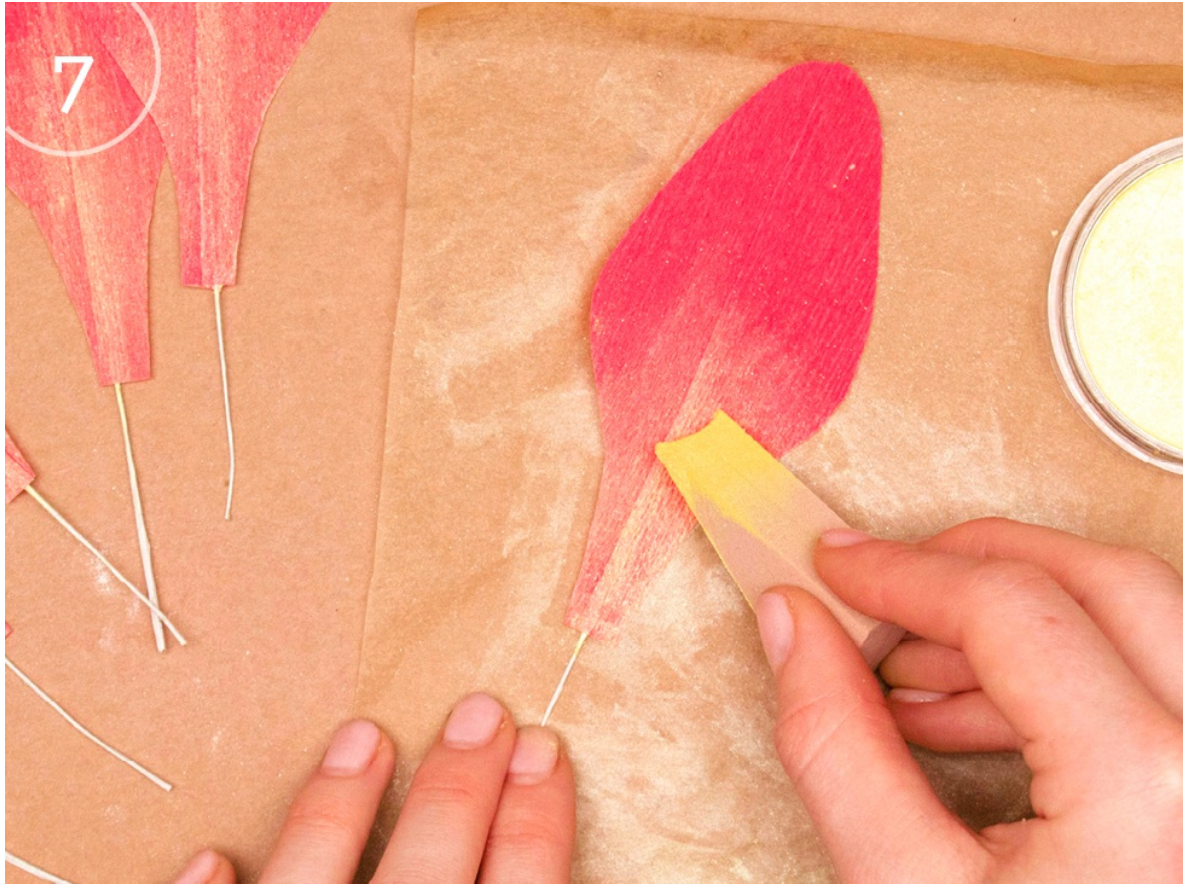
5. To secure clay onto floral wire, add hot glue in hole.



6. Add color to anthers and stigma with pastel pigment.



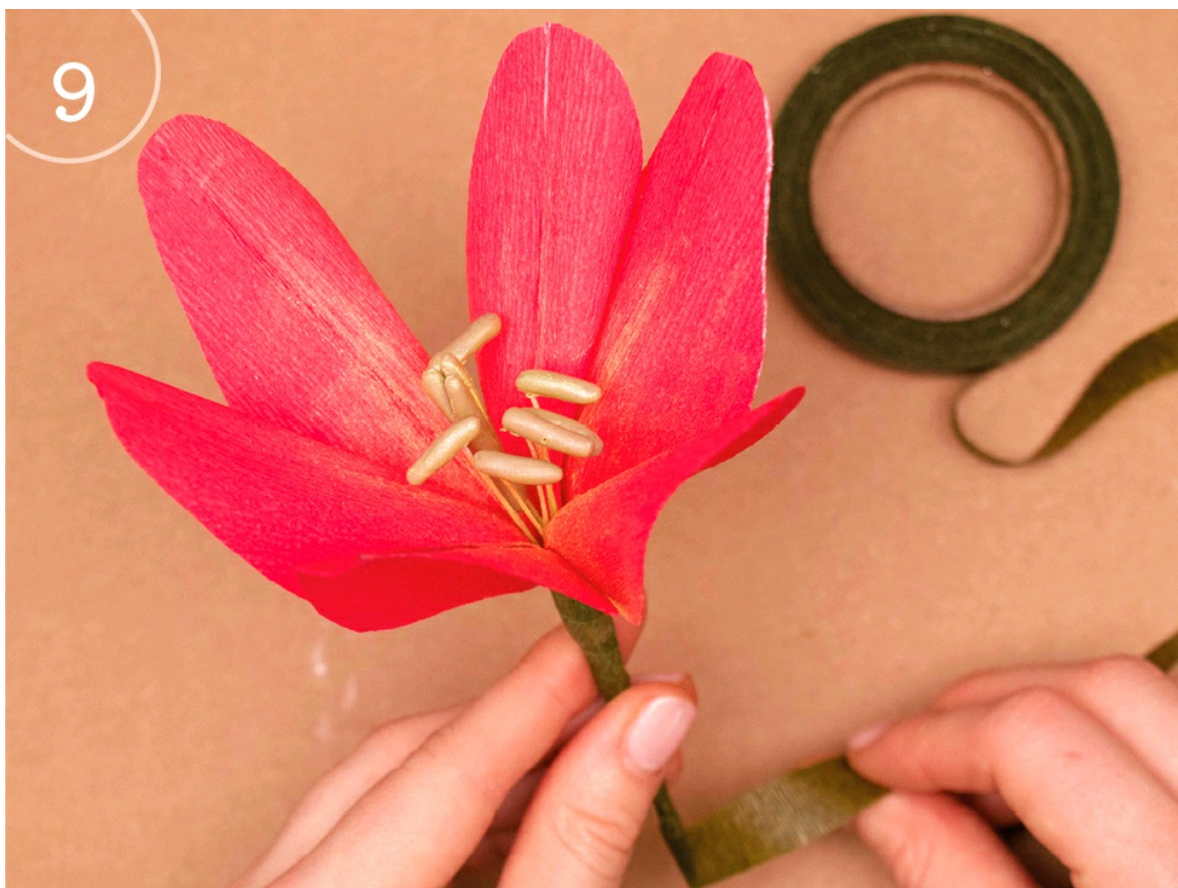
7. Add color to base of petals with pastel pigment.



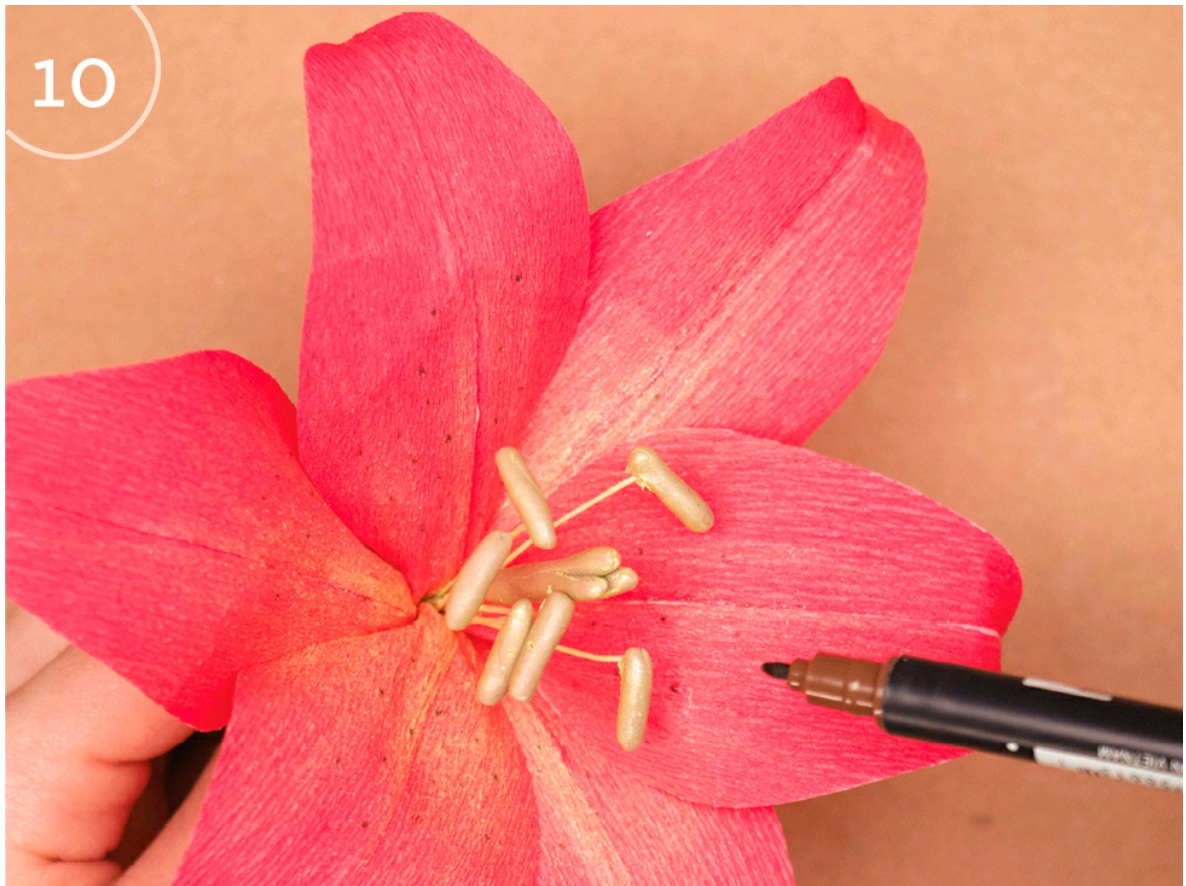
8. Bundle anthers and stigma around stem wire and attach with floral tape.



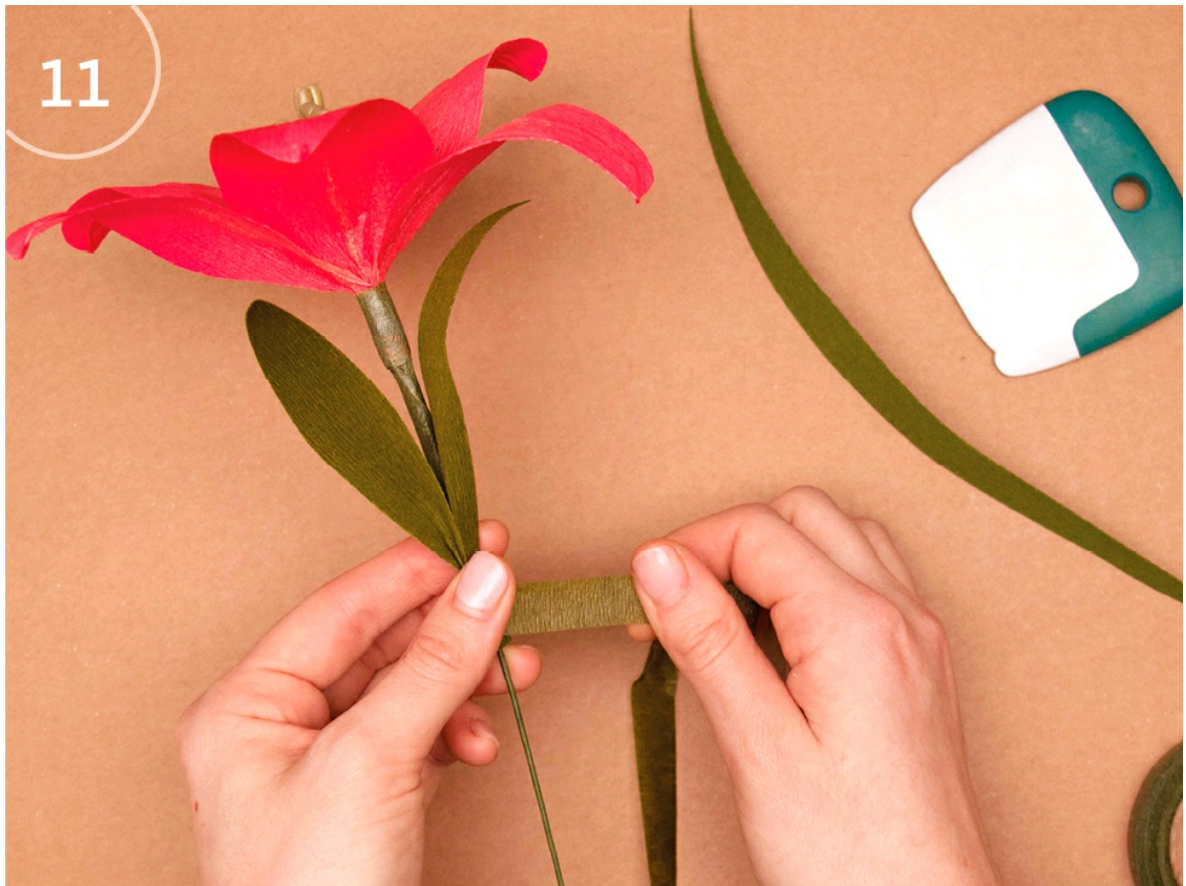
9. Arrange six petals around anthers and stigma and secure wires of petals to stem with floral tape.



10. Create dots on petals with marker.



11. Cover stem with floral tape, adding leaves along stem.







Paperwhite



The PAPERWHITE is a delicate bulb flower that cheers up the dullness of winter with its pretty, bright petals. Extra-fine crepe paper results in a translucent petal for the white cluster of blooms. Though these work well in arrangements and bouquets, my favorite way to display paperwhites is in a potted cluster, placed in a floral-foam-filled vessel covered with moss or small pebbles. As a winter bloom, these flowers can be stored in a light-proof container and reused year after year.

the paperwhite flower

The smallest version of the narcissus and cousin to the daffodil, the paperwhite bulb is considered a winter flower as it is brought indoors to bloom.

Paperwhites remind us to invoke a sense of peace into our homes during the busy holiday season.



MATERIALS

- extra-fine crepe paper in linen/white, chiffon, and juniper
- fine-point marker in yellow
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- floral tape in pine

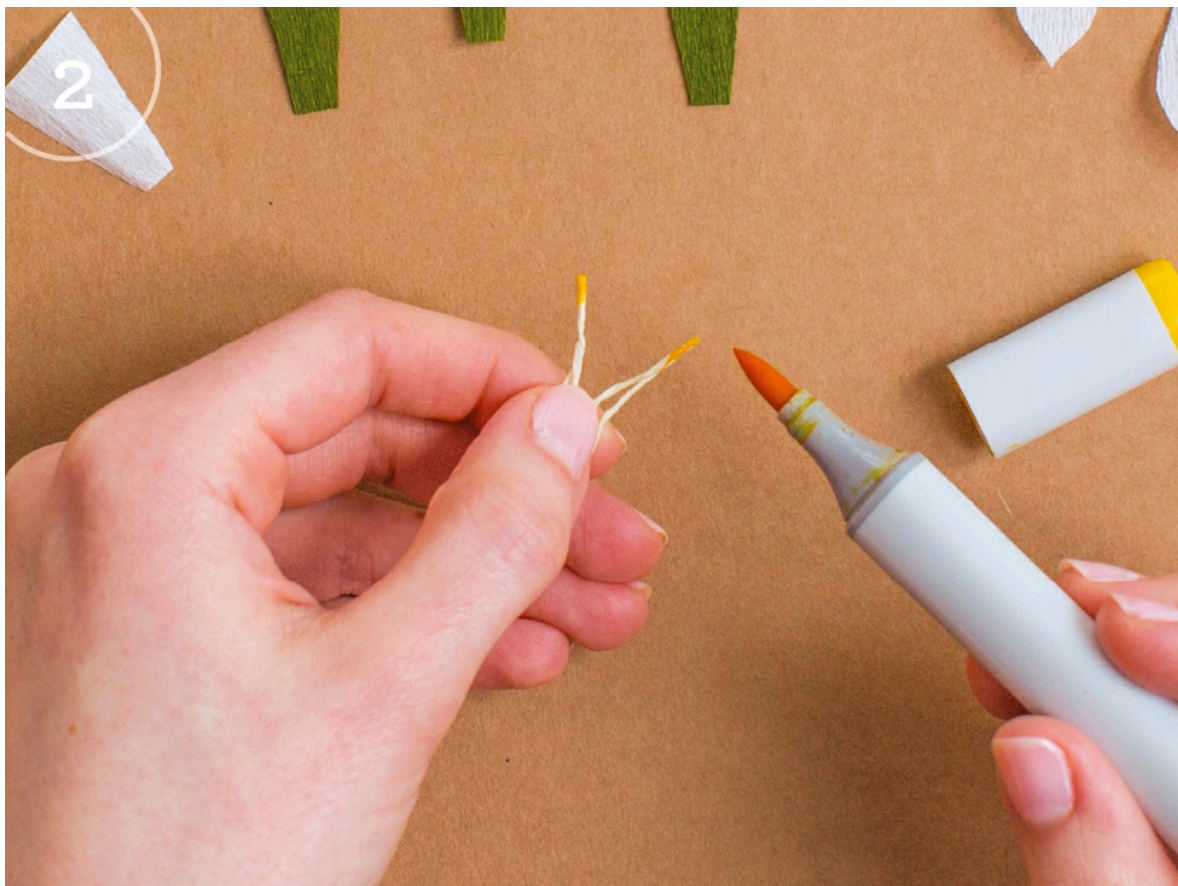
- container with floral foam
- reindeer moss

PAPERWHITE STEPS

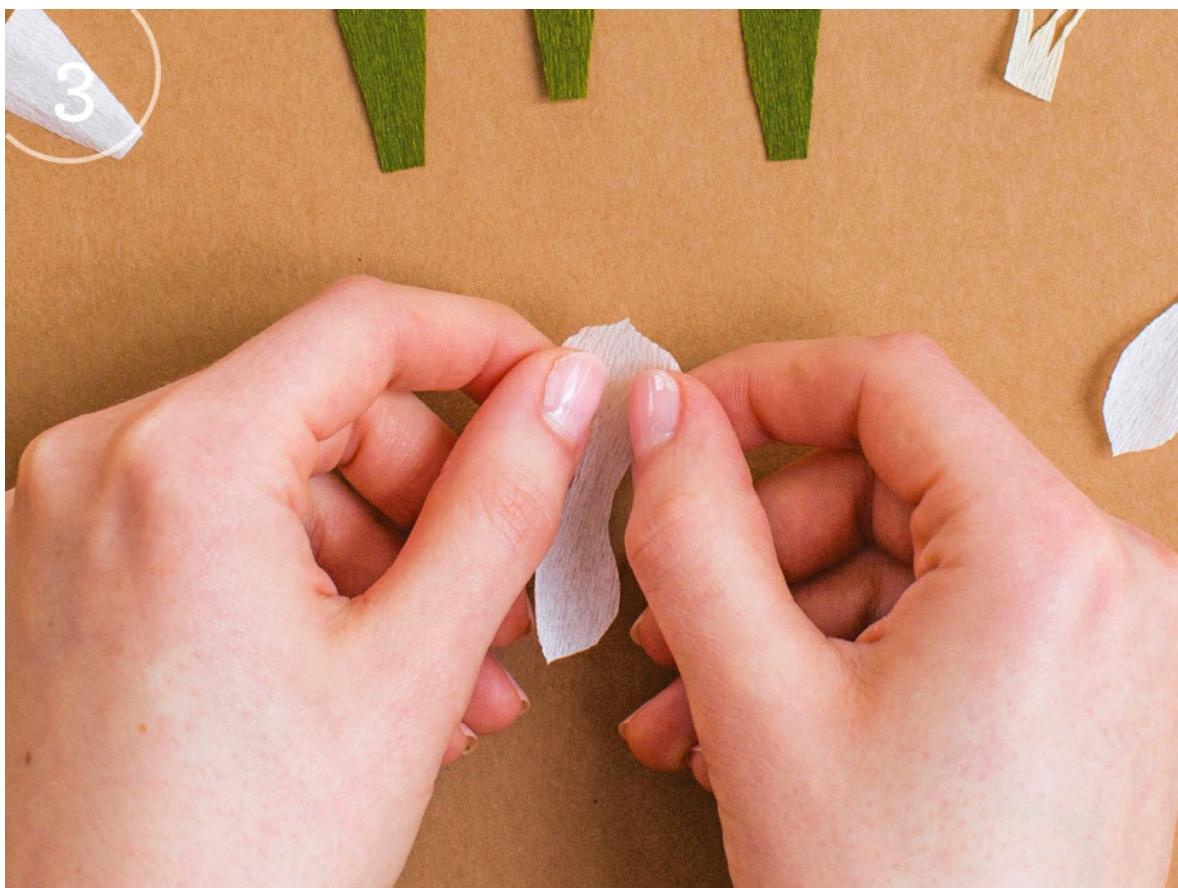
1. Cut petals, corona, stamen, and leaves out of extra-fine crepe paper, according to template notes.



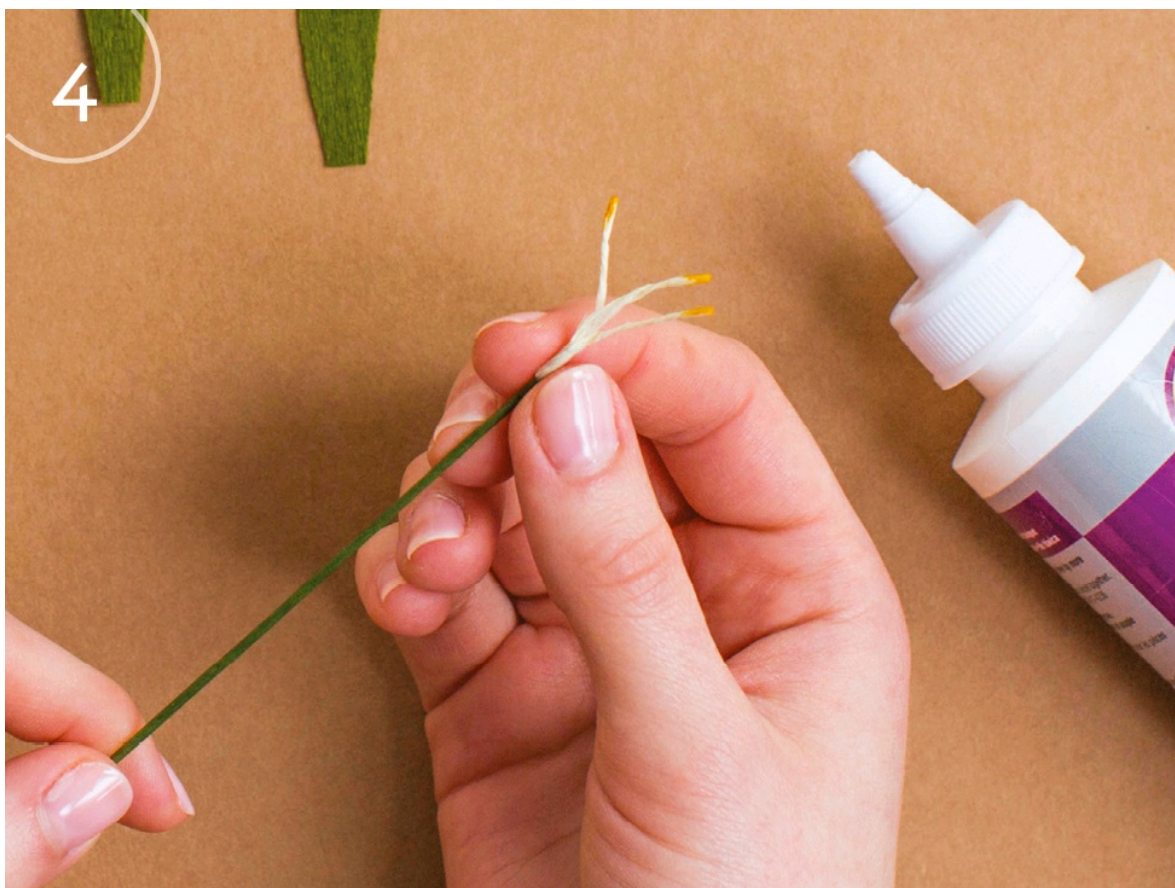
2. Cut fringe on stamen, twist each fringe, then color each tip with marker.



3. Gently form your petals by slightly stretching the centers between your fingers.



4. Wrap stamen around floral wire and glue into place using white craft glue.



5. Form cone from corona piece and glue along the edge. Slide corona onto wire and glue into place.



6. Pierce hole between first set of petals and slide to top of stem.



7. Repeat step with two additional sets to create six petals. Glue into place.



8. Cover stems with floral tape. Bundle some of the blooms in clusters of two or three and wrap stems with floral tape.



9. Glue base of leaves onto short wires. Your blooms and leaves are ready to arrange in a foam-filled flowerpot, covered with reindeer moss.







Peony



I have a lot of favorite flowers, but at the top of that list is the PEONY. This beauty comes in so many varieties of colors and forms that I could have easily designed another dozen paper versions. This pattern takes inspiration from the Coral Charm peony, which is known not only for its color but for the round cup-like petals that surround its yellow stamen. I found that heavy crepe paper is best for this flower. Its 250 percent stretch allows for a deep cup-like shape in the outer petals. This pattern also includes a large bud, and leaves that can be made from shades of green frosted text-weight or card stock paper.

the peony flower

Originating in Asia, the peony often has layers of lush petals that create an elegant, feminine bloom and grows in a range of whites, pinks, and deep reds.

The peony reminds us to act honorably, apologize for mistakes, and openly share love with others.



MATERIALS

- heavy crepe paper in blush, pink hibiscus, honeysuckle, nectarine, and juniper

- frosted text-weight paper in botanic and fairway
- craft paint in bright yellow
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- 1-inch foam balls
- floral tape in pine

PEONY STEPS

1. Cut petals, buds, stamen, sepals, and leaves out of heavy crepe paper, according to template notes. Cut leaves out of frosted text-weight paper.



2. Fringe stamen with detail scissors, twist each fringe, then dip each the tip of each fringe into the craft paint. Let dry.



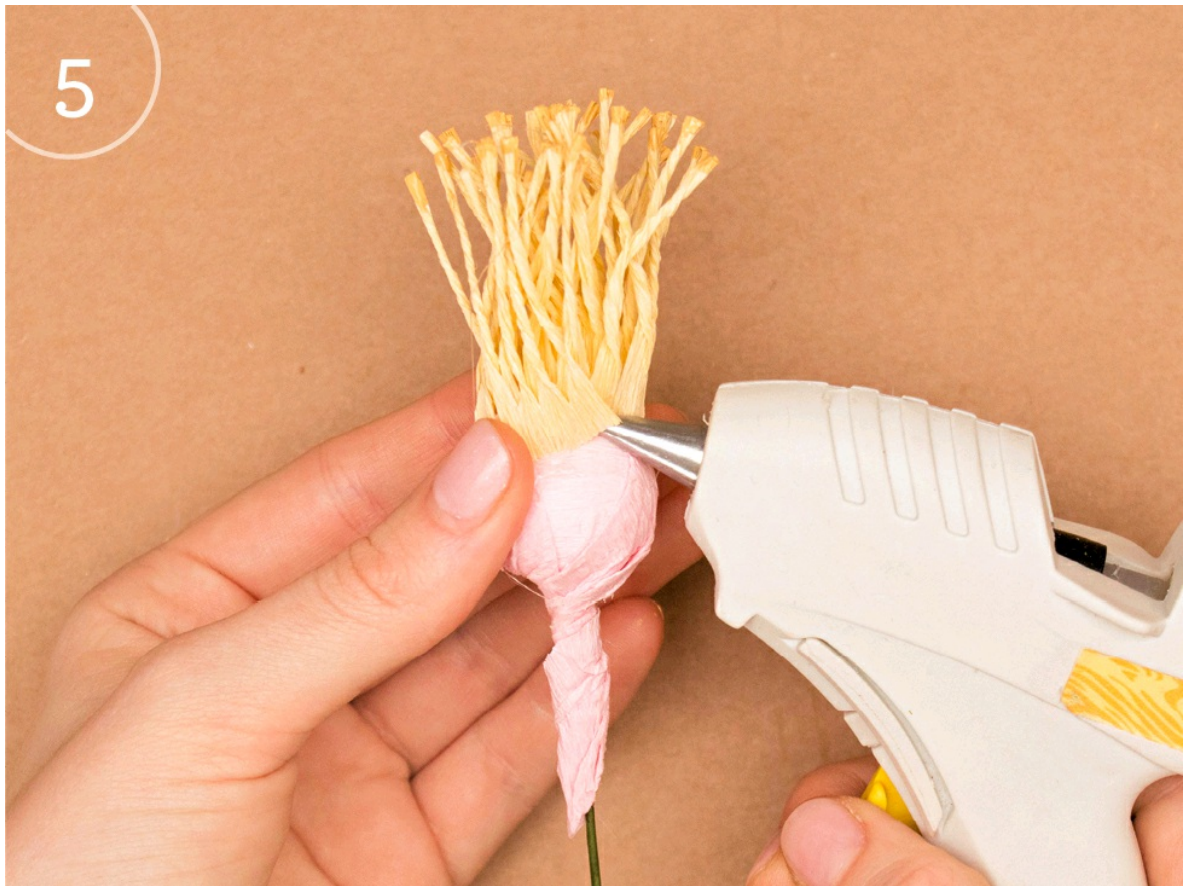
3. Bend top of floral wire with needle-nose pliers. Insert wire into foam ball and glue into place. Wrap ball with oval crepe paper center and glue into place. Repeat process to make a second ball.



4. For bud, glue three bud petals in rotation around one ball.



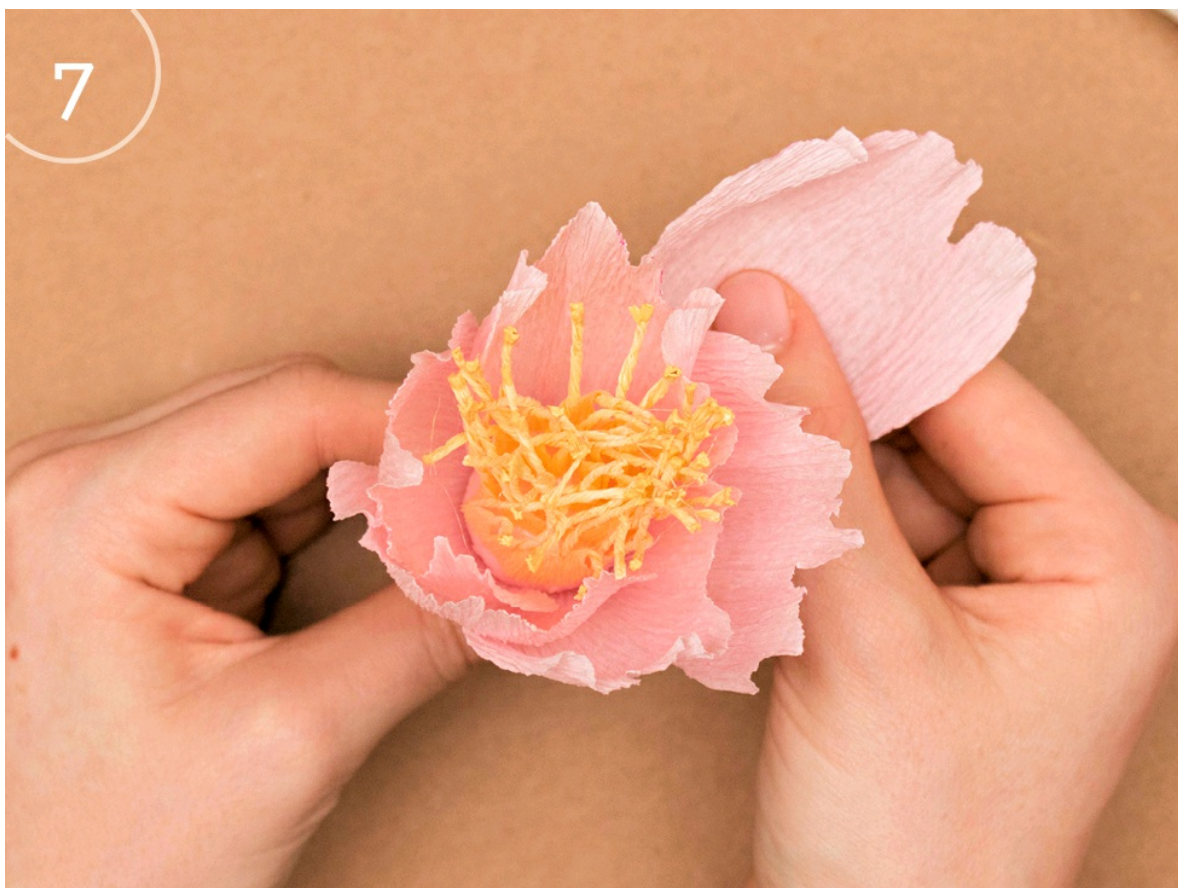
5. For flower, glue stamen into spiral on top of second covered ball.



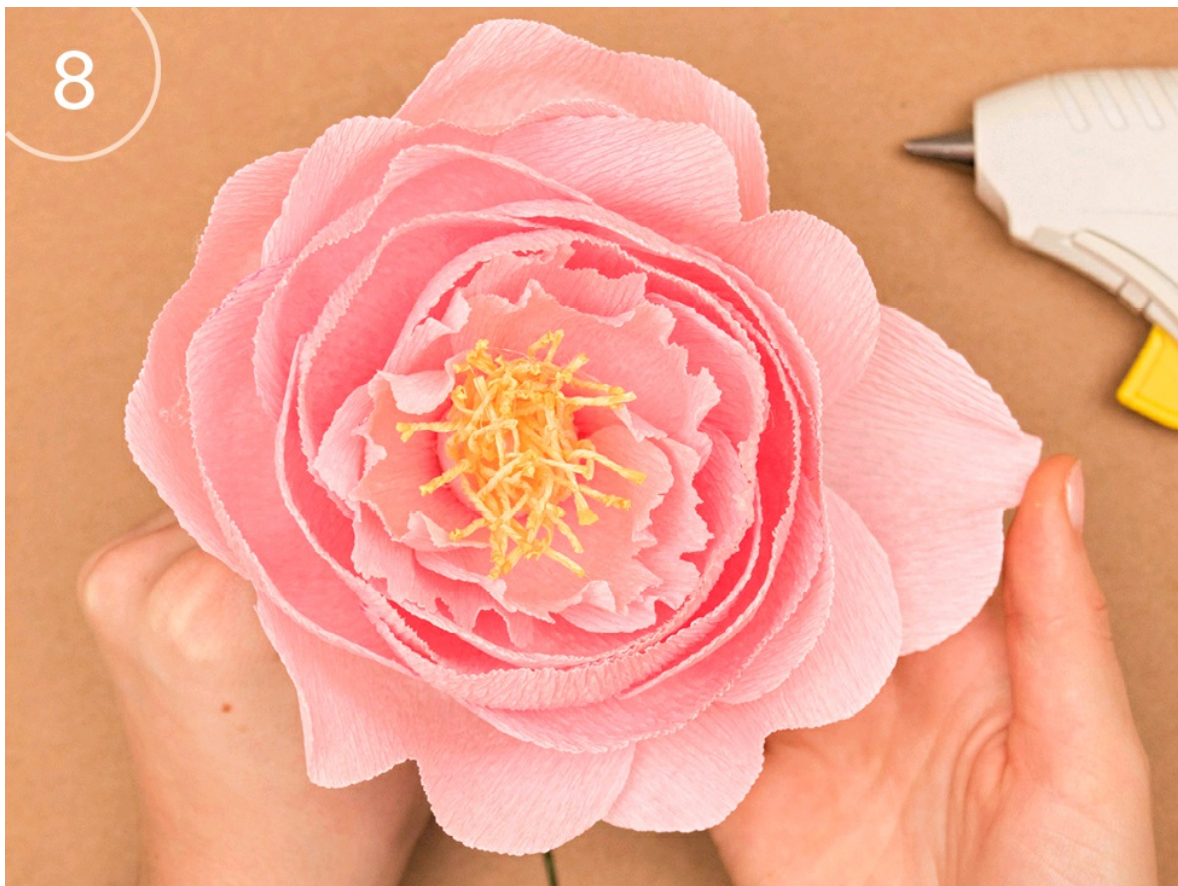
6. Gently shape all petals by stretching each center to form a deep cup. Ruffle edges of smaller petals by stretching.



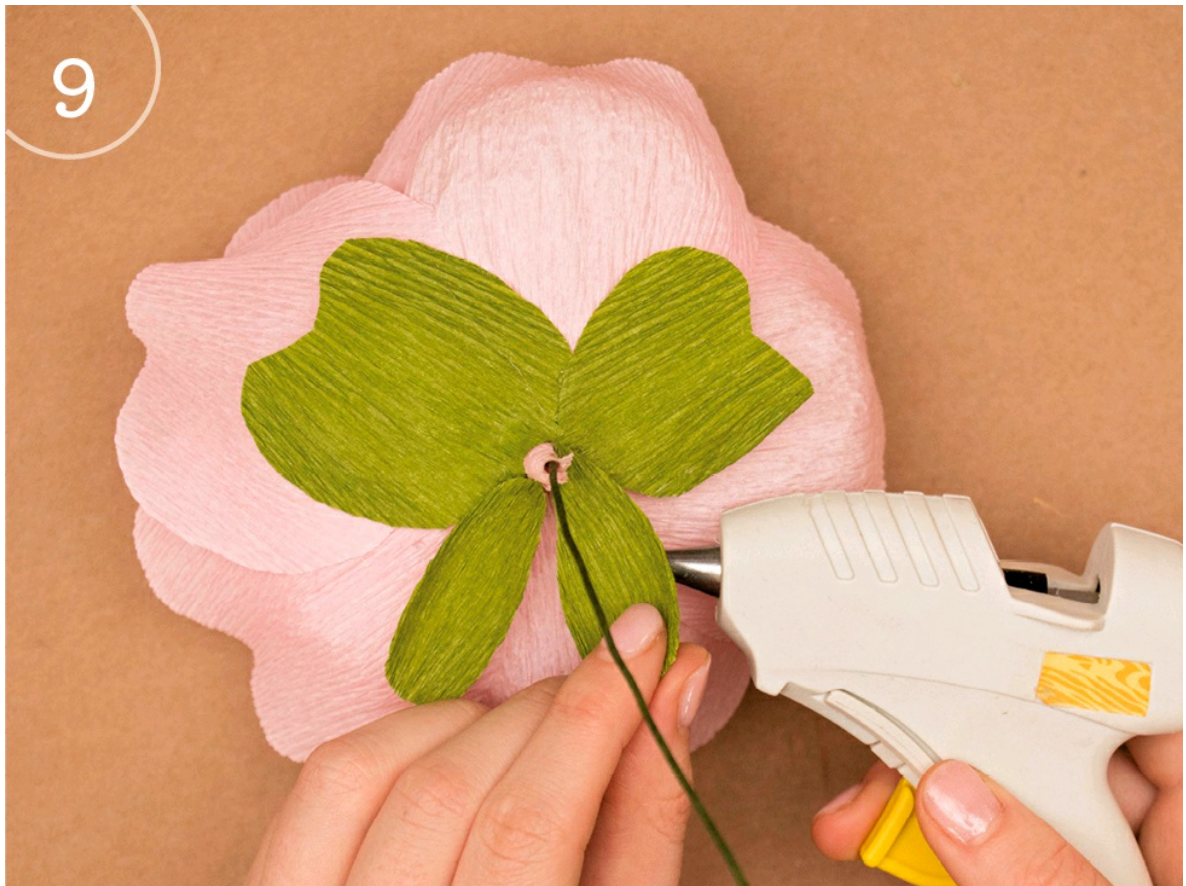
7. Glue petal 1 in rotation around base of flower.



8. Glue petal 2 in rotation around base of flower.



9. Glue sepals onto base of finished bloom.



10. Add sepal around bud. Glue leaves made from frosted text-weight paper to wire. Finish by covering all stems with floral tape.







Poppy



This large POPPY represents the Icelandic version. Extra-fine crepe paper renders the translucent, tissue-like petals nicely. We love the color combination of a deep orange with shades of pink. Since poppies are a large flower, they make for both a gorgeous arrangement as a cluster of blooms or a single flower in a vase. Poppy leaves grow low to the ground, but adding a bit of greenery into your arrangement creates more depth. Our poppy leaf is made from a frosted green paper that you can cut from text-weight or card stock paper.

the poppy flower

Icelandic poppies are a highly prized cut flower known for their use in upscale designs. They grow in a variety of pinks, corals, oranges, yellows, and whites.

The poppy reminds us to get good sleep, allow ourselves to dream, and step back into the world each morning with a refreshed and inspired approach.



MATERIALS

- extra-fine crepe paper in blush, coral, honeysuckle, poppy, cypress, and fern

- frosted text-weight paper in lime
- frosted card stock paper in sage green
- 1-inch foam balls
- 18- and 24-gauge green floral wire
- floral tape in pine
- fine-point marker in orange

POPPY STEPS

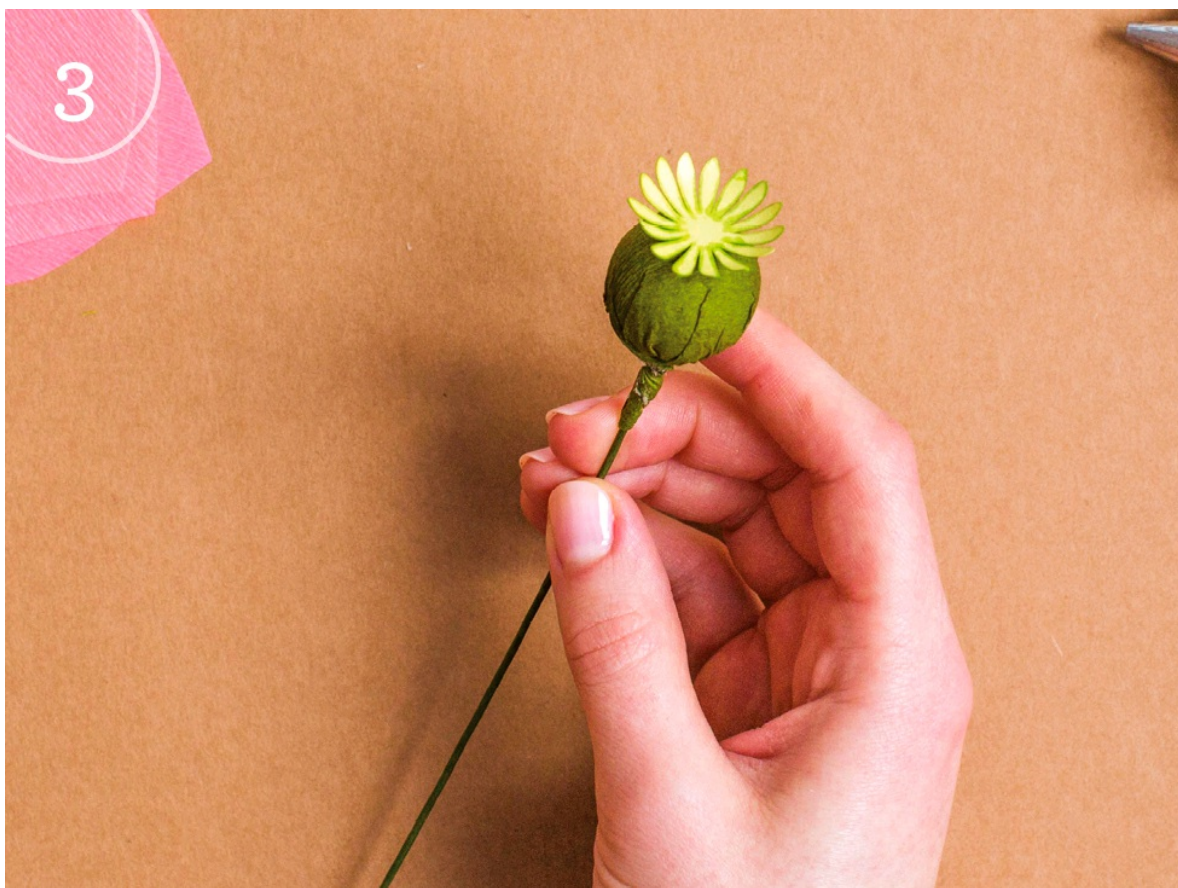
1. Cut petals, stamen, and center from extra-fine crepe paper and leaf and stigma from frosted card stock, according to template notes.



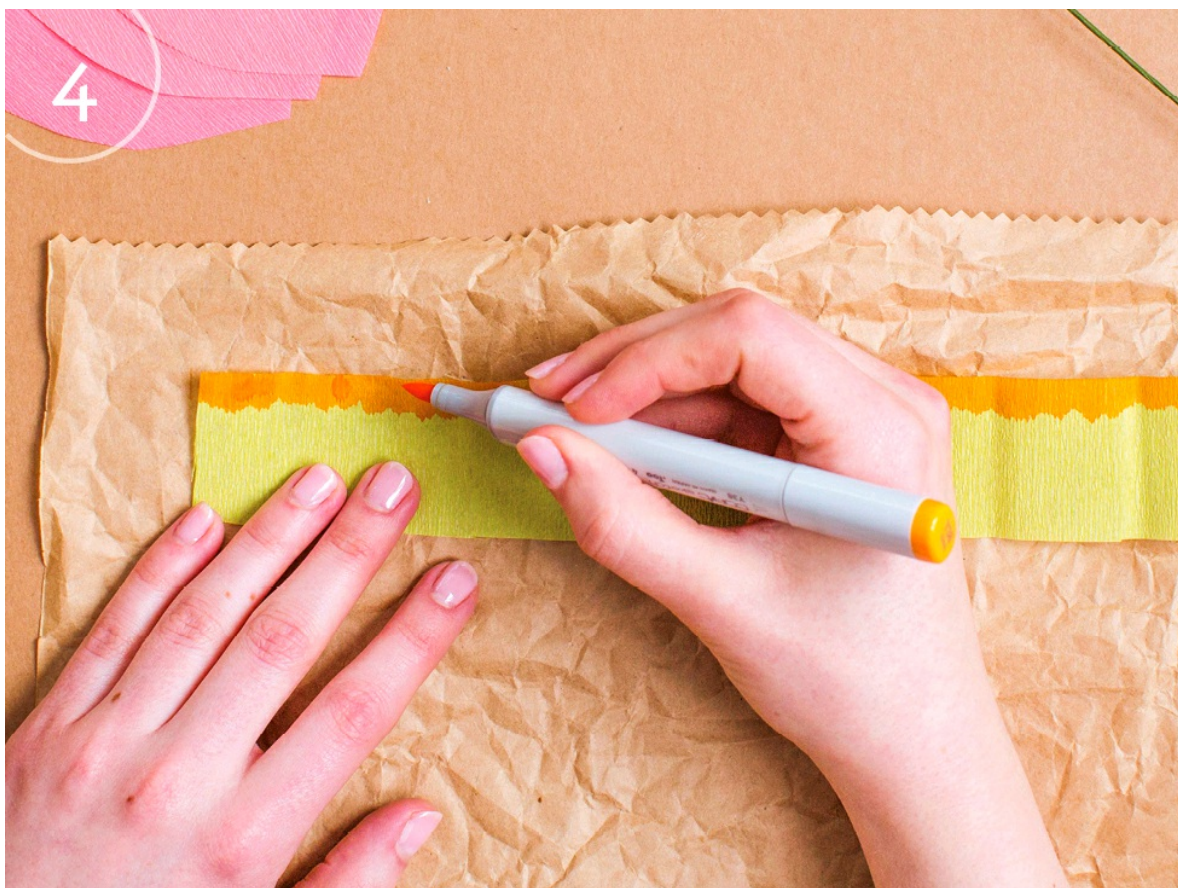
2. Bend top of floral wire with needlenose pliers. Insert wire into foam ball and hot glue into place. Cover ball with green oval-shaped piece of crepe paper and glue into place. Repeat with second ball.



3. For poppy pod, using curling tool to shape stigma into a cup form and glue stigma on top of green ball. Finish by wrapping stem with floral tape.



4. Color a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch line along the top of the stamen with orange marker.



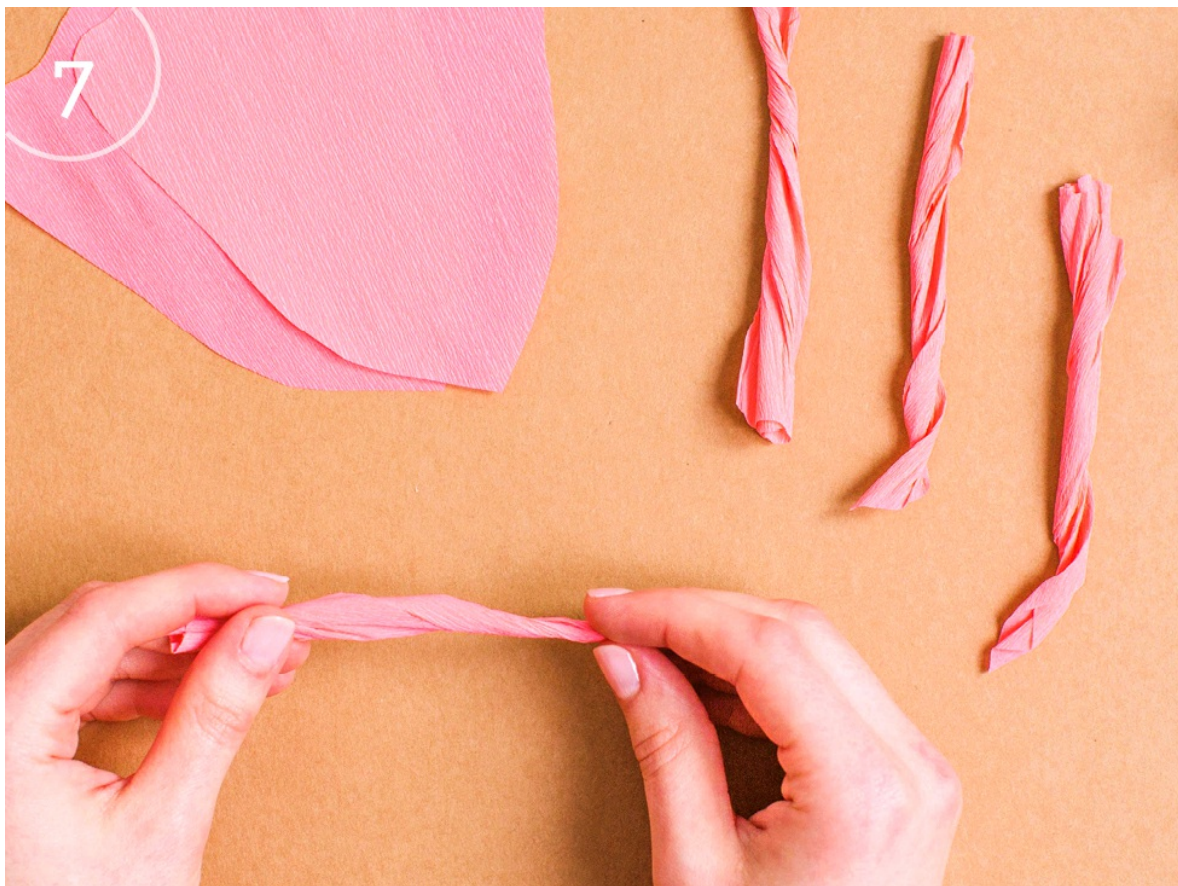
5. Fringe stamen with detail scissors. Twist fringe.



6. For poppy flower, glue cup-shaped stigma to top of second green ball, then glue fringed stamen at base of ball.



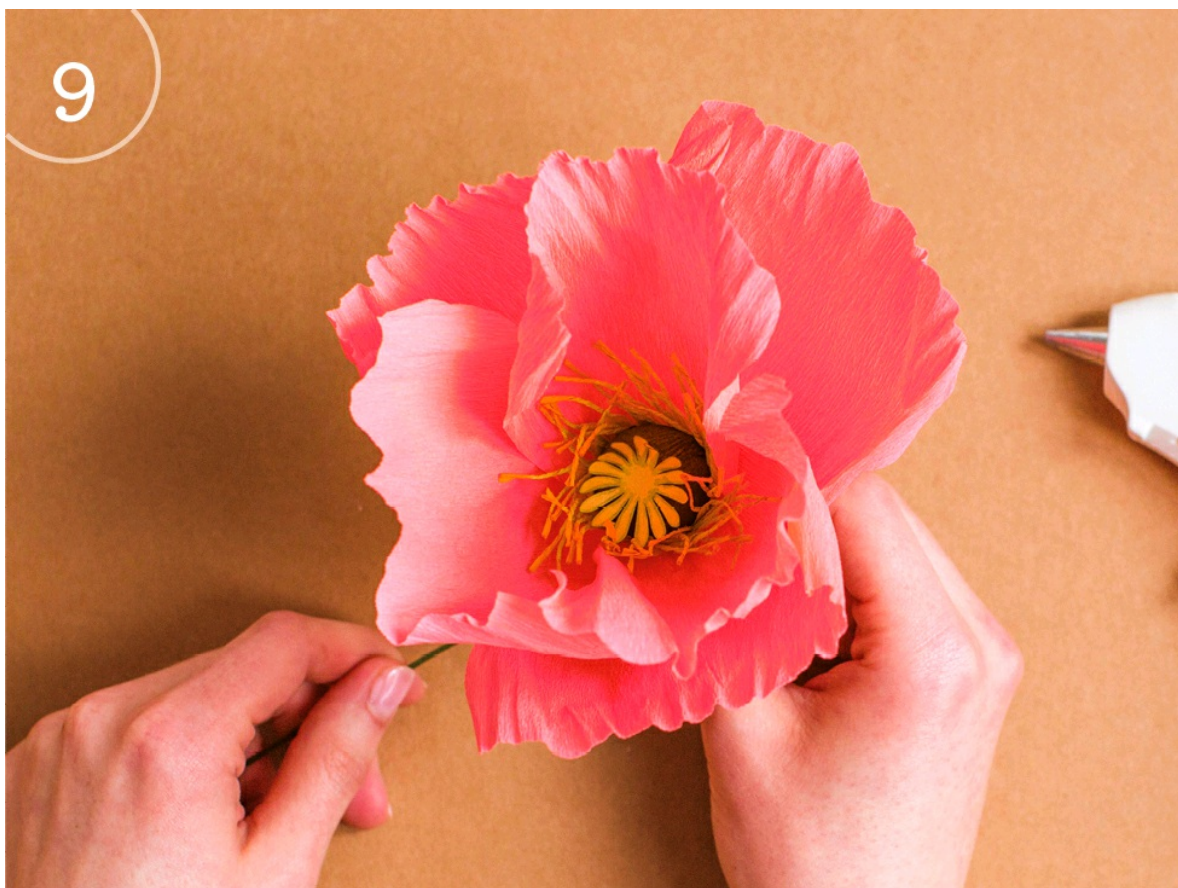
7. Twist petal pieces in direction of crepe paper lines.



8. Untwist all petals, and glue three petals at base of center.



9. Glue final three petals under first set.



10. Wrap stem with floral tape. Glue leaf onto wire and wrap stem with more tape.

10





Ranunculus



A mix of pastel and bright colors is exactly what I reached for when I started making this crepe paper RANUNCULUS bouquet. Extra-fine crepe paper has the perfect amount of stretch to form the rounded shape of the rose-like petals. Though I made this set for beginners, you can add as many petals as you like to create a more detailed bloom.

The leaves on the real flowers grow toward the bottom of the stem. In my flower shop, we trim them off completely and use other greenery in our arrangements. For this bouquet, I created a basic leaf and a frosted ranunculus leaf for variety.

Ranunculus come in many hues, adding a happy pop of color to any event or party.

the ranunculus flower

Grown in a variety of pinks, corals, oranges, yellows, and whites, the ranunculus has become a go-to bloom for wedding bouquets. The flower originated in Persia and is a cousin to the buttercup.

The ranunculus reminds us to elevate our surroundings with genuine charm and grace.



MATERIALS

- extra-fine crepe paper in mango, poppy, camellia, honeysuckle, coral, blush, vanilla, fern, and cypress
- frosted text-weight paper in fairway and botanic
- ¾-inch foam balls
- 18- and 24-gauge green floral wire
- floral tape in fern

RANUNCULUS STEPS

1. Cut petals, center, sepals, and leaves from extra-fine crepe paper and alternative leaf from frosted text-weight paper, according to template notes.

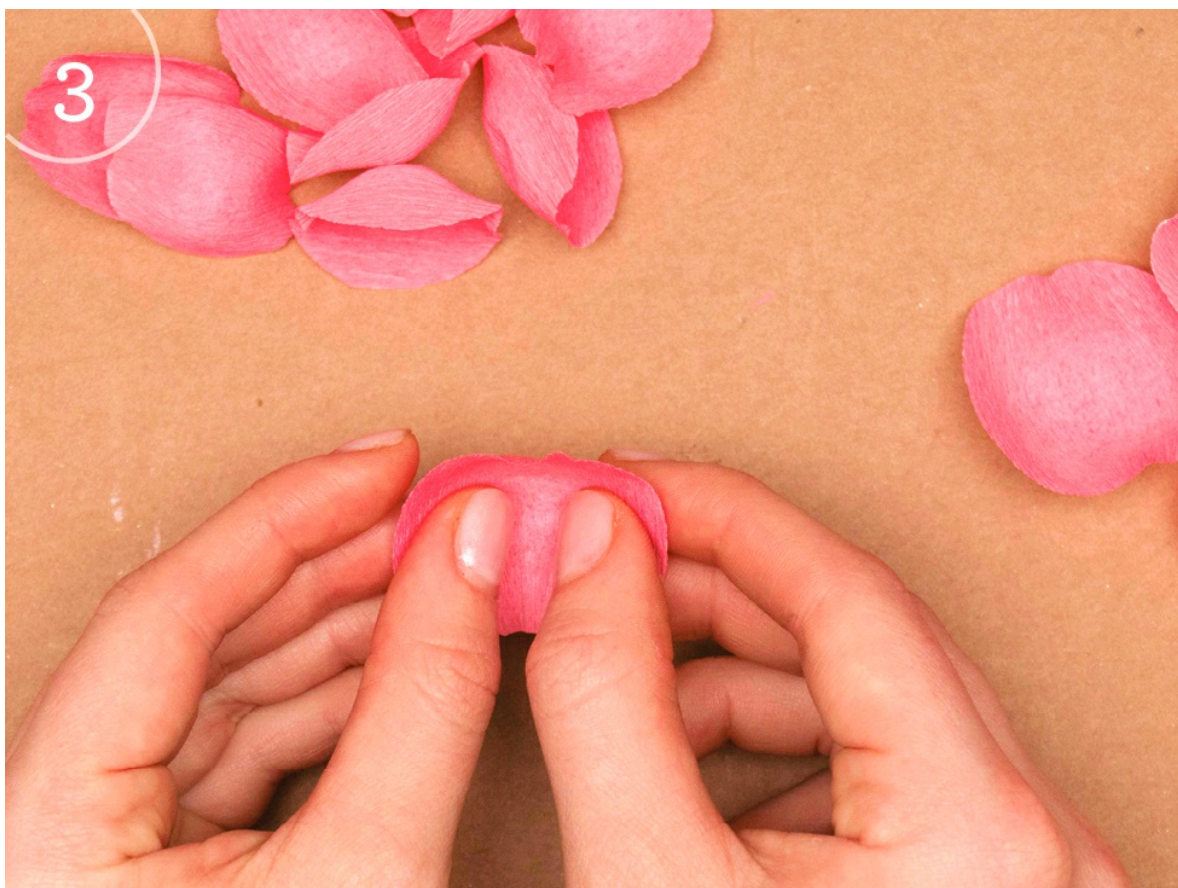


2. Bend top of floral wire with needle-nose pliers. Insert wire into

foam ball and glue into place. Cover ball with oval center piece.
Glue into place.



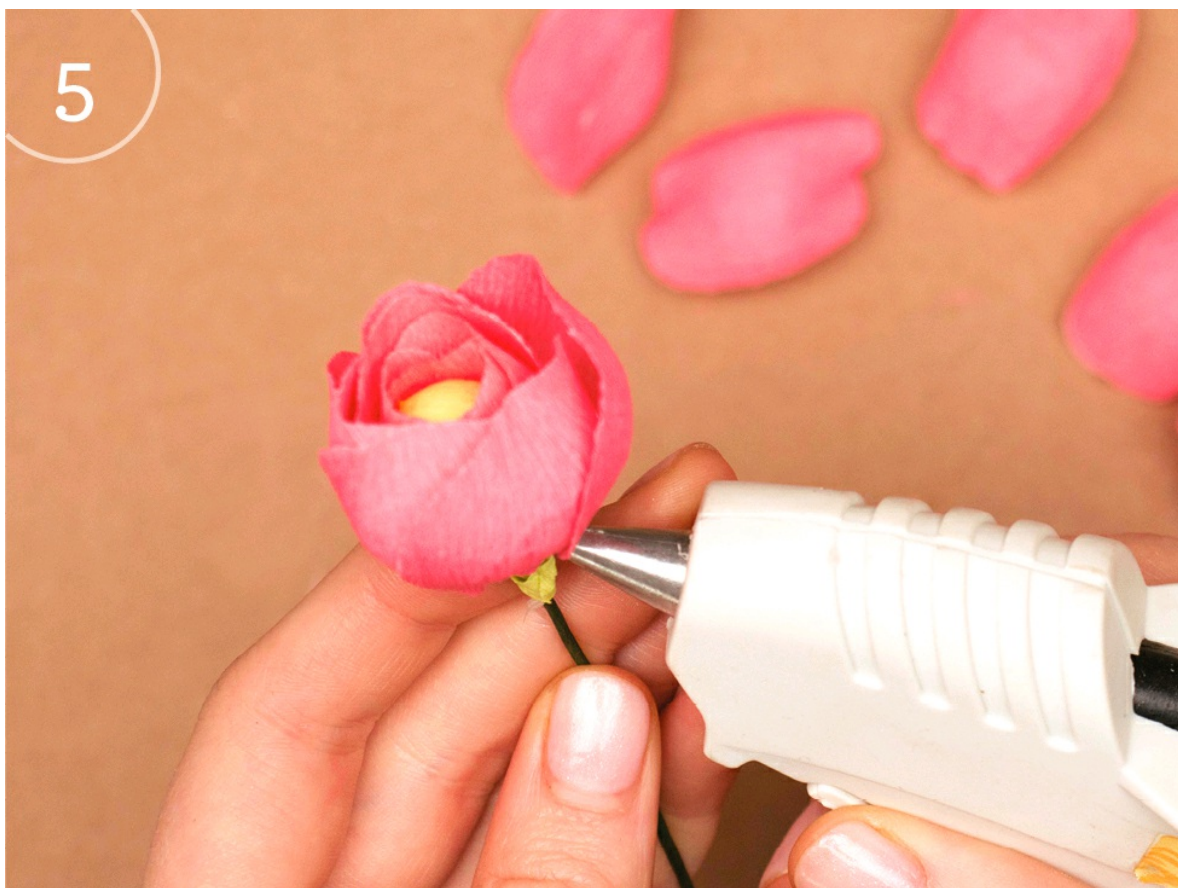
3. Gently form your petals by slightly stretching the center between your fingers on all petals to form deep cups.



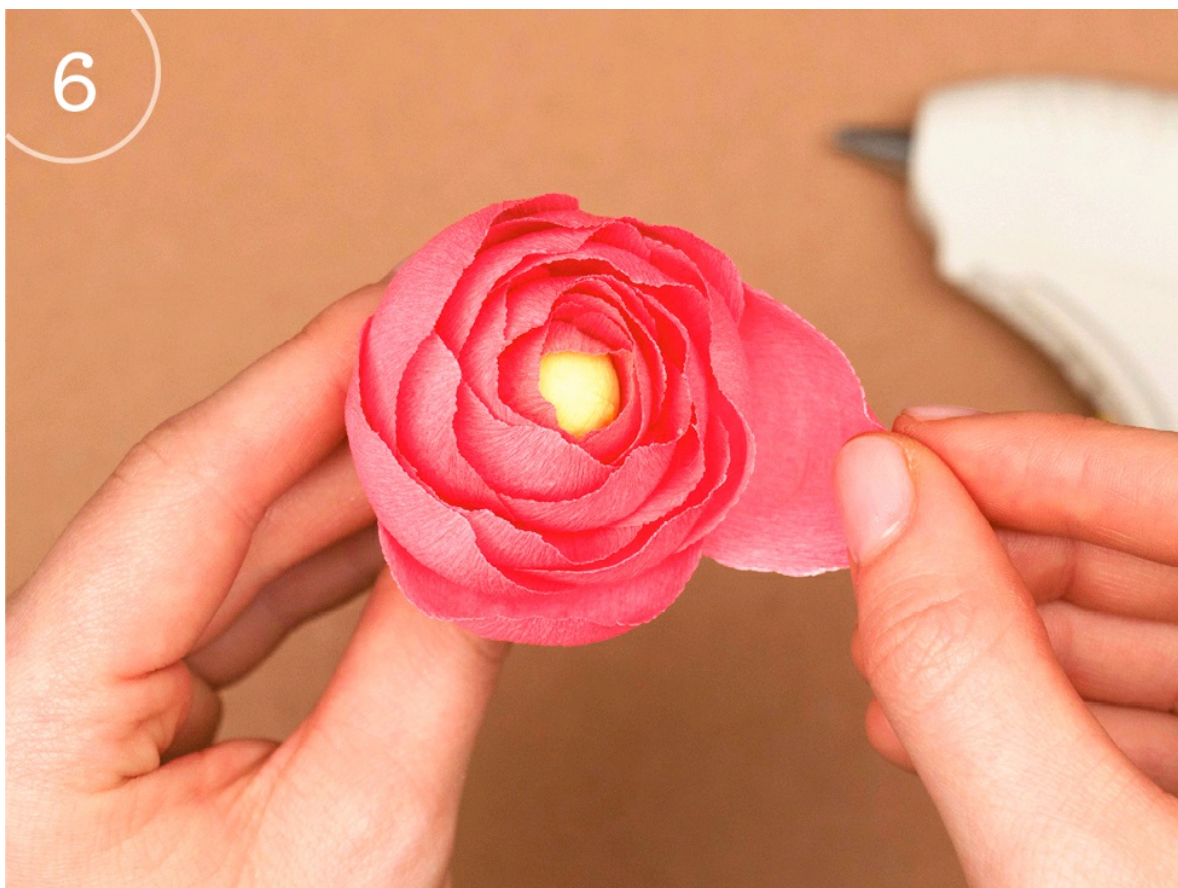
4. Starting with petal 1, glue around center in rotation.



5. Glue petal 2 around center in rotation.



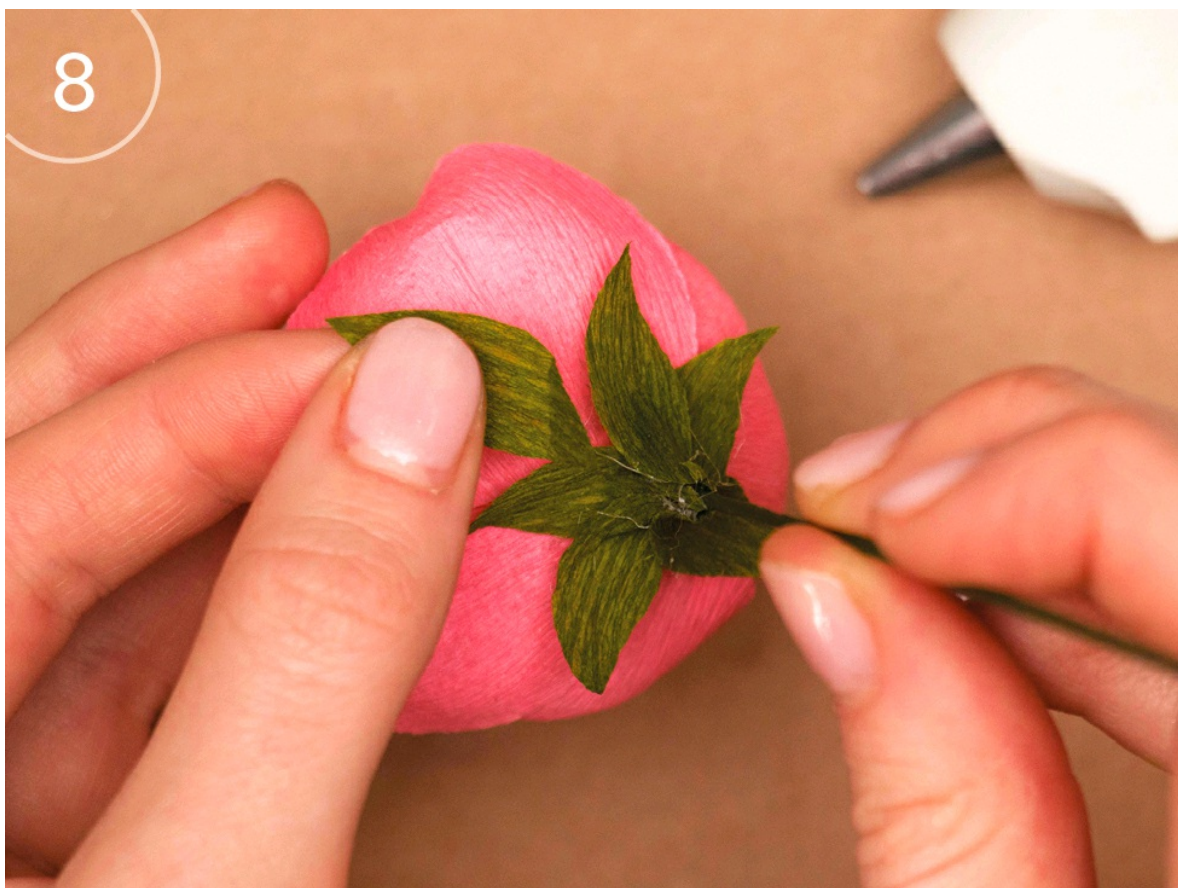
6. Finish bloom by gluing petal 3 around base in rotation.



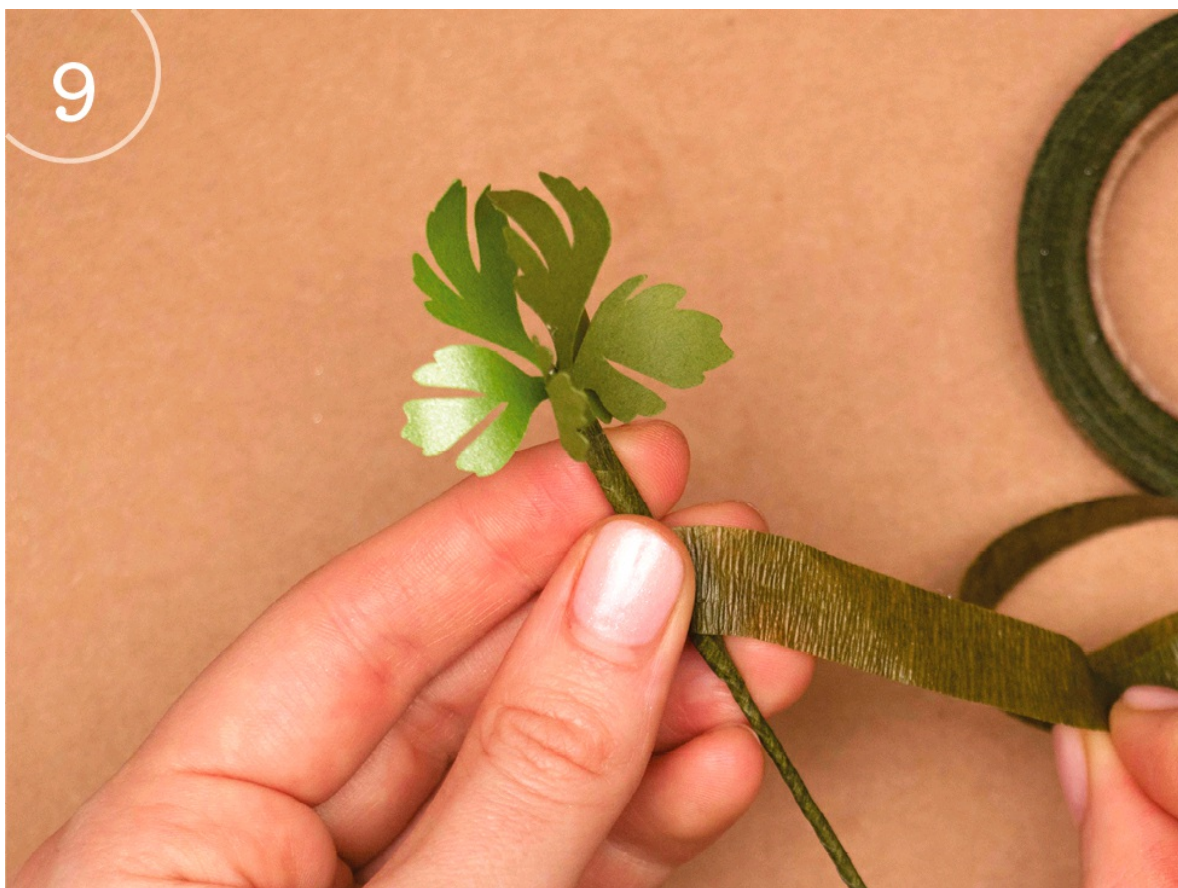
7. Shape sepals with curling tool.



8. Glue sepals onto back of bloom.



9. Glue leaf to floral wire stem and cover stem with floral tape.



10. Finish by covering stem of bloom with floral tape.







Rose



Nothing beats the beauty of the classic ROSE. This version can be arranged in a cluster for a breathtaking bouquet, but a single stem will also hold court on your countertop in a vase all by itself. Though you can use either extra-fine or heavy crepe paper, the velvety texture and subtle color variation of the double-sided paper make it my choice for this flower. Double-sided crepe paper curls so beautifully, giving paper roses a realistic finish. The pattern allows you to create four stages of the rose, from bud to full bloom, and is accompanied by a double-sided rose leaf.

the rose

There are more than one hundred species of roses, and as many varieties of colors and shades. The petals can be bicolored or tricolored, which adds to the variations.

The rose is a universal symbol for affection and beauty and reminds us that all we need is love!



MATERIALS

- double-sided crepe paper in honeysuckle/coral, light rose/apricot, and fern/moss

- ¾-inch foam balls
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- floral tape in pine
- 24-gauge green floral wire

ROSE STEPS

1. Cut petals, sepals, and leaves out of double-sided crepe paper, according to template notes.



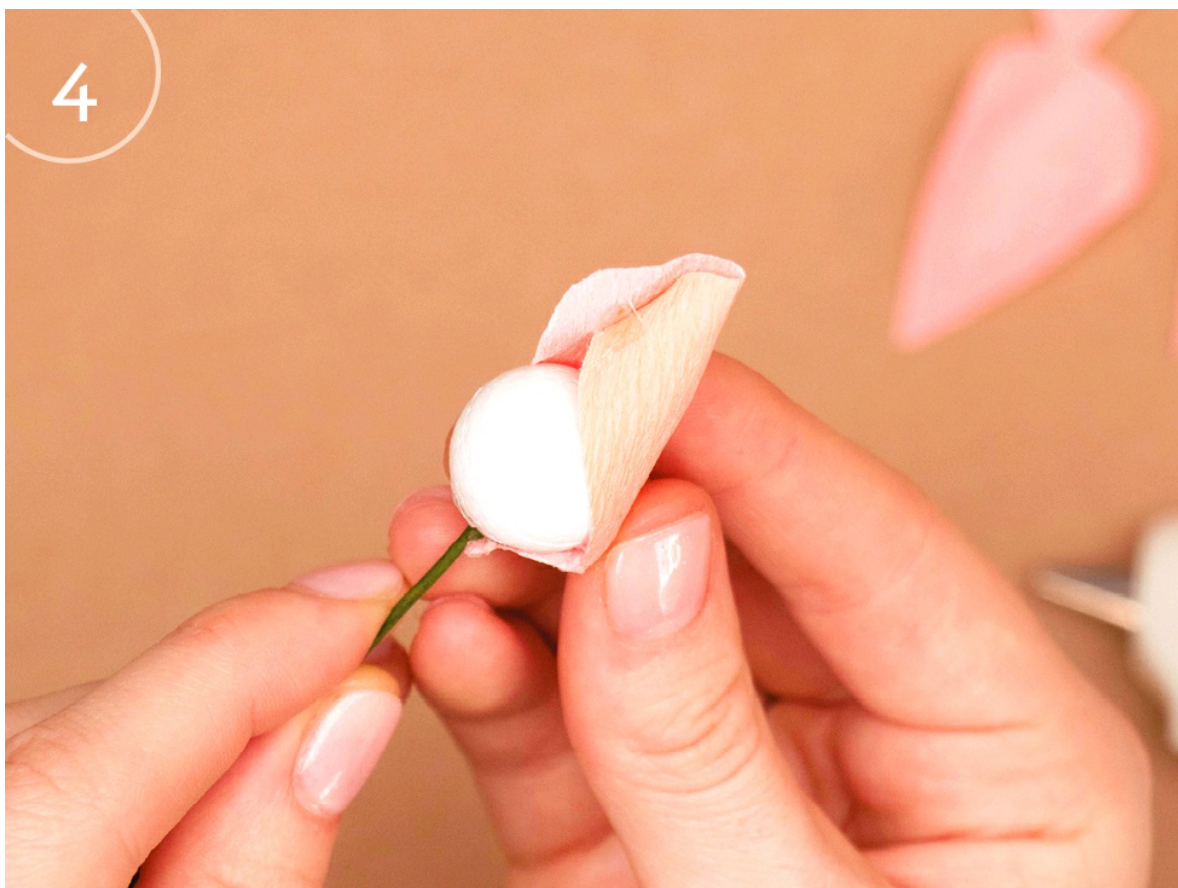
2. Gently form your petals into a cup shape by slightly stretching the centers between your fingers.



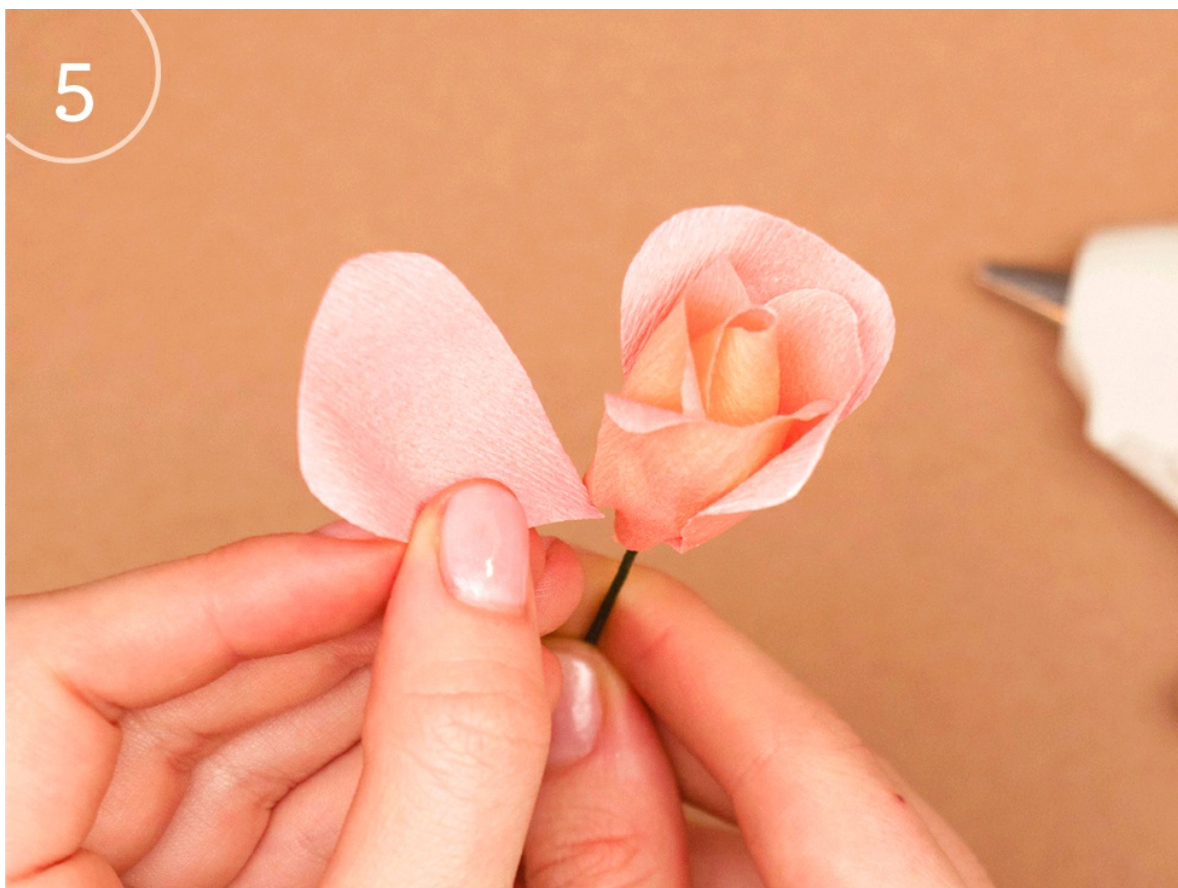
3. With curling tool, shape top two corners of all petals.



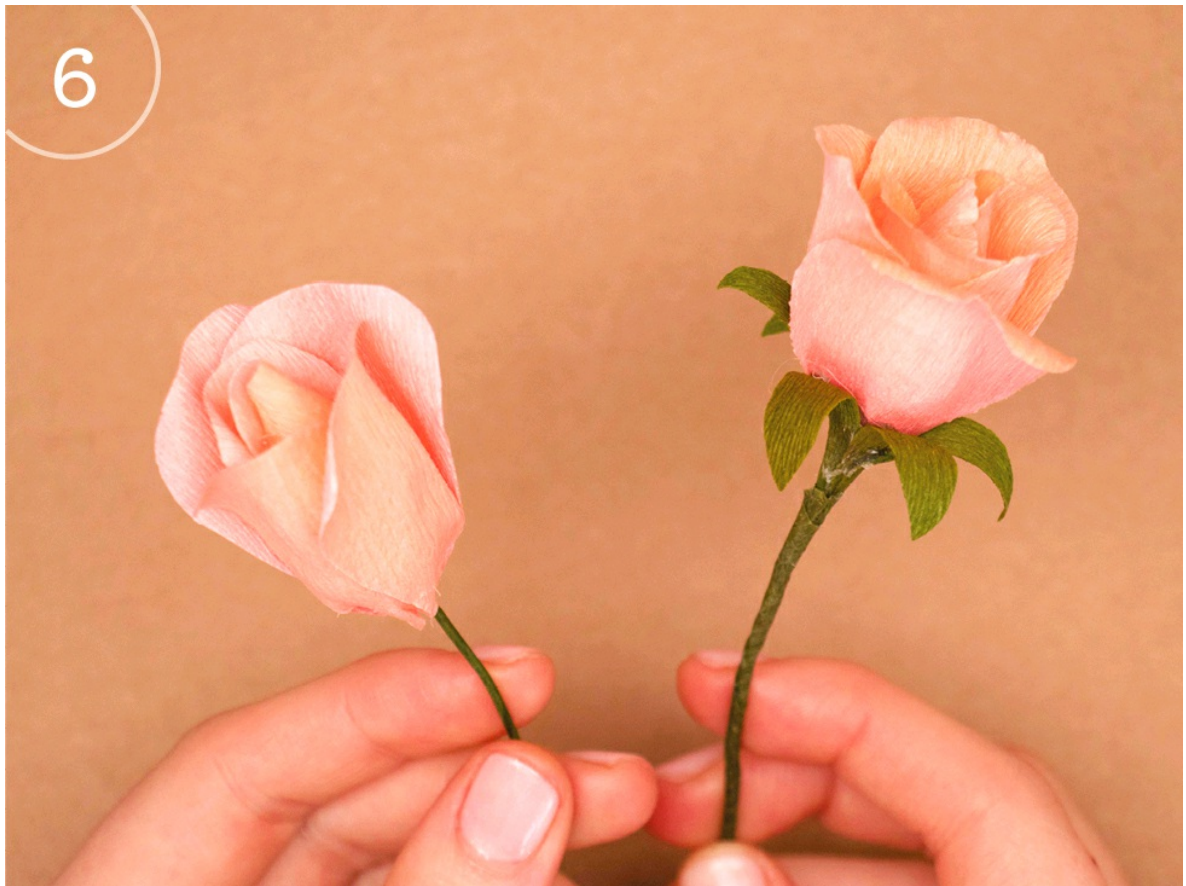
4. Glue 18-gauge floral wire stem onto foam ball. Start center of rose by shaping the first petal 1 into a point.



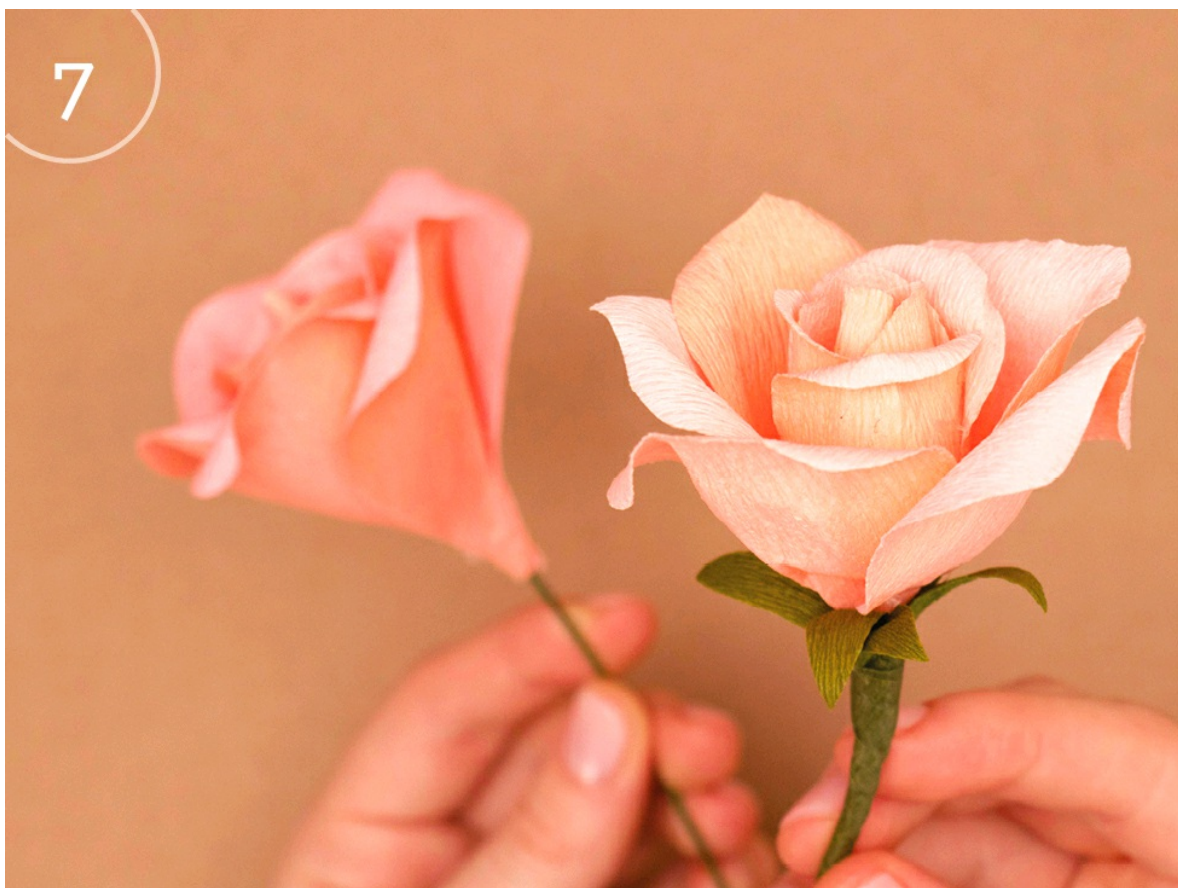
5. Glue remaining petal 1 pieces in rotation to cover ball.



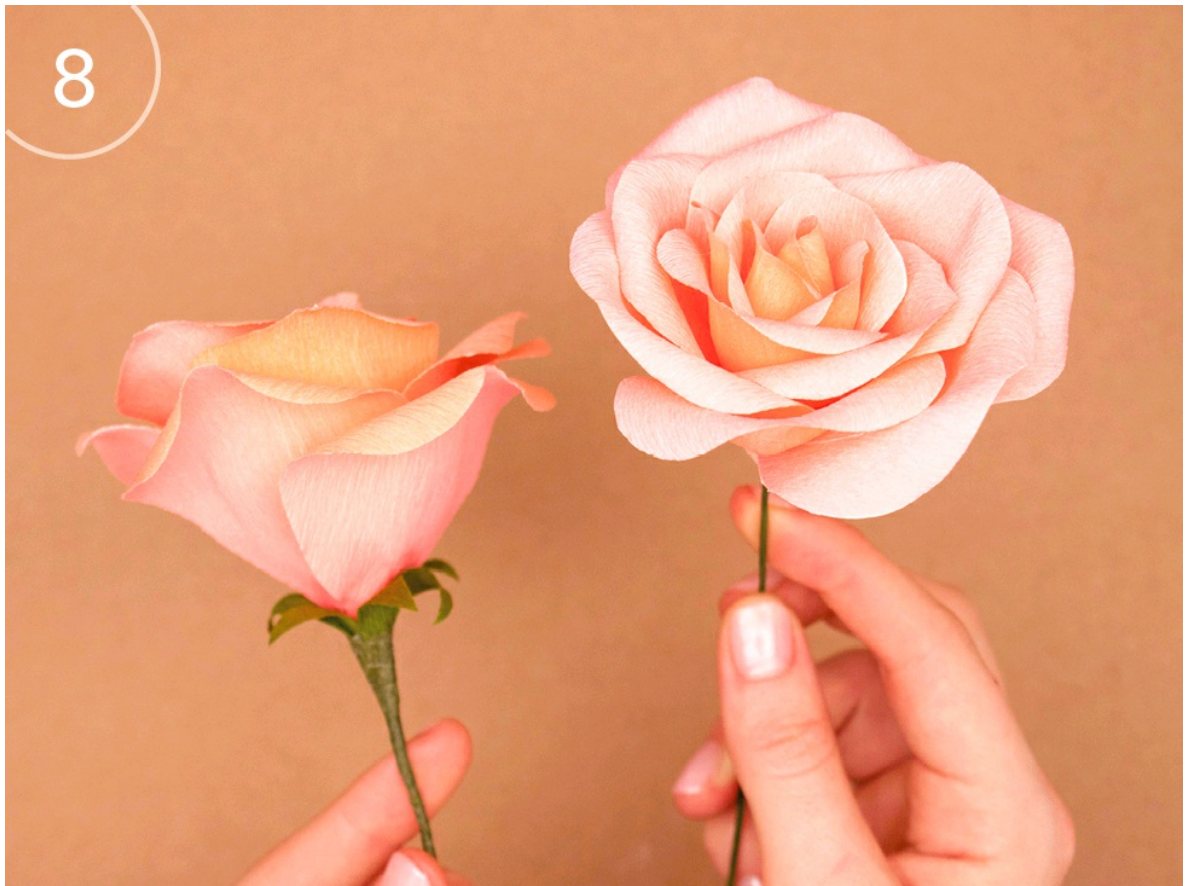
6. For small bud, at this point add sepals and floral tape to stem.



7. For next size, add set of petal 2 pieces, then add sepals and floral tape to stem.



8. For third size, add set of petal 3 pieces, then add sepals and floral tape to stem.



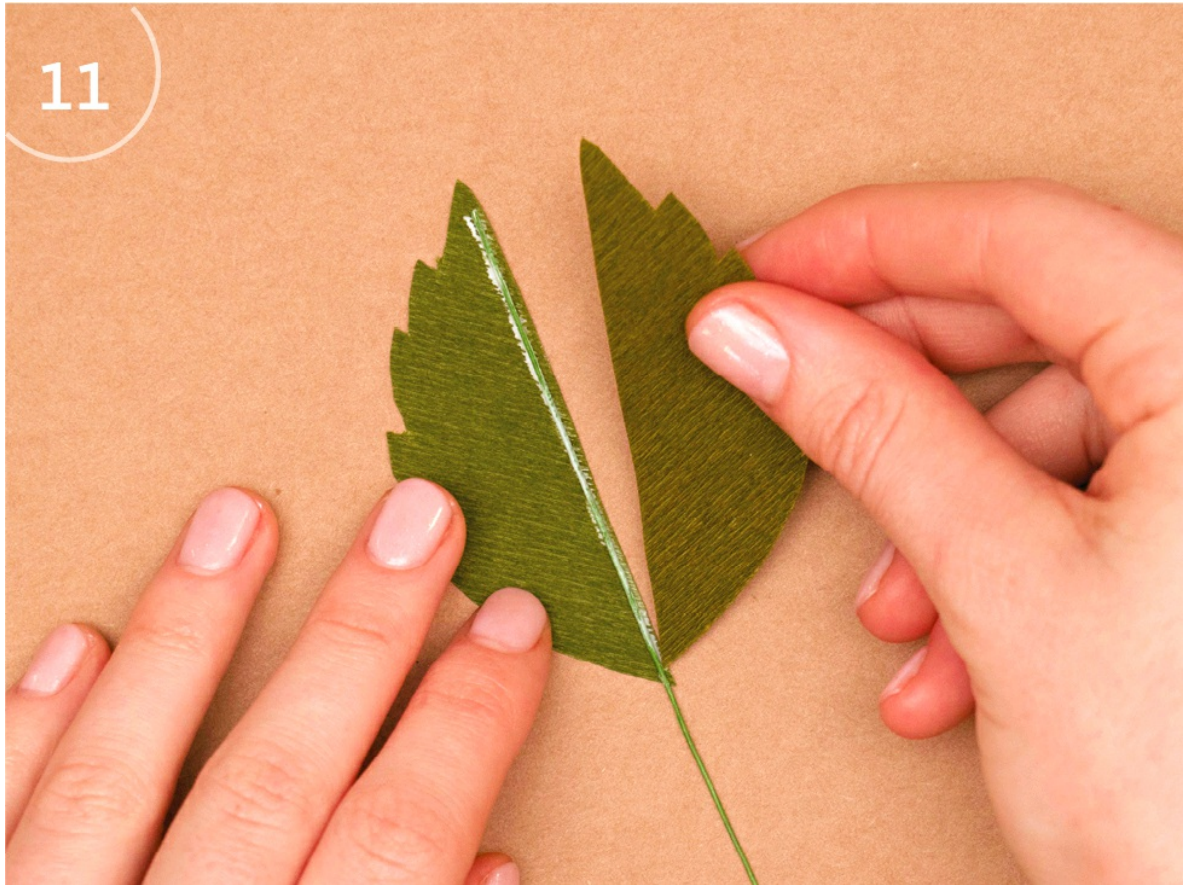
9. For large rose, really curl edges of petal 4 pieces by coaxing them with your fingers. Glue onto base of rose.



10. Glue sepal pieces onto back of flowers along wire.

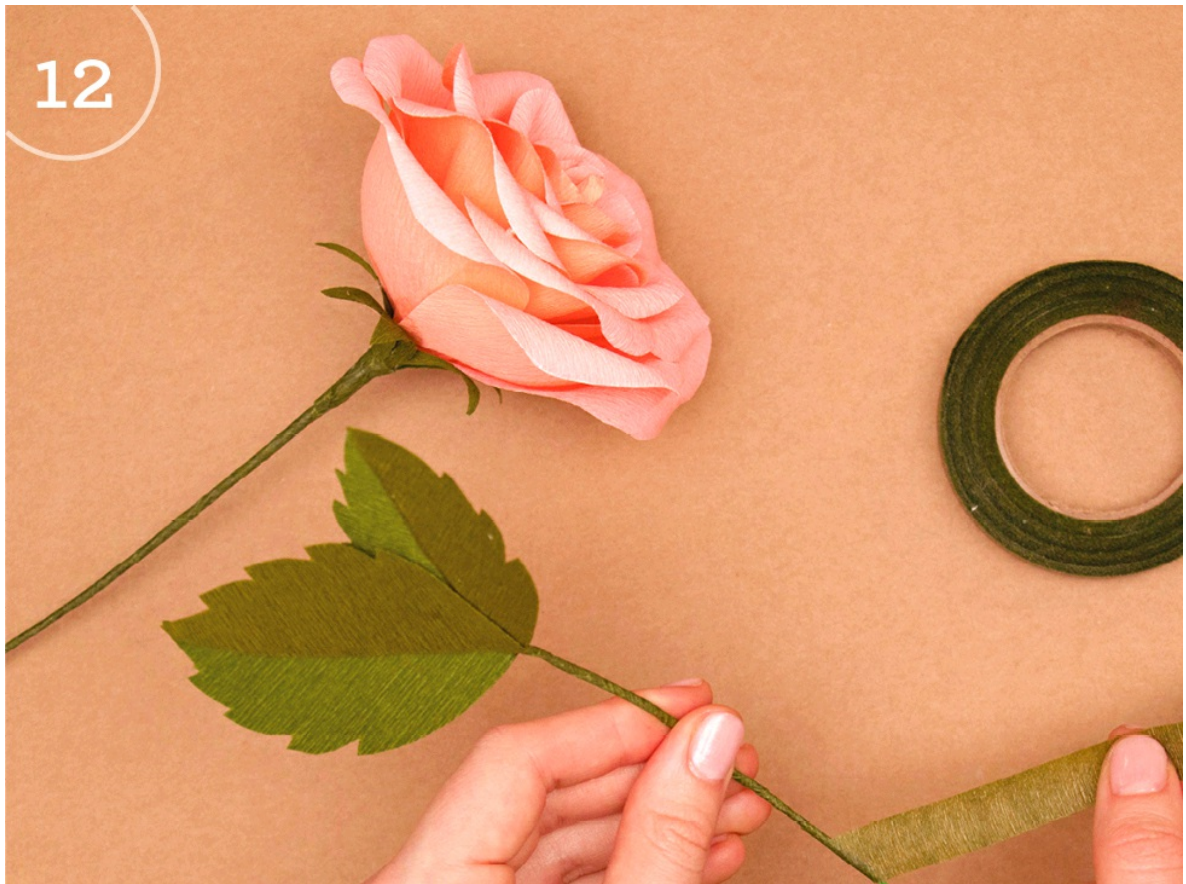


11. Dip 24-gauge floral wire into white craft glue and place onto edge of smaller leaf half. Place second half of leaf over wire. Let dry. Repeat process with larger leaf halves.



12. Place both sizes of leaves together and wrap stems with floral tape. Finish large rose stem by wrapping with floral tape.

12







Sunflower



Though the SUNFLOWER is a simple flower to make, the detail of the centers will take some time to cut and prepare. These large blooms make such a colorful statement. Just a few of them offer so much visual intrigue. Made from heavy crepe paper in a variety of yellows, oranges, and greens, these blossoms will do wonders for your fall decor. Store them carefully and you can use them year after year.

the sunflower

Most sunflowers come in shades of yellow and orange, but some also blossom in deep reds and purples. They are easy to grow and have a long life span, lasting throughout the hot summer.

The sunflower reminds us to stand tall and to follow our dreams. Focus on what is positive in your life.



MATERIALS

- heavy crepe paper in nectarine, poppy, tangerine, mango, pear, juniper, and chiffon
- PanPastel pigments in magenta and orange
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- floral tape in moss
- 24-gauge floral wire

SUNFLOWER STEPS

1. Cut petals, sepals, centers, and leaves from heavy crepe paper, according to template notes. Fold and fringe center pieces as noted. Cut edge with pinking sheers and fringe as noted.



2. Create five double-color center strips by gluing each center 2 piece to center 1.



3. Beginning with the two chiffon- and pear-colored centers, roll them into a spiral and glue into place.



4. Glue the juniper and pear center around center spiral.



5. Glue the mango and pear center around spiral.



6. Glue the tangerine and pear center around spiral.



7. Twist fringe on the center 3 cut from poppy.



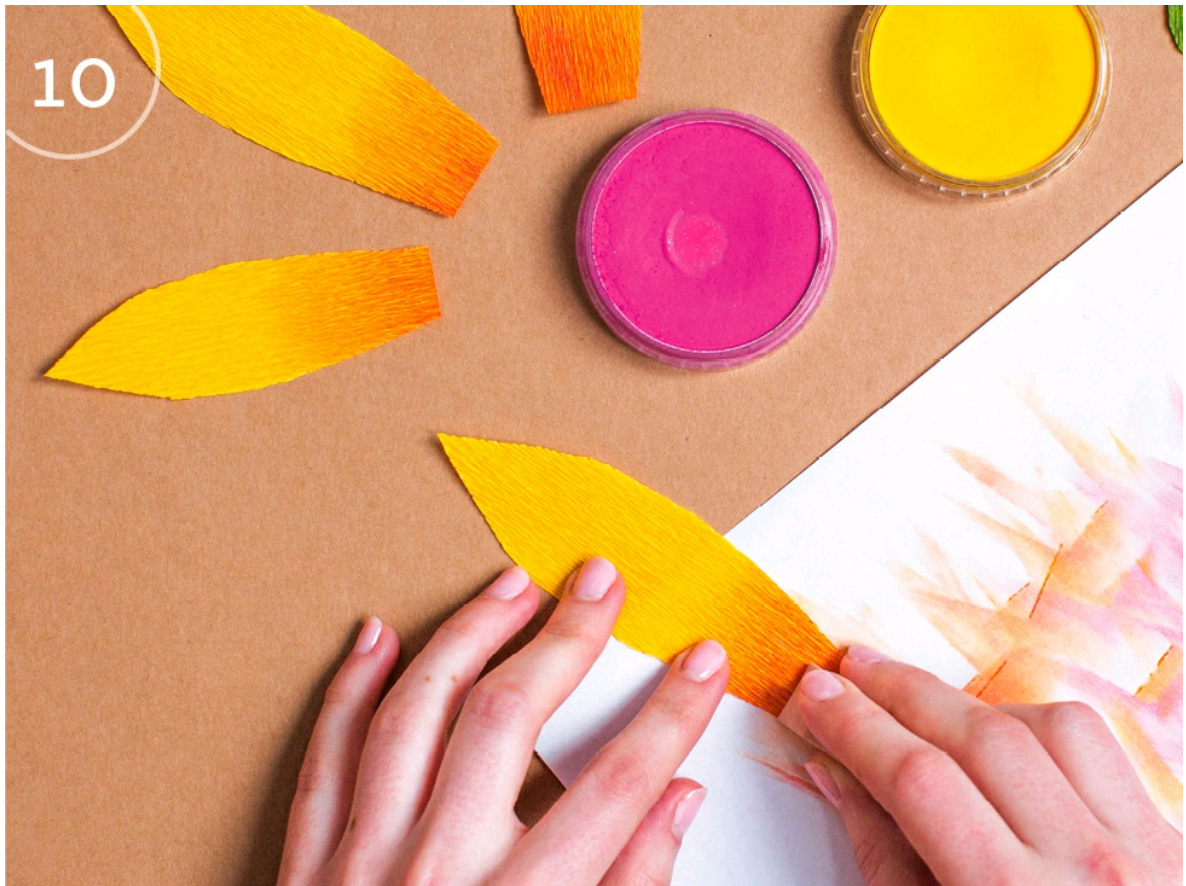
8. Glue center 3 onto center 4 in mango.



9. Glue poppy and mango center onto spiral.



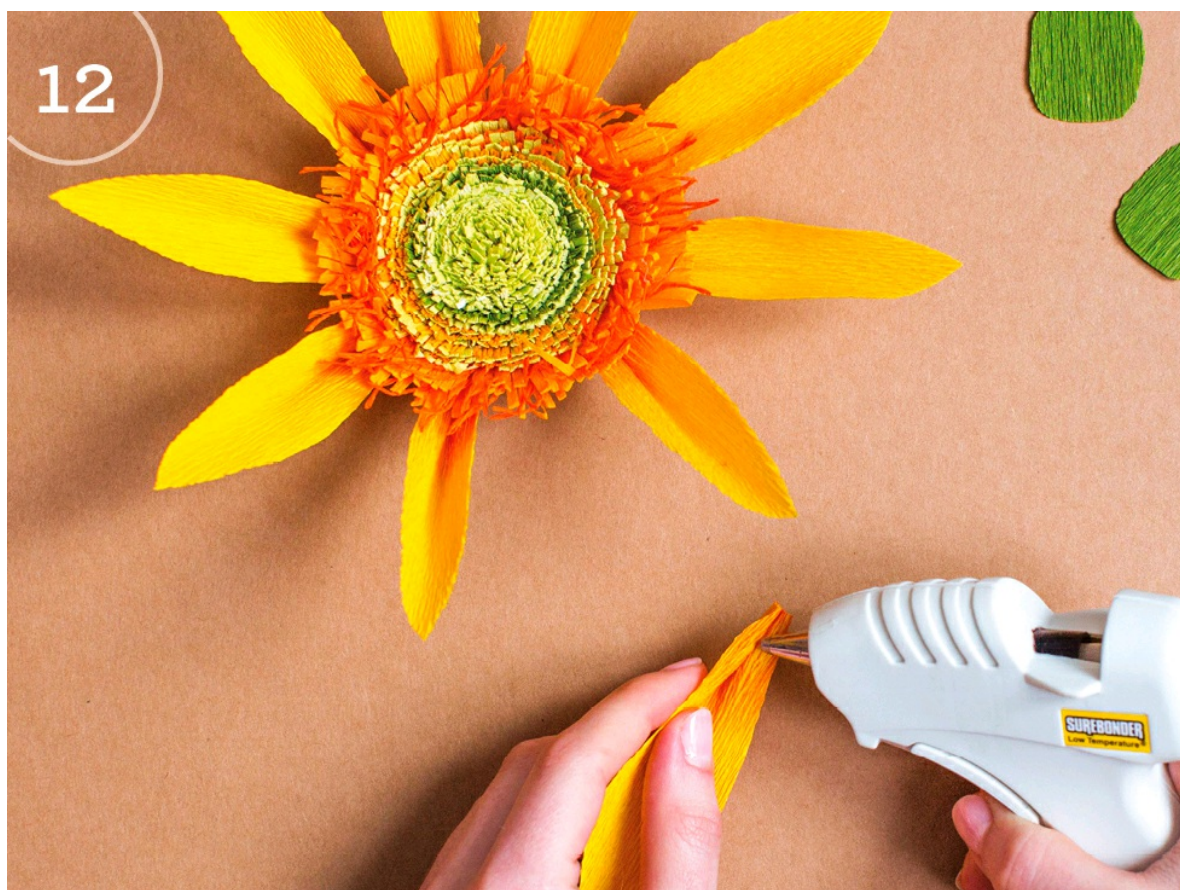
10. Add color to base of petals with pastel pigment.



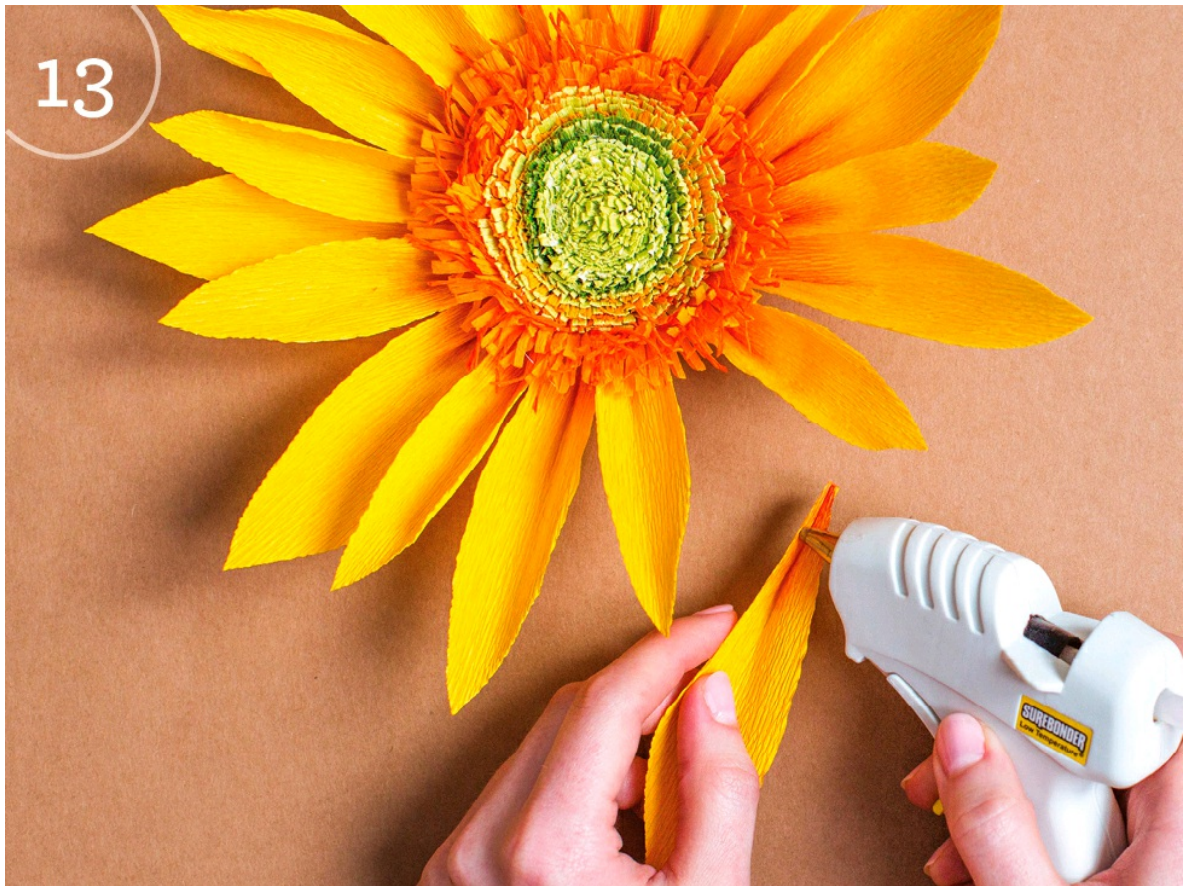
11. Fold petals in half and glue at base.



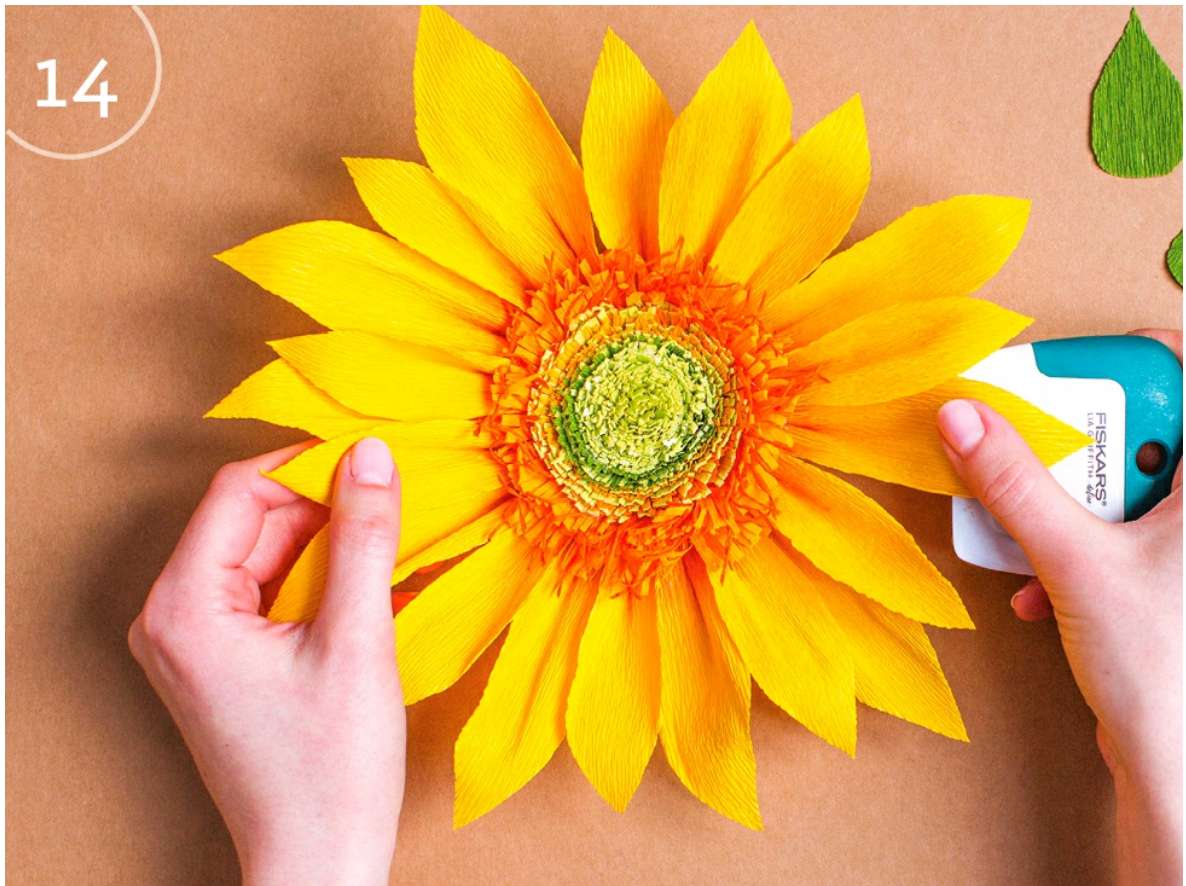
12. Open petals, add glue onto fold, and attach petal 1 pieces to center of flower.



13. Continue to add petal 2 pieces to flower.



14. Shape tips of flowers with curling tool.



15. With needle-nose pliers, spiral tips of two 18-gauge floral wires. Flatten spiral to 45 degrees.



16. Turn flower onto face, add pool of hot glue to back of flower, and place flattened spirals onto glue. Hold to let cool.



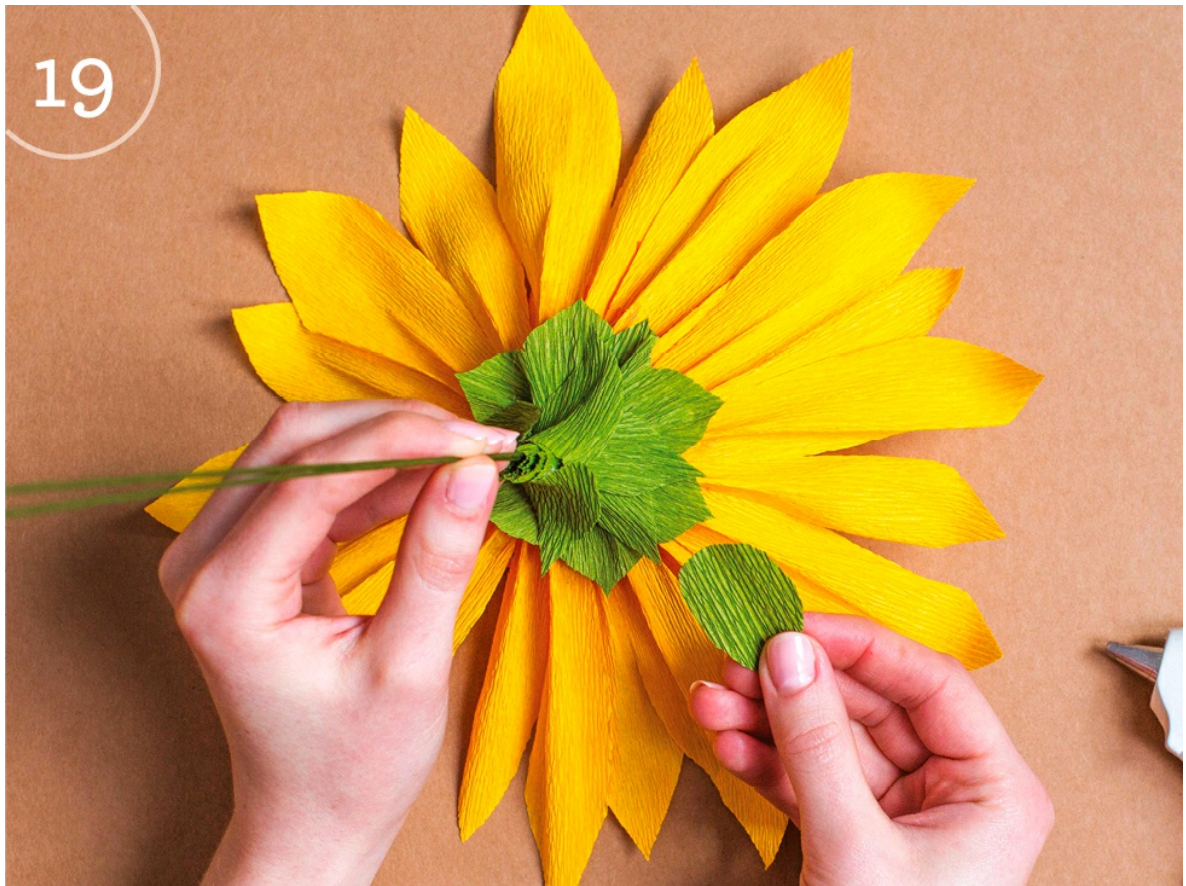
17. Glue sepal 1 along one edge and form into tube.



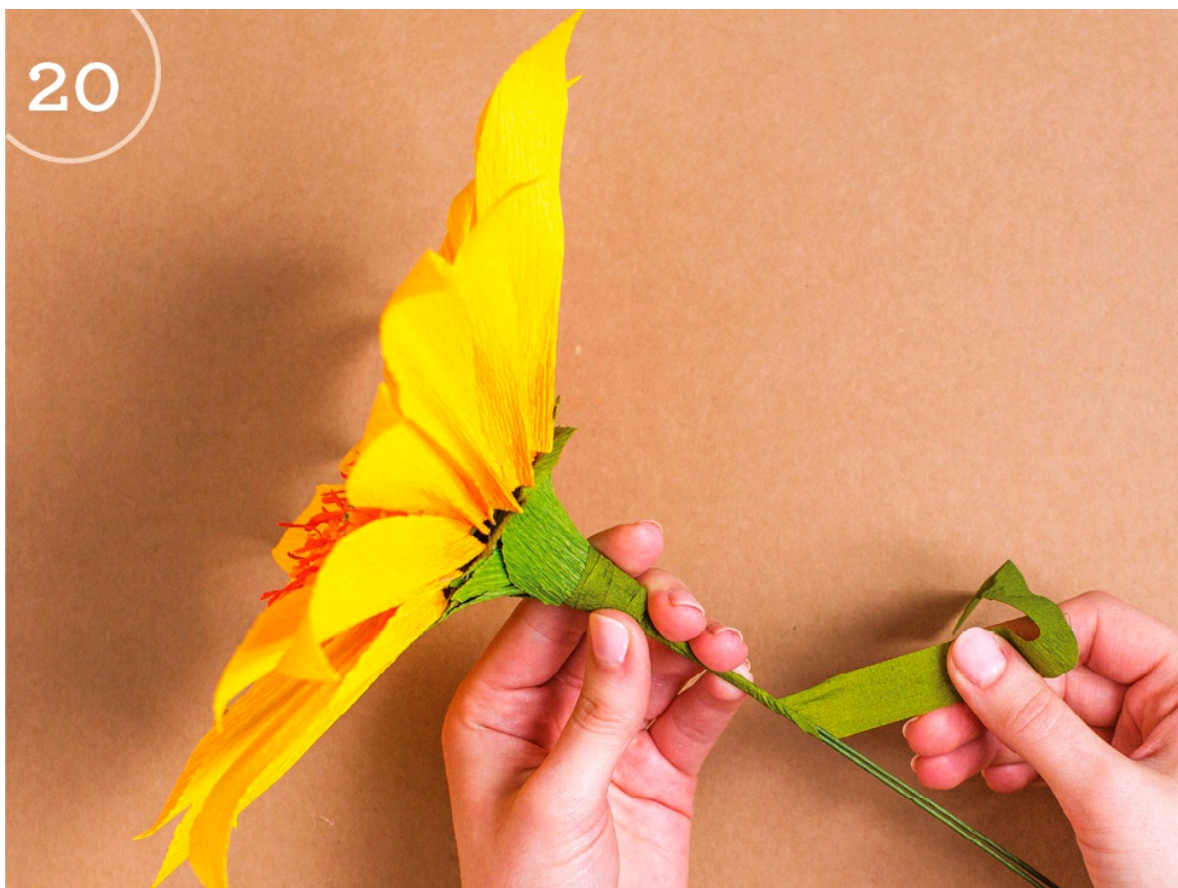
18. Slide tube onto wire, flare at top, and glue onto back of flower. Twist crepe paper around base to tighten around wire.



19. Glue additional sepal 2 pieces around base.



20. Finish by covering stem with floral tape.



21. Glue 24-gauge floral wire between leaf pieces and cover stem with floral tape.

21







Tulip



I cherish the TULIP for its simple elegance, wide range of appearances, and glorious color choices. This particular tulip replicates the parrot variety, showcasing the ruffles, which are easy to create along the edges of extra-fine crepe paper. The wired petals allow you to arrange the shape of the bloom according to the desired stage of growth. You can also enhance the petals with color variations by using PanPastel pigments, making each flower as unique as what you find in nature. Being a bulb flower, these blooms can be potted for a plant or placed into a vase.

the tulip flower

Originating during the Ottoman Empire, this timeless flower exudes a sweet innocence. When brought to Holland in the 1600s, the tulip bulbs were used to create hundreds of new varieties and colors.

The tulip reminds us to hold on to our childlike wonder and curiosity, and to see the beauty in everyone.



MATERIALS

- extra-fine crepe paper in cherry, raspberry, chiffon, juniper, and onyx/black

- 18-gauge green floral wire
- 24-gauge white floral wire
- floral tape in pine

TULIP STEPS

1. Cut petals, stamens, and leaves out of extra-fine crepe paper, according to template notes.



2. Twist all stamen pieces, leaving the tops of each flat. Wrap chiffon-colored stamen 1 around 18-gauge floral wire and glue into place. Glue three chiffon stamens together to form one pistal with three stigma on top.



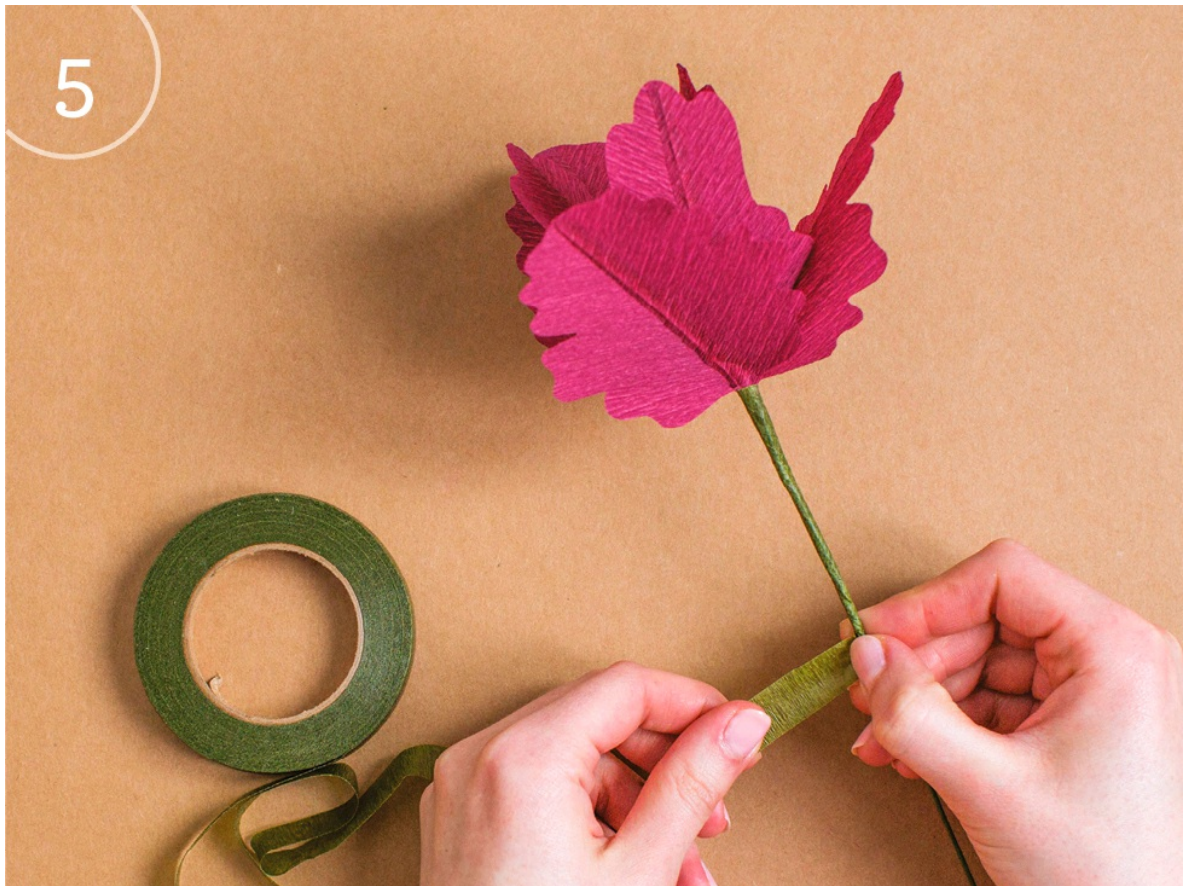
3. Glue onyx/black-colored stamen 2 around the lighter stamen. Dip 24-gauge floral wire into white craft glue, and place it onto edge of petal. Cover glued wire with second half of petal. Repeat with remaining petals. Let dry.



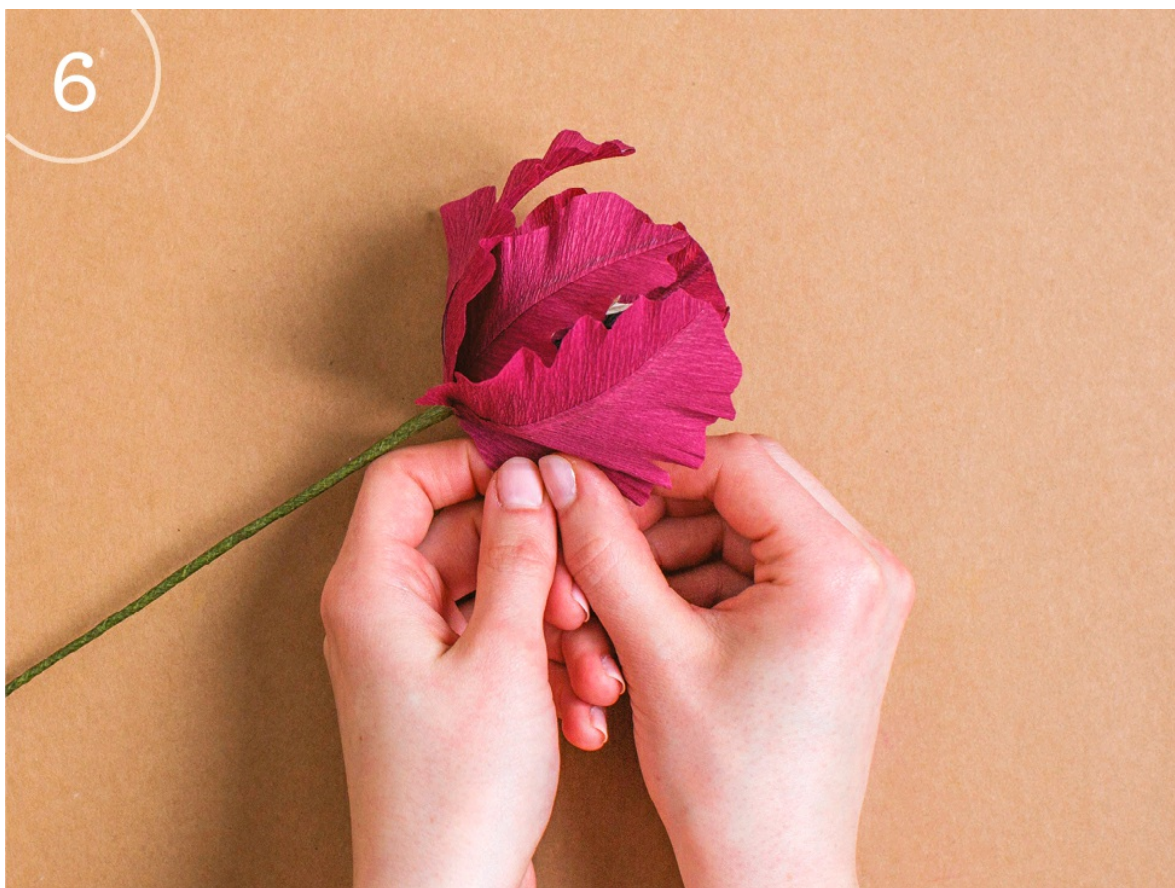
4. Attach three petal 1 pieces around center stamen with floral tape.



5. Attach three petal 2 pieces around first set, positioning them in between.



6. Shape petals to form tulip. Stretch edges of petals to add ruffle.



7. Glue 24-gauge floral wire between leaf halves and let dry.



8. Cover wire with floral tape, attaching leaf to stem of flower, if desired.

8







Wild Rose



The WILD ROSE's elegance is thankfully simple to reproduce with paper. We absolutely adore this sweet five-petal paper flower that can be made into a bud, full bloom, or rose hip. I used extra-fine crepe paper to mirror the delicate petals. Spread the love of these wild flowers by adorning a table with a vase full of them, or pin a single bloom to your favorite jacket. It's the simple things that make life sweeter.

the wild rose

Wild roses grow in white and varying shades of pink. Rose hips are often used as a source of vitamin C. In many ancient cultures, the wild rose symbolized life, and it still reminds us to nurture the existence of all living beings, including ourselves.



MATERIALS

- extra-fine crepe paper in linen/white, chiffon, and juniper
- 18-gauge green floral wire
- 3/8-inch wood beads
- craft paint in gold
- 24-gauge green floral wire
- floral tape in pine

WILD ROSE STEPS

1. Cut petals, buds, centers, stamens, sepals, and leaves out of extra-fine crepe paper, according to template notes.



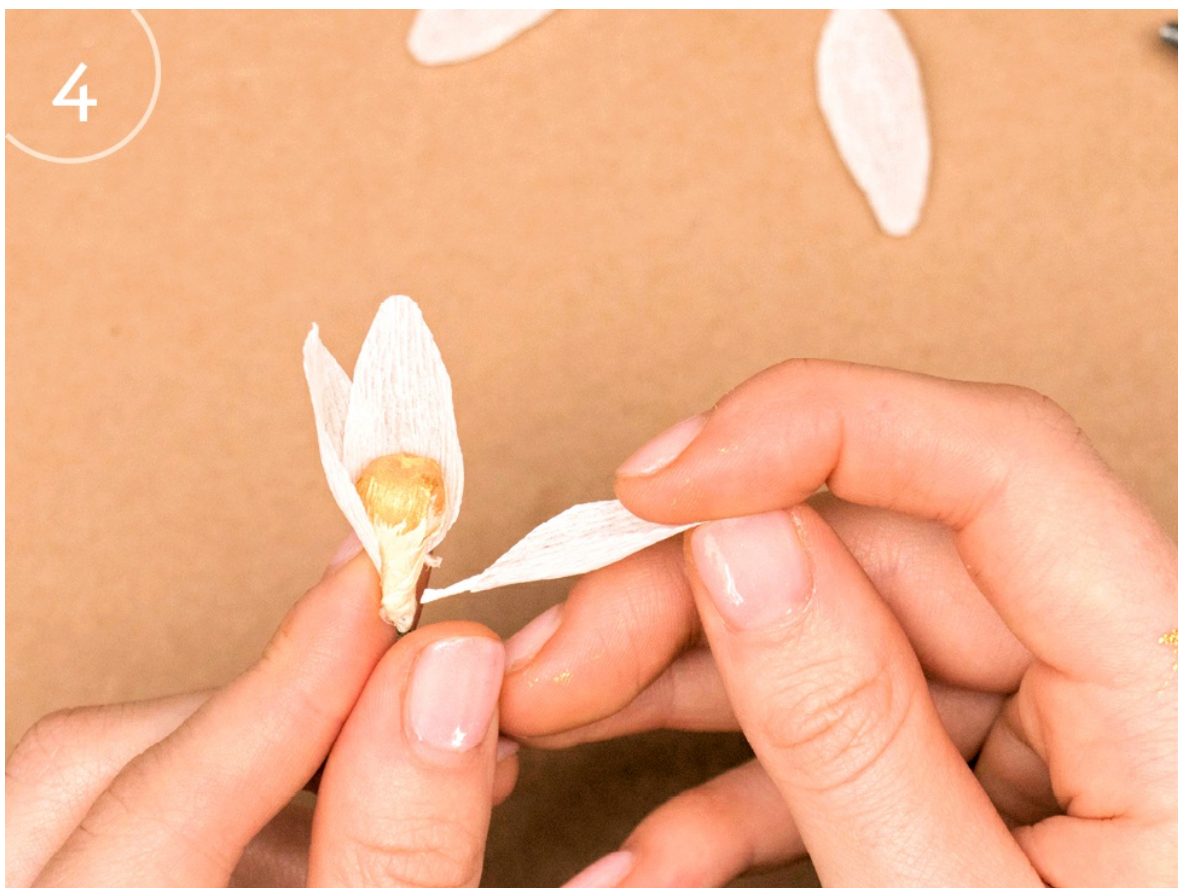
2. Bend tips of 18-gauge floral wires and glue them into wood beads. Cover three balls with oval center pieces. Glue into place.



3. Dip tops of crepe paper-covered balls into gold paint. Twist fringe of stamens and dip tips into gold paint. Let dry.



4. For bud, glue five small petals around flower center.



5. Glue five sepals onto base of bud.



6. For rose and rose hip, wrap stamens around bases of flower centers.



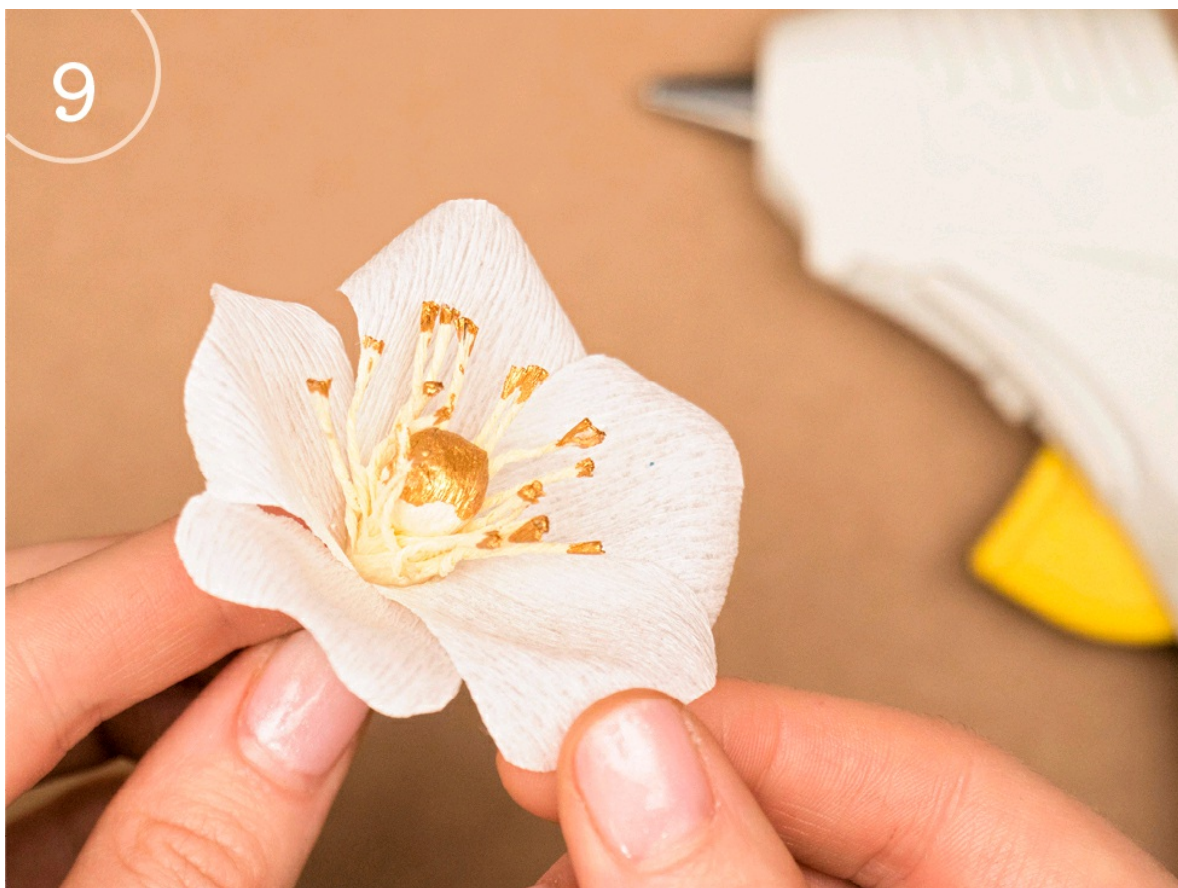
7. For rose hip, glue sepals at base of bud.



8. For rose, shape petals with curling tool.



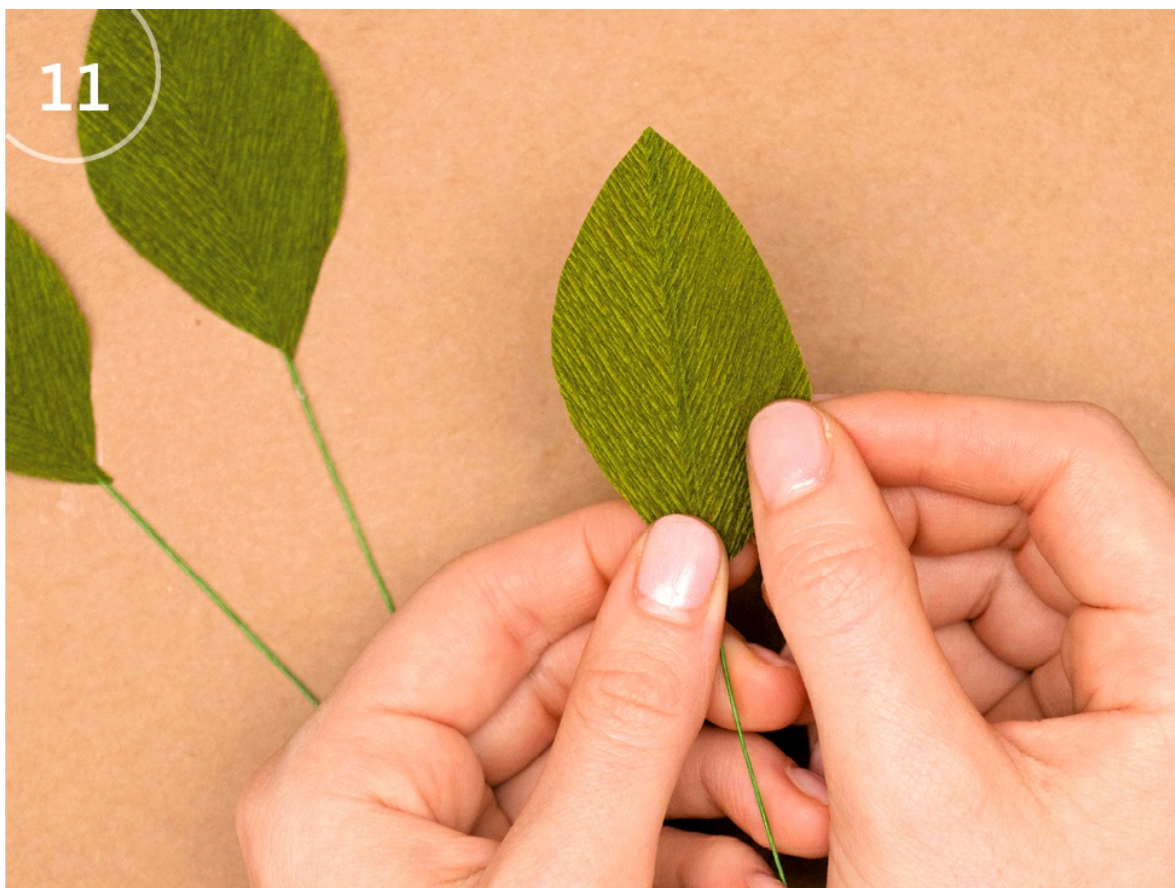
9. Glue five petals in rotation around base of flower center.



10. For leaf, dip 24-gauge wire into white craft glue and add to edge of leaf. Place second half of leaf over wire. Repeat with remaining two leaves.



11. Stretch edges of leaves to shape.



12. Finish by covering stems of bud, rose, and rose hip with floral tape. Attach three leaves together with floral tape.

12







How to Arrange PAPER FLOWERS



MATERIALS & TOOLS

Wire Cutters: When I am making floral arrangements, I use a pair of heavy-duty wire cutters to cut multiple strands of wire or the heavier, brown paper-covered wire.

Floral Cutters: If you are working with freshly cut greenery and filler, invest in a good pair of floral cutters. These will also work well on smaller branches.

Craft Scissors: These scissors are always in my toolbox and close at hand.

Detail Scissors: Perfect for trimming ribbons as they are always sharp.

Floral Pins: Different pin sizes are available for larger corsages and smaller boutonnieres. You may also use sewing pins with a ball head, which come in a variety of colors, including pearl and black.

Elastic Ribbon: For a DIY wrist corsage, elastic ribbon is a great solution. You can find pretty colors at your local fabric store.

Floral Tape: I use floral tape to wrap flower stems for vase displays, bridal bouquets, corsages, and boutonnieres. Make sure you choose florist-quality tape, rather than the typical variety found at a craft store; you will have much better results.

Ribbon: Pretty ribbon is a craft room staple, and it is helpful to have a selection. I use ribbon to finish the handles of bridal bouquets and the stems on corsages and boutonnieres, and to size and embellish flower crowns. You can also use it for garlands and backdrops.

Twine: Natural cotton or baker's twine makes a great foundation for a garland or floral backdrop. Using twine, you can also transform a garland into a festive lei.

Brown Paper-covered Wire: Not only do I use this versatile wire for blooming branches, it is also a perfect base for a flower crown and can be easily formed into a wreath base.

Foam Wreath: When making a lush and dimensional wreath that is thick with flowers and leaves, the foam wreath is the form that I use as the base. I will first cover the wreath by wrapping it with a coordinating ribbon or strips of matching crepe paper so it looks finished on both sides.

Grapevine Wreath: For the easiest wreath, the premade grapevine is a great start. This dried wood wreath creates a breezy, open look that is perfect for wreaths all year round.

Gold Metal Ring or Wood Embroidery Hoop: To create a simple asymmetrical wreath, I like to start with a gold metal ring or wood embroidery hoop. The finish on both of these is pretty enough to display.



FOR ARRANGING

Vases and Containers: For crepe paper–flower arrangements, I find opaque containers work better than transparent ones, as I tend to bend my stems rather than trim them shorter, which does not look as pretty in clear vases. I like to have a variety of containers on hand to fit the style of my flowers and arrangement. I also use terra-cotta pots (both in their natural color or painted) for arrangements and potted blooming plants.

Floral Foam and Styrofoam: It is much easier to create an arrangement of crepe paper flowers inside a vase or container when you can use foam to hold the stems in place. Floral foam is quite soft and is designed to hold water for arrangements of freshly cut flowers. When dry, it works well with crepe paper flowers but should be used with a gentle hand. Styrofoam also works well. When I have a vase with a smaller opening and I cannot fill it with foam, I insert the largest piece of floral foam that I can, then pack paper towels around the foam to hold it in place.

Natural Moss: When creating a potted blooming plant, I like to cover the foam filling in the container with a pretty moss. Look for Spanish moss in light tan, reindeer moss in bright green, or a forest moss that looks very natural.

Fresh Greenery: Adding freshly cut greenery to a floral arrangement is a great way to make an impact with very little work. Picking greens that match the style of your design is its own kind of creativity, allowing your paper flowers to be the star of your arrangement and the greenery to be the support. Just know that the greens will dry, and, though sometimes this looks quite pretty, occasionally this change gives you a reason to disassemble the bouquet and create something new.

Fresh Filler: If I am using fresh greens, I may also pick a small filler flower to add that extra bit of texture to my arrangement. As with fresh

greenery, fresh filler is best used for a special event or occasion, since it will not last the life of your paper flowers.



principles for flower arranging

PROPORTION

When creating a design, note that the sizes of the flowers, greens, and container should all be in proportion to one another. For example, a tall arrangement of long-stemmed calla lilies would be out of proportion in a short vase. Similarly, a large vase would completely dwarf smaller flowers with short stems.

My rule of thumb for picking the right vase for an arrangement is that it should be half the height of the final arrangement. Another general rule is the vase should be narrower than the final arrangement, though this rule can be broken when designing a potted blooming plant.

In addition, think about how the arrangement will fit into its surroundings wherever you decide to display it. A small arrangement would be appropriate in a powder room but would disappear in a large entryway.



tip: Use your container as a guide for designing your bouquet, which should be at least double the height of your vase.

BALANCE

There are two kinds of balance, symmetrical and asymmetrical. If you are new to flower arranging, start with arrangements that have a basic triangle, circle, or arch shape, all symmetrical shapes. Once you feel

comfortable, begin to explore with asymmetrical designs. If your arrangement looks like it might tip over or feels like a piece of art that is hung crooked on the wall, experiment by moving a few of the blooms to add balance and counterbalance.



tip: Imagine a triangle, circle, or arch surrounding your bouquet as

you arrange the flowers.

FOCAL POINT

Many arrangements have a focal point, often, a large bloom or blossom cluster that draws the eye. When creating your crepe paper–flower arrangements, make sure your focal flower is placed in a prominent position. This does not mean centered, as you may have three or more of these focal flowers for each arrangement, in which case you can place them in a triangle in the bouquet.



tip: First place your focal flowers in an arrangement that looks best to you, then add in filler with flowers and greens around them.

HARMONY & RHYTHM

The eye should be initially attracted to the overall design of a flower

arrangement, then move from the focal flower to the other flowers. Flower heads should be on different levels to add to the flow and remove stiffness. Aim for a three-dimensional look in your designs. A floral arrangement with good rhythm will make your eye wander across the entire design, rather than just causing you to glance and look away. Repetition can guide your eye across the design, but variety can also provide a visual path for the eye to follow.

TEXTURE

The materials used in flower arranging differ greatly in texture. To give your designs variety, use different textures that go well together.

COLOR

Your choice of color for a bouquet should suit the occasion or the surroundings. When combining colors, work with complementary or tonal choices. Combining bright and dark flowers is a common way to give a floral arrangement extra pop. My favorite combinations of bright and dark are oranges and plums as well as pale pinks and deep reds.



tip: Complementary colors look best together and can be found opposite each other on the color wheel.

Wedding Bouquet



For this wedding bouquet I chose three different flowers: the tubular calla lily, the lush rose, and (as a filler flower) the delicate wild rose. I combined crepe paper leaves, fresh greenery, and filler flowers to bring this bouquet to life.

When creating a wedding bouquet from paper flowers, you are making a keepsake that will last for many years. Paper leaves and freshly cut greenery are both great options, and the bouquet can be easily rearranged into a wreath or centerpiece after the wedding.

When I had my flower shop, my method of arranging was to pick a set of blooms and greens that complemented each other and varied in size and texture. That said, there is also something very gorgeous about a single-stem bouquet with minimal greens.

tips:

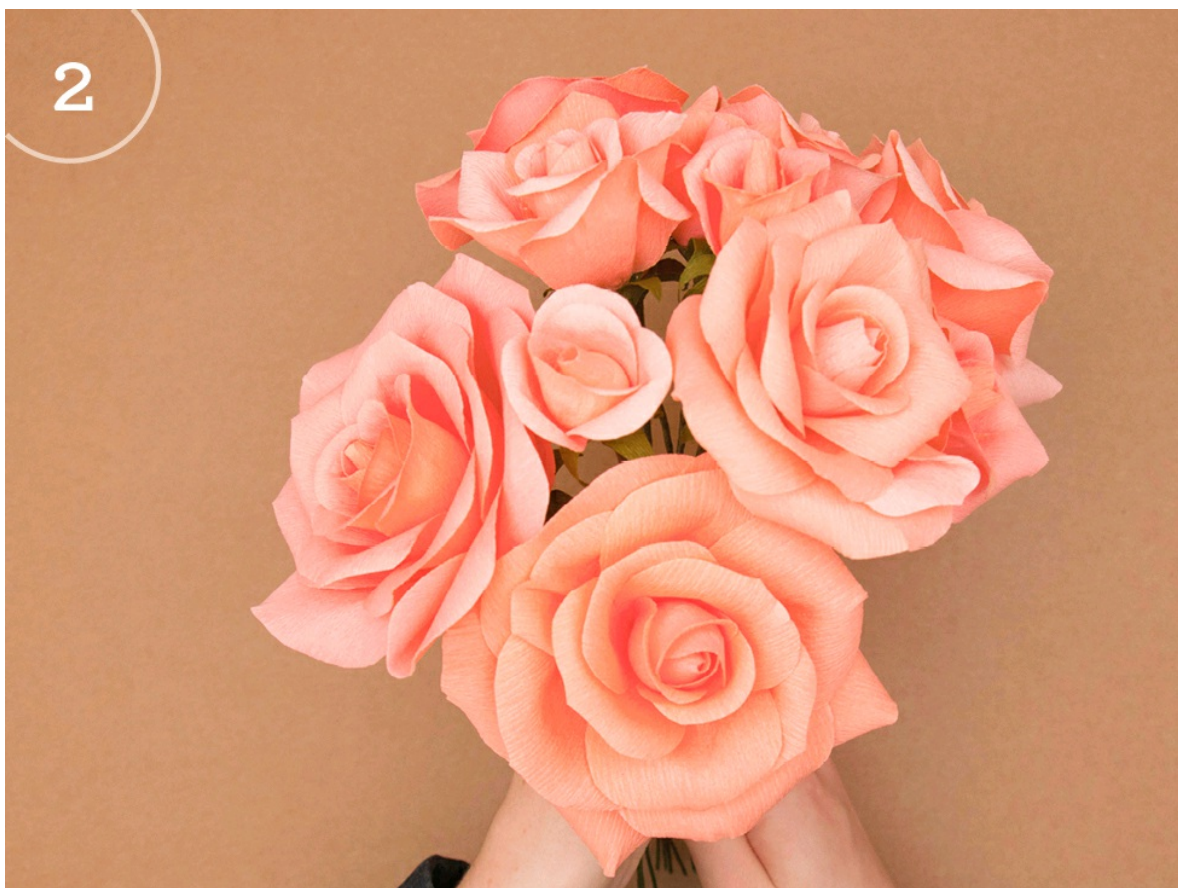
- For any kind of arrangement, do not crowd the flowers, unless you want them to look like one giant bloom. The wire stems make this easy to accomplish.
- For bridal bouquets, place a large mirror in front of you while you are arranging. This will allow you to see the bouquet as the bride will hold it as well as give you a view of all sides of the arrangement.

WEDDING BOUQUET STEPS

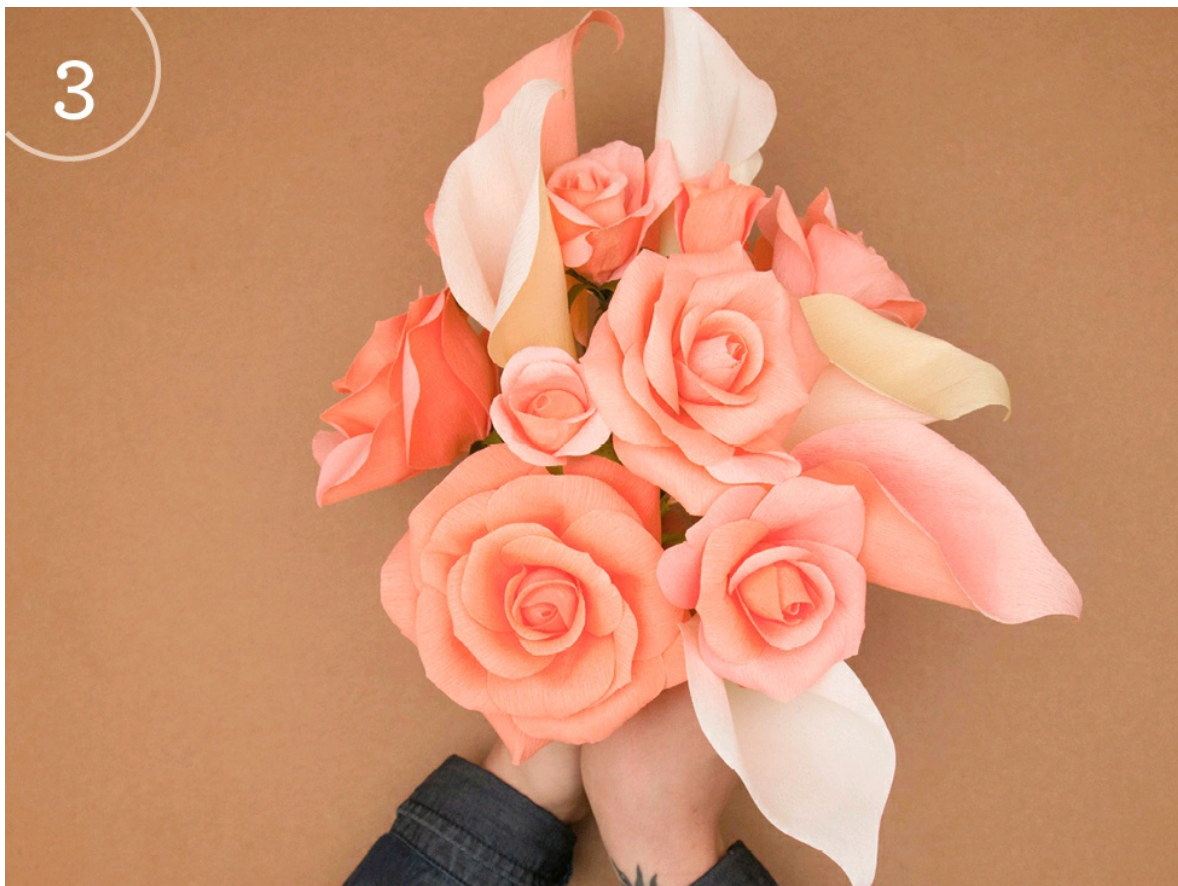
1. Gather paper flowers, paper leaves, fresh greens, and filler.



2. Arrange roses while holding stems.



3. Add calla lilies to the roses.



4. Place wild rose stems and crepe paper leaves. Move and arrange the various elements by bending wired stems.



5. Tie the bundled stems together with strong twine.



6. Clip ends of stems with wire cutters to match length and allow for bouquet handle.



7. Add fresh greenery and filler to your arrangement.



8. Secure with strong twine.



9. Trim fresh branches to match wires.



10. Wrap stems tightly with floral tape.



11. Hold end of ribbon at base of bouquet, wrapping ribbon down the handle.



12. Wrap the ribbon back to the top, tie the two ends of ribbon, and trim.





Flower Crown



Flower crowns have been a favorite for many centuries and seem to have made yet another appearance, popping into current trends.

These crowns are gorgeous additions to a wedding and can be made for the bride, bridesmaids, or flower girls alike. They are also a lovely addition to special holidays, birthdays, or playtime.

One of the easiest flower crown techniques is to create a base with the paper-covered stem wire. For this crown, I used the brown twig-looking wire, though you can use a smooth green or white for a different finished look. This crown is made with a selection of ranunculus blooms and delicate apple blossoms.

tips:

- The paper-covered wire offers a surface that will hold each crepe paper bloom and leaf with a simple dot of low-temp hot glue.
- Make your crown adjustable by creating open ends and using a pretty ribbon to hold it in place with a bow or double knot.

FLORAL CROWN STEPS

1. Gather flowers, leaves, ribbon, and brown paper-covered floral wire.



2. Trim 3 to 4 feet of floral wire with wire cutters.



3. Form crown shape with wire, wrapping into a spiral and leaving wire loop on each end.



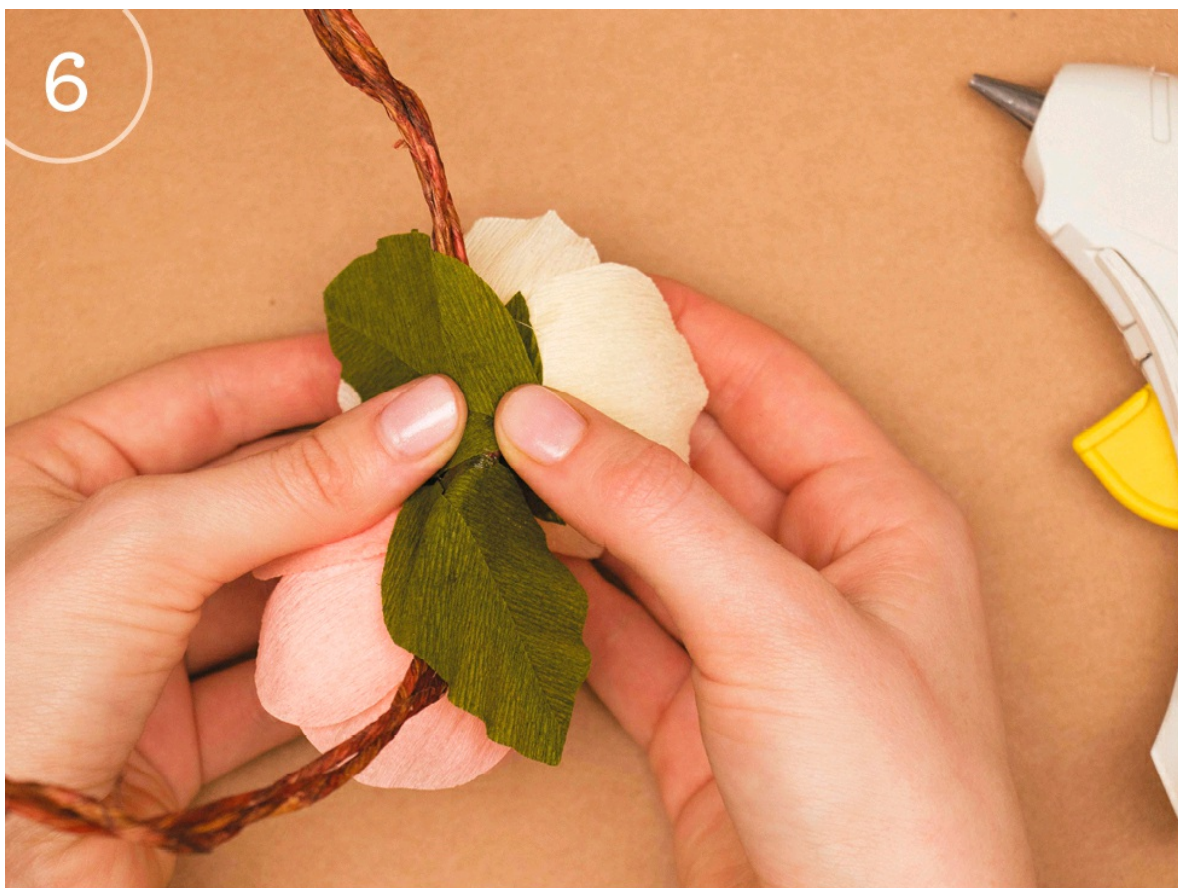
4. Glue a leaf over each end of the crown to protect head from rough tips.



5. Glue large blooms onto the crown first.



6. Add leaves to the back of flowers, gluing to help secure flowers onto wire.



7. Continue adding and gluing large blooms.



8. Finish layering large flowers onto crown.



9. Glue small flowers between large blooms.



10. Add leaves between and behind flowers.



11. Slide ribbon through loops in wire.







Corsage



A pretty paper corsage makes a delightful keepsake and you can use it again. The traditional corsage is pinned to the jacket or dress. What makes the paper versions so nice for pinning is that they are much lighter than the cut-flower versions.

A fun alternative to a pinned corsage is a wrist corsage. These are simply made by forming a wristband from a flat, wide elastic ribbon.

tip: When designing a corsage, I often pick one focal flower and arrange it with smaller buds or support flowers and leaves. If the focal flower is small, like a ranunculus, I will cluster a variety of three blooms and arrange them with the leaves.

CORSAGE STEPS

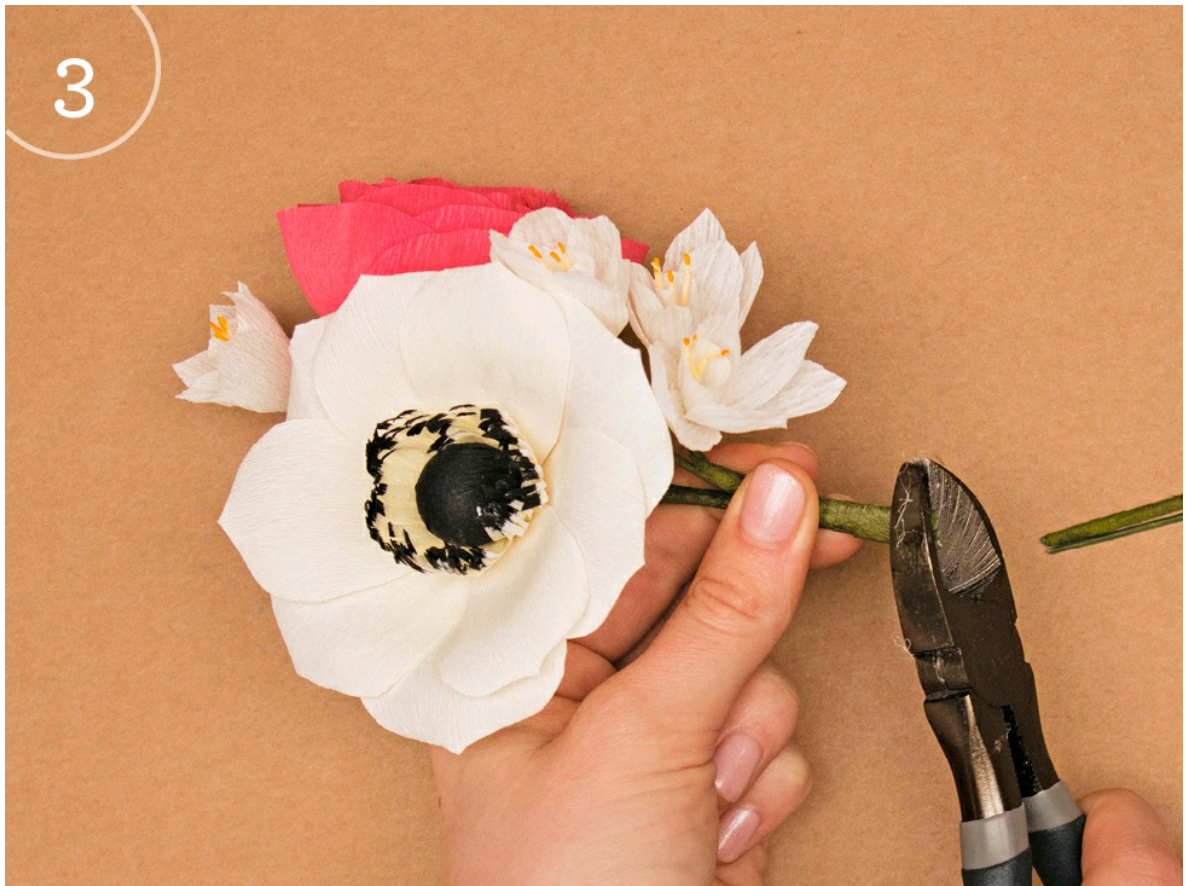
1. For pinned corsage, gather flowers and leaves.



2. Arrange support flowers around focal flower and attach stems with floral tape.



3. Trim stems with wire cutters.



4. Use curling tool to shape leaves and glue them to the back of the corsage.



5. Cover stems with floral tape.



6. Bend wire stem into loop.



7. Wrap stem with ribbon and tie.



8. Use large corsage pin to attach to clothing.



9. For wrist corsage, gather flower, leaves, and elastic ribbon.



10. Cut and glue ribbon to size of wrist.



11. Glue ribbon to back of flower. Add leaves, securing with glue.



12. Slide corsage over hand and onto wrist.

12



Boutonniere



Weddings, proms, and other special occasions are a perfect opportunity to use paper flowers. When making a boutonniere, pick small flowers or use buds. Simple and clever designs can be made using only a few pieces. Here are four versions of a paper flower boutonniere for a variety of ideas that can be used with almost any small flower.

tip:

Here are my most successful boutonniere combinations...

1 small focal flower plus 1 or 2 leaves

1 small focal flower plus 2 buds plus 1 leaf

1 small focal flower plus a twig or another unusual green (like a succulent) plus 1 leaf

3 small focal flowers

BOUTONNIERE STEPS

1. Gather flowers, leaves, and filler.



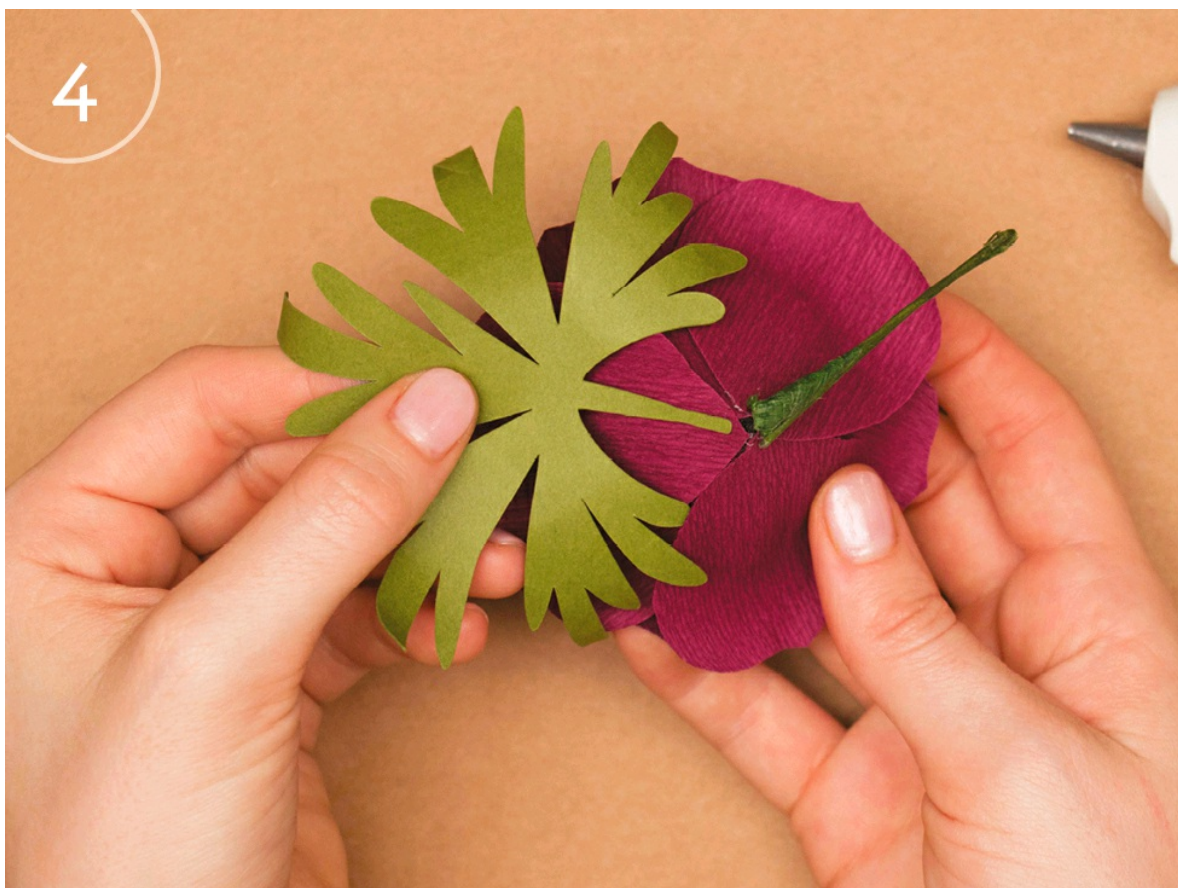
2. For first boutonniere version, shape leaves using curling tool.



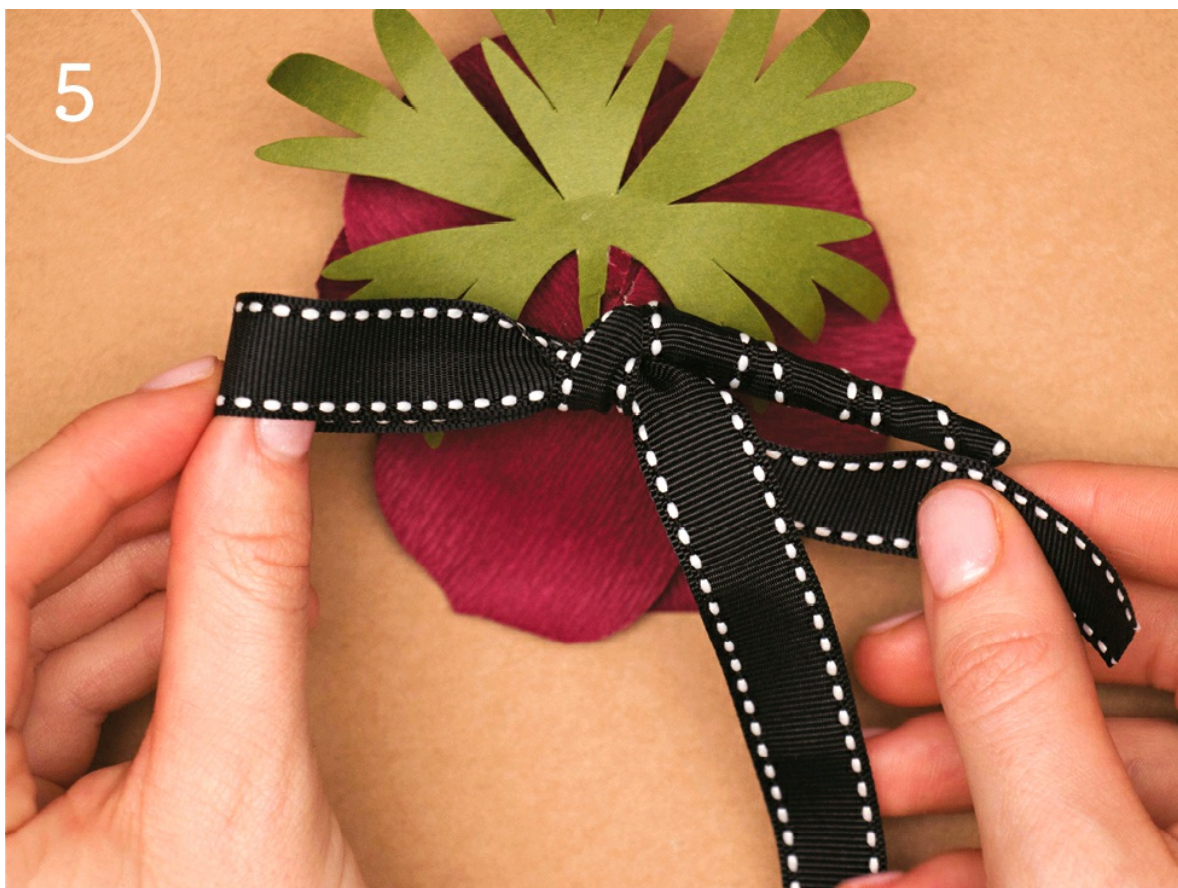
3. Bend stem on bloom to create a 1- to 2-inch handle and trim excess.



4. Glue leaf on back of flower.



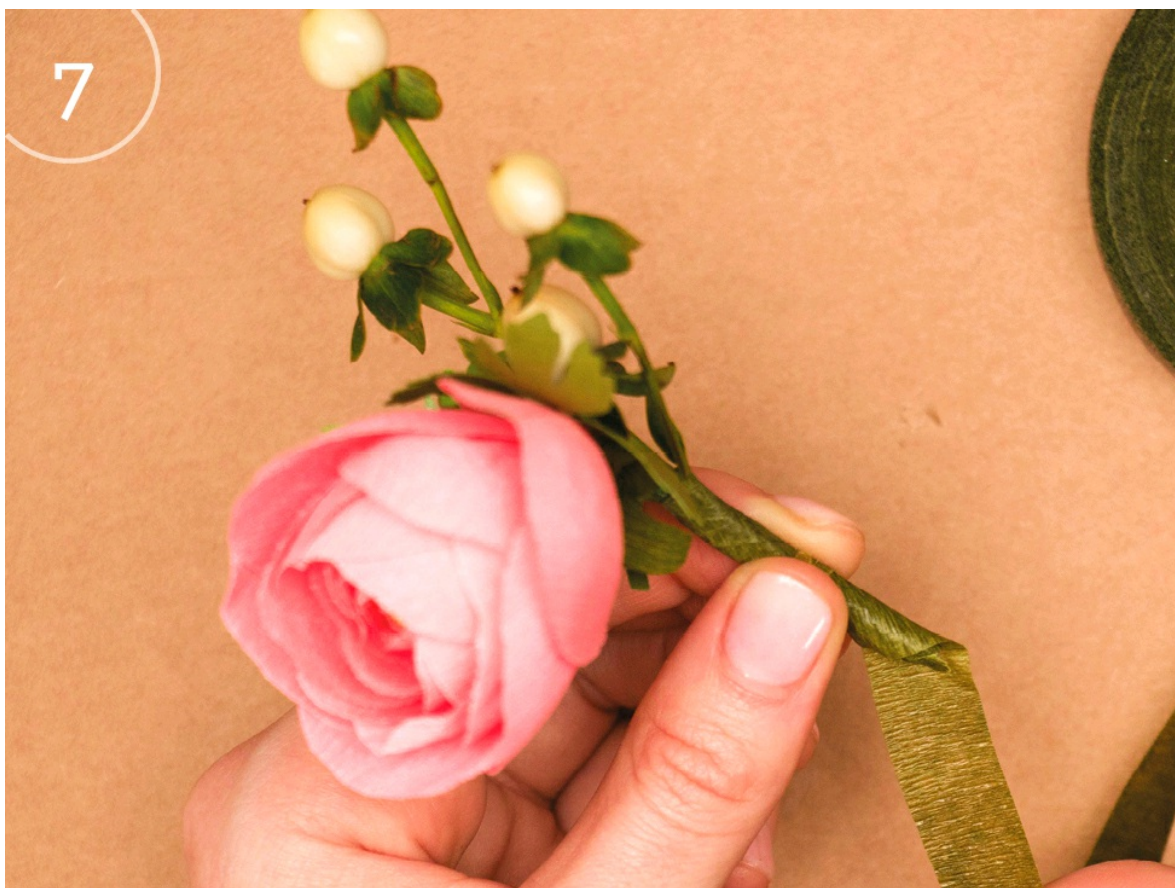
5. Wrap ribbon around stem. Tie half bow at base of bloom. Trim ends of ribbon.



6. For second boutonniere version, glue leaves to back of flower.



7. Add filler behind bloom and attach with floral tape.



8. Hold one end of ribbon at top of stem and wrap down, then back up. Tie ends of ribbon under base of flower. Trim ribbon ends.



9. For third boutonniere version, hold ribbon at one end at top of stem. Wrap other end down then back up.



10. Tie double knot at base of flower.



11. Use large floral pins to attach boutonnieres onto clothing.



12. Create a fun (fourth) alternative arrangement by tying center of two long leaves behind flower. Use pin to attach to clothing.

12





Centerpiece

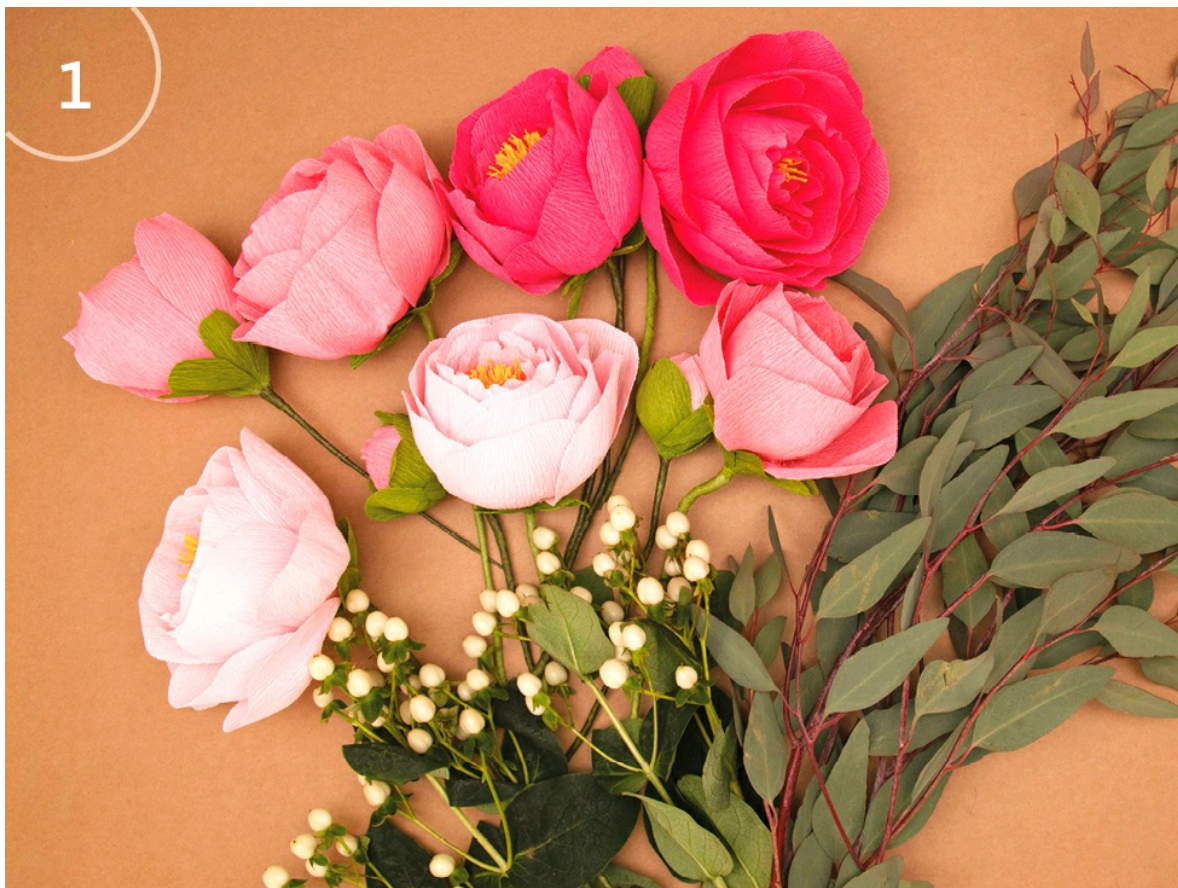


For a centerpiece design, I love mixing real greens and filler with my paper flowers. Once the fresh stems have expired, the paper flowers can be recycled into another arrangement or wreath. You can use almost any flowers or mix of flowers for a centerpiece. For best results when picking your combination, use the basic principles for flower arranging beginning on [this page](#). The beautiful thing about arranging crepe paper flowers is the flexible wire stems—they give you versatility in molding the centerpiece to your liking.

tip: Since paper- and fabric-covered stems can wick water, moving the moisture up toward the bloom, keep the paper blooms from getting water damage by using wire stems that are not covered with paper or fabric. You can cover the wire with floral tape if you feel some of the stem will show in the bouquet.

CENTERPIECE STEPS

1. Gather paper flowers, fresh filler, and fresh greenery.



2. Place floral foam into container. Add tin foil to keep it in place.



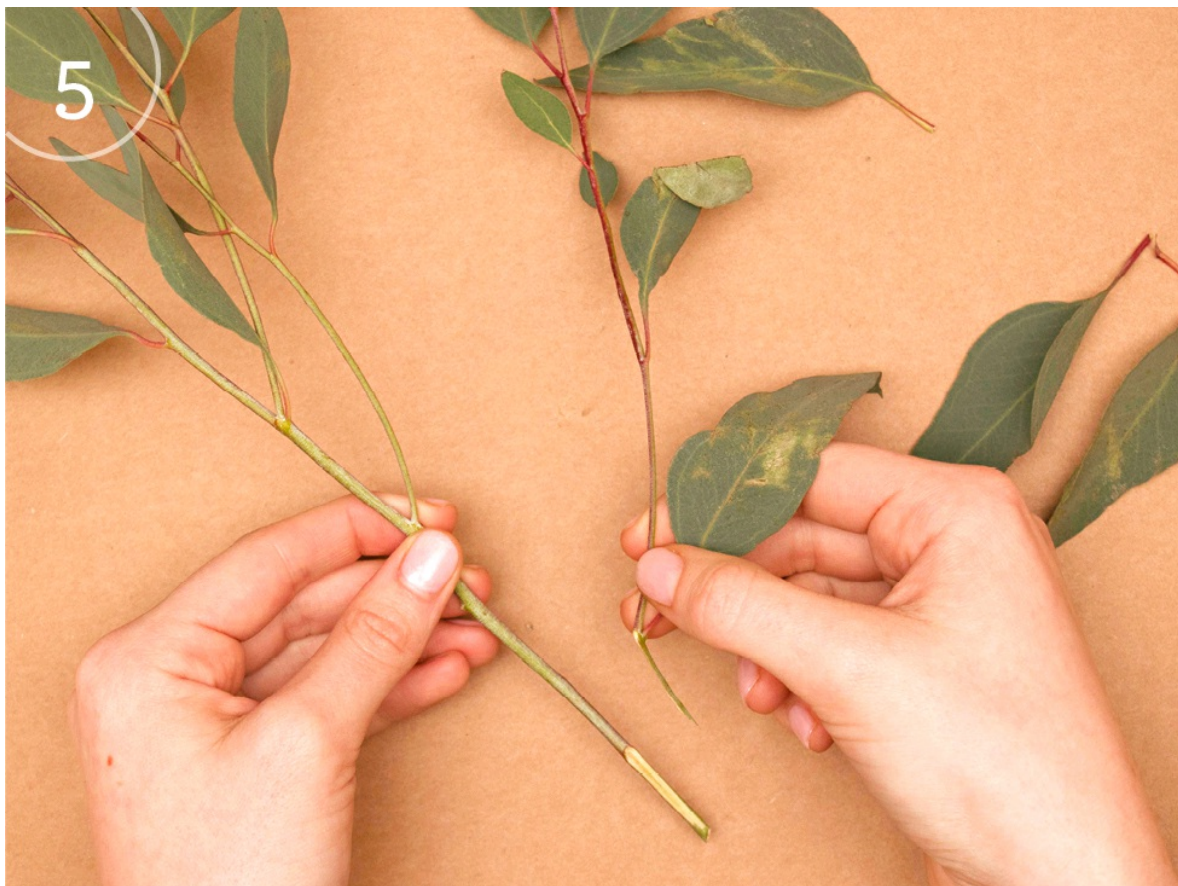
3. Fill container with water, completely soaking floral foam.



4. Trim greenery.



5. Remove leaves from end of stems.



6. Arrange greenery in floral foam.



7. Trim filler and remove leaves from lower stems.



8. Arrange filler in floral foam.



9. Place paper flowers into your arrangement. Be sure you have removed any paper from the stems where it will touch the wet foam.







Flower Backdrop



A backdrop is a larger version of the vertical garland and makes a beautiful display for dessert tables, selfie backgrounds, or ceremony focal points. For a variation, I arranged this backdrop by combining real greenery garlands that I made by wiring freshly cut branches together into long strands, then sliding the stems of the paper blooms into place. This creates a lush, finished look and is a great way to make a big visual impact without investing a lot of time.

tip: To hang backdrops, I have used long birch poles, wood branches, painted wood dowels, or even copper pipe archways. You can also tie flower backdrops to a gazebo structure or simply pin each strand to a wall.

FLOWER BACKDROP STEPS

1. Trim greenery branches.



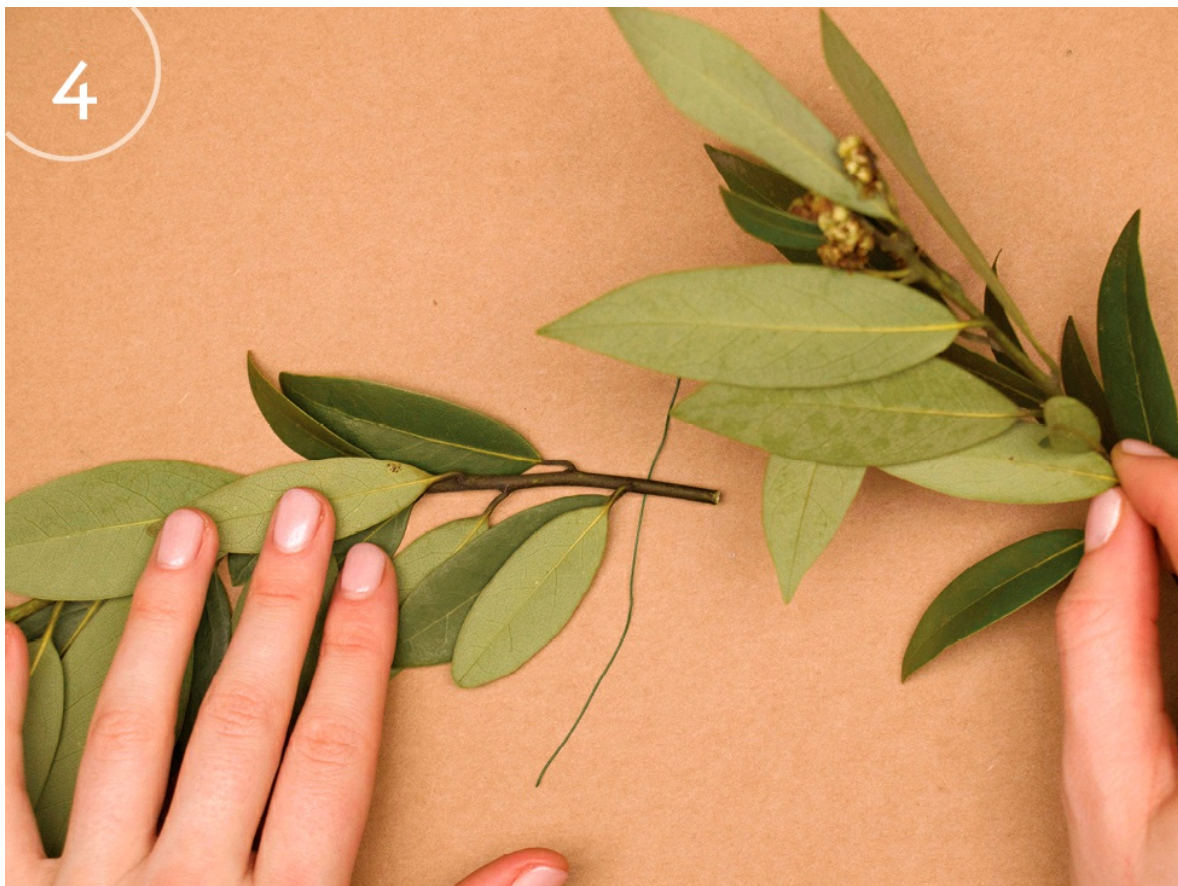
2. Ensure that branches are similar in length and size.



3. Trim floral wire into 5-inch pieces.



4. Lay branches end to end.



5. Overlap ends and fasten together with wire.



6. Trim excess wire with wire cutters.



7. Once you have a length of garland, add a wire to the top branch.



8. Use this wire to attach the garland to a stick or branch. Continue adding garlands to the branch until you achieve the desired width.



9. Wrap stems of smaller flowers onto backdrop.



10. Add larger blooms onto backdrop.







Wreath



Wreaths are a favorite craft in our studio and a wonderful way to decorate the home. They offer a quick splash of color and a seasonal update to your door, wall, or mantle. Our favorite wreath-base materials are round foam, brown paper-covered twig wire, and premade grapevine wreaths, and for simple wreaths we use embroidery hoops and gold hoops.

Here's how to make three versions of the classic wreath. You can also add pretty paper blooms to live seasonal wreaths. For these, I like to twist wire stems holding crepe paper blooms into the branches so I can simply remove them once the wreath has dried.

tip: When designing a wreath, try to add some variety to the flower placement so the flowers are not evenly spaced.

WREATH STEPS

1. For first wreath version, cut strips of crepe paper against the grain.



2. Wrap and glue crepe paper around foam wreath.



3. Use curling tool to shape leaves.



4. Glue leaves in rotation onto wreath.



5. Attach flowers onto wreath.



6. Hang or display.



7. For second wreath version, gently shape leaves by stretching centers.



8. Glue flowers onto grapevine wreath.



9. Attach leaves behind blooms.



10. Hang or display.



11. For third wreath version, wrap stems onto wood embroidery hoop.

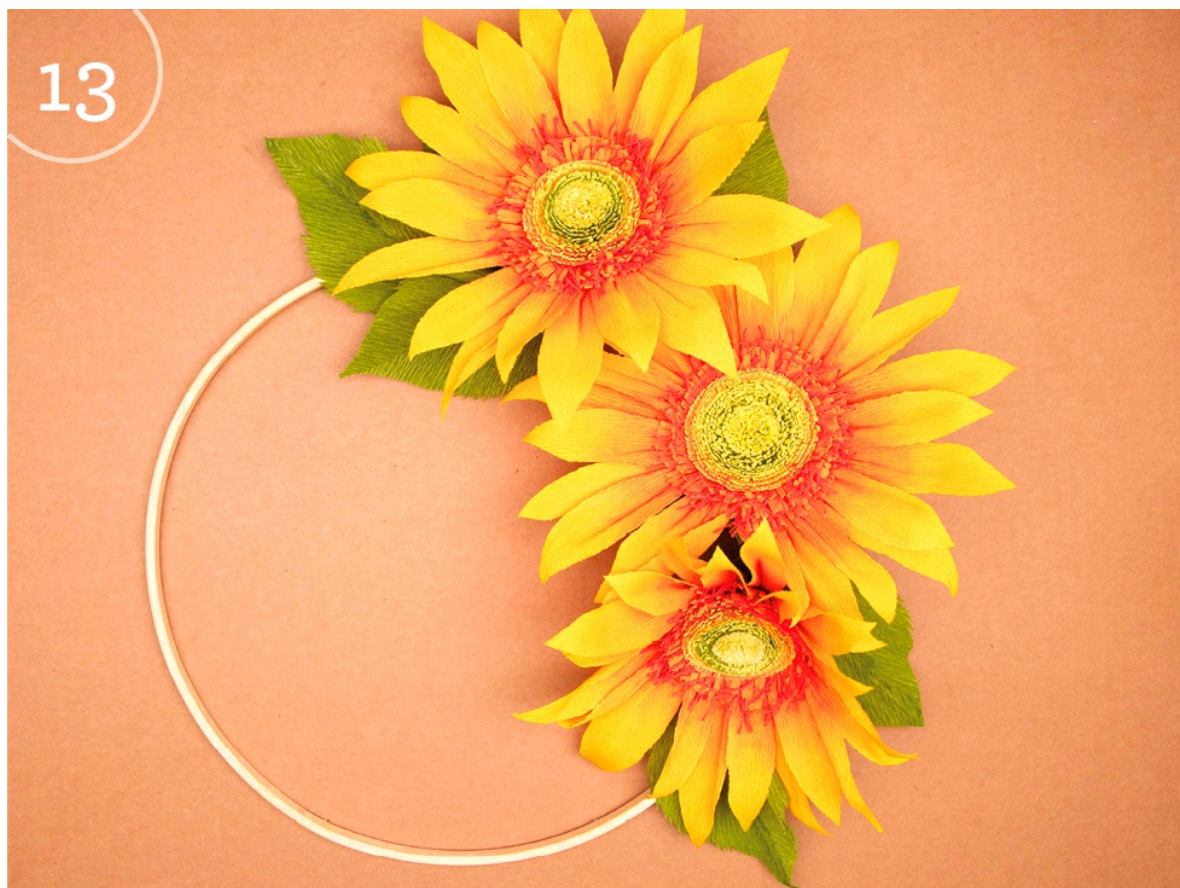


12. Arrange flowers on wreath and glue leaves behind flowers.



13. Hang or display as desired.

13



Garland



Garlands add an extra detail to your special event or seasonal decor. To create garlands, we have used ribbons, twine, cotton rope, and fishing line—all soft, movable strands that will allow your garland to take a natural shape.

Depending on what kind of flowers you choose for your garland, they will lie face out or to the side. You can control this a bit by adding extra glue to the string to hold them in the desired position.

tip: I love the look of multiple strands of a vertical garland. This sunny gerbera daisy display would also make a gorgeous framed work of art.

GARLAND STEPS

1. For horizontal garland, gather flowers and leaves.



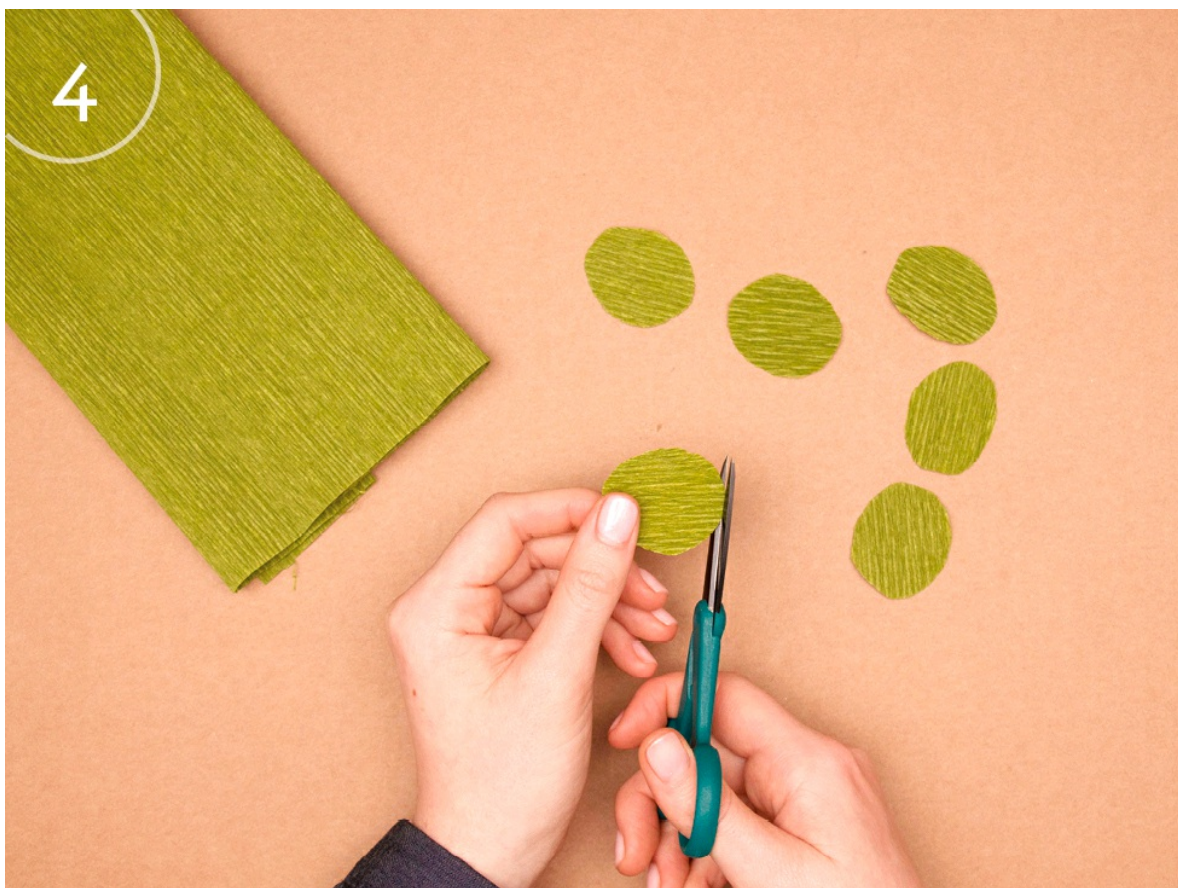
2. Trim three pieces of twine one and a half times the desired length of the finished garland. Tie one end, braid the three strands, and tie the second end.



3. Arrange flowers and leaves for garland.



4. Cut round pieces out of heavy crepe paper to match color of leaves.



5. Glue twine to back of flower, then attach round piece to secure twine between the layers.



6. Glue leaves between flowers.



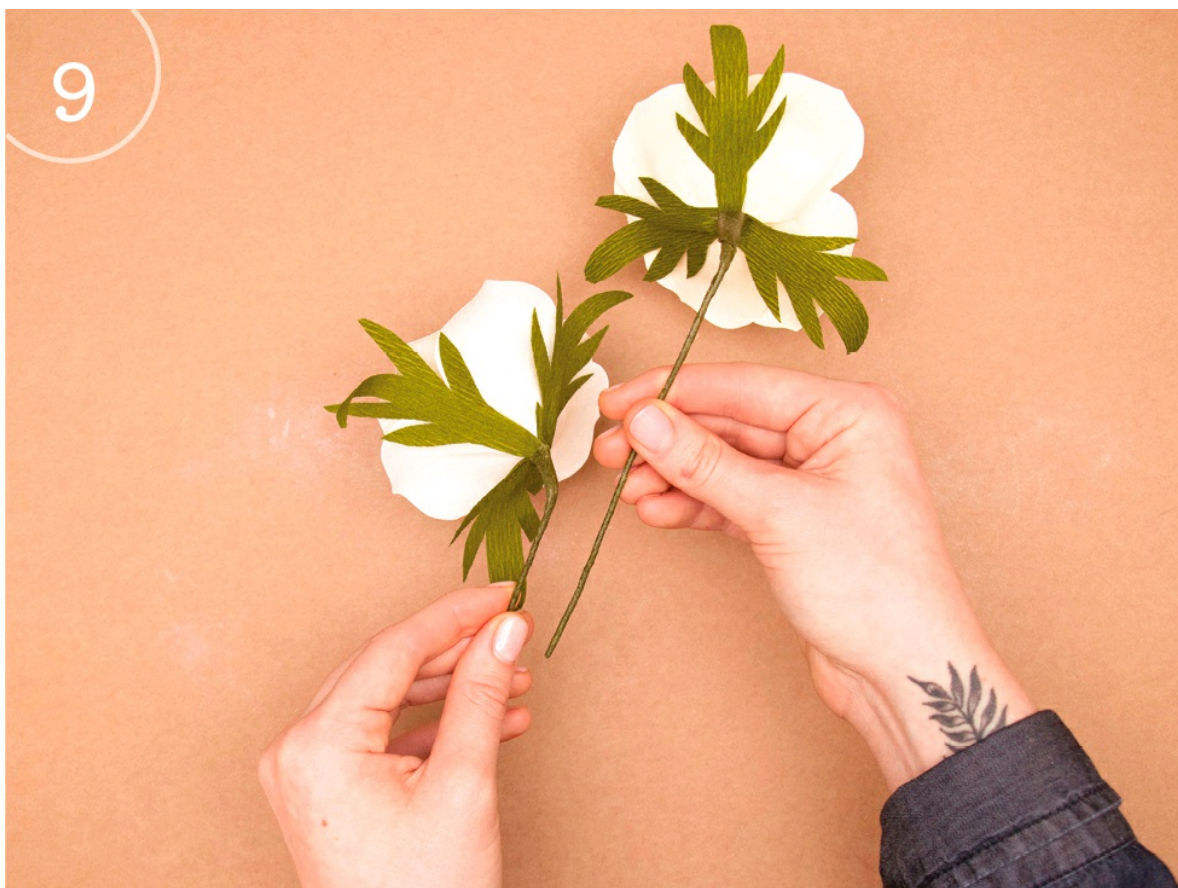
7. Display your garland.



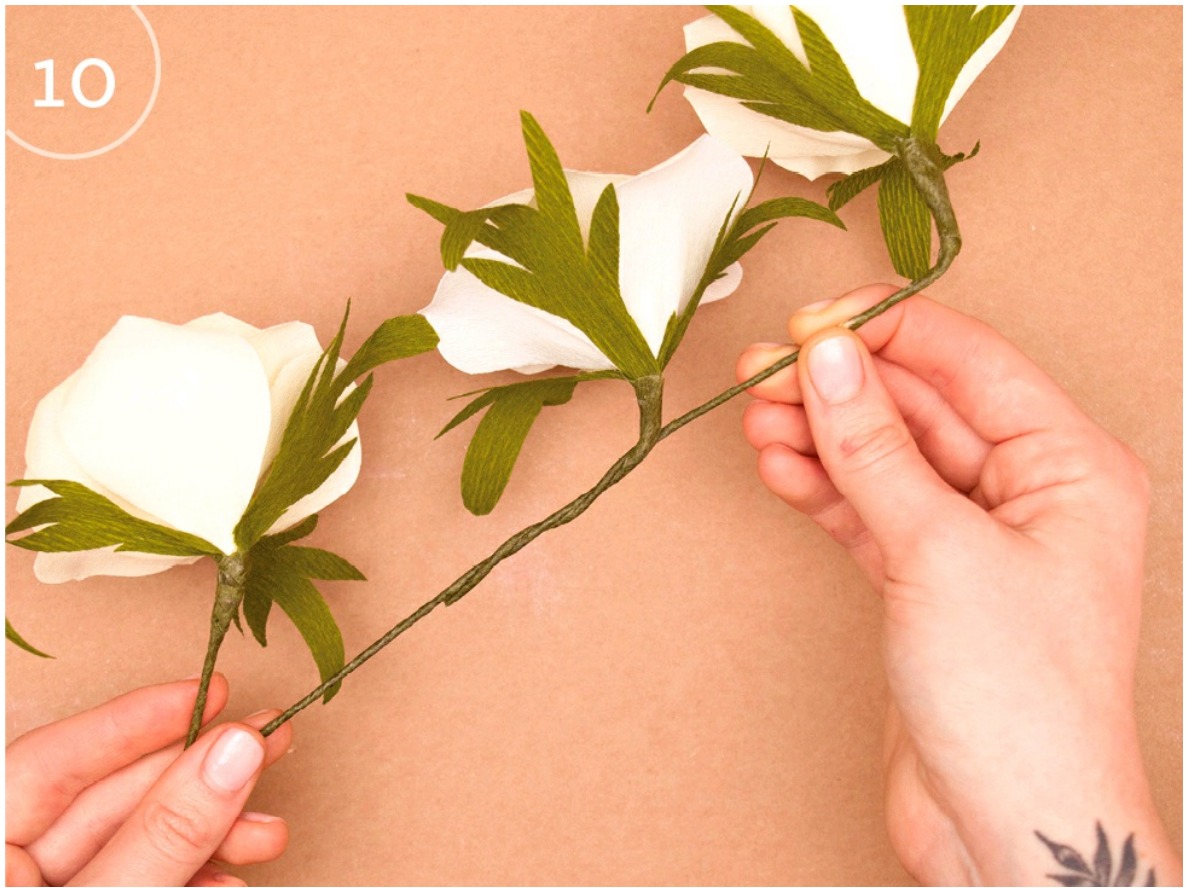
8. For vertical garland, gather flowers with long stems.



9. Twist one stem onto second stem.



10. Continue to add stems to garland until you reach the desired length.



11. Create hook with final stem to hang vertical garland.

11





Potted Blooming Plants

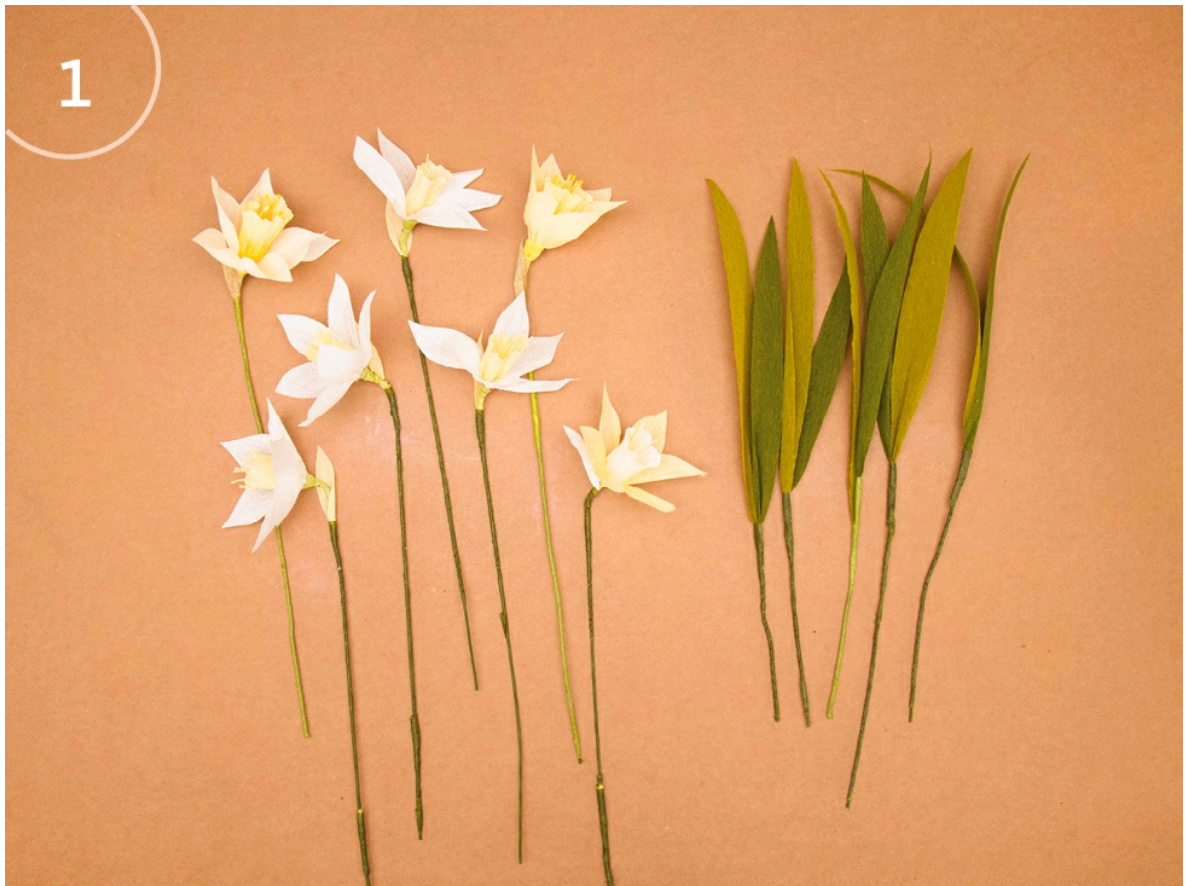


Many flowering bulbs make a beautiful blooming plant, and you can easily re-create your favorites with paper. You can see the crocus on [this page](#) or the paperwhite on [this page](#) for an example of smaller blooming plants. The iris, lily, tulip, and daffodil are all bulb plants as well. Here are a few variations of how I assembled them into containers and pots.

tip: The trick to making blooming plants is to insert the wires of your stems and leaves into a foam base. But before I begin to place the crepe paper blooms and foliage, I always cover the foam with a coordinating layer of moss. Learn more about varieties of moss on [this page](#).

POTTED BLOOMING PLANTS STEPS

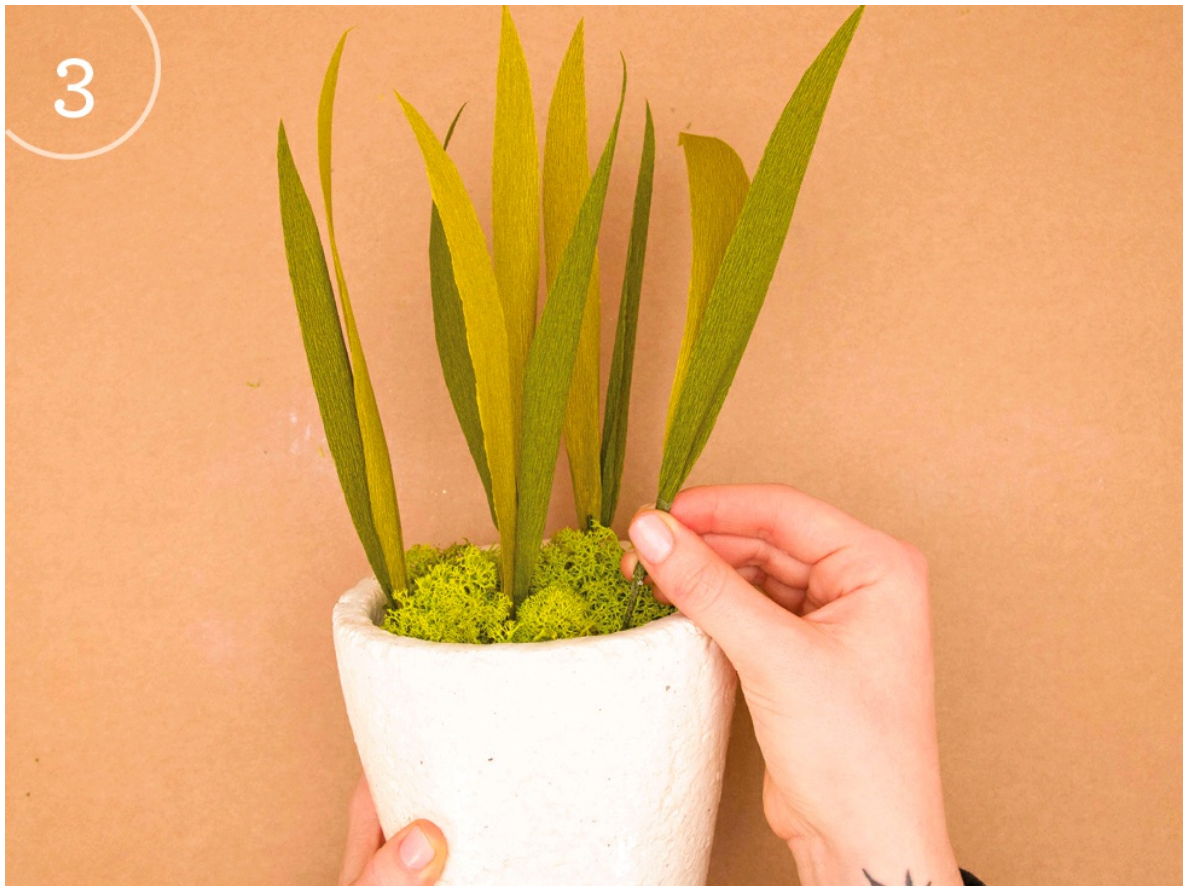
1. For potted daffodils, gather flowers and leaves.



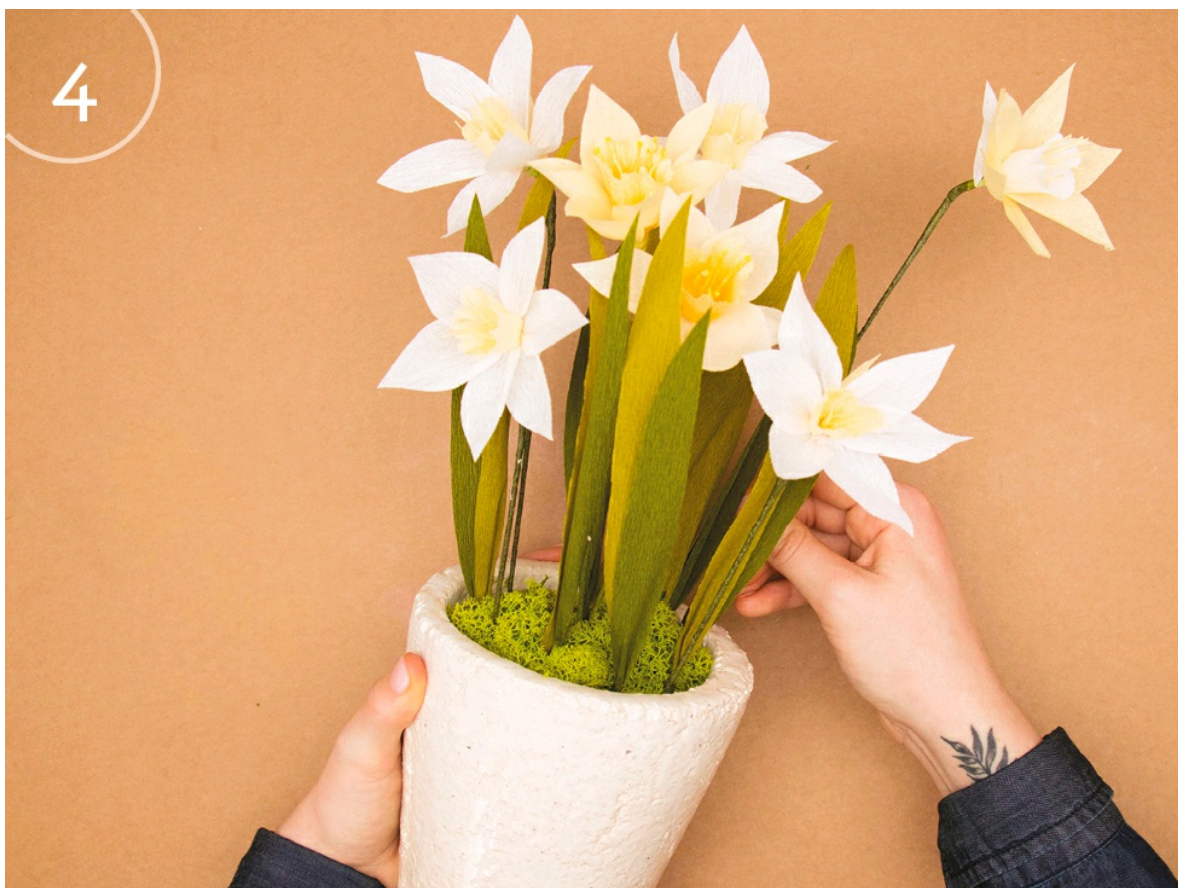
2. Place floral foam into pot. If there is extra room along the edges, add paper towels to secure the floral foam and cover with moss.



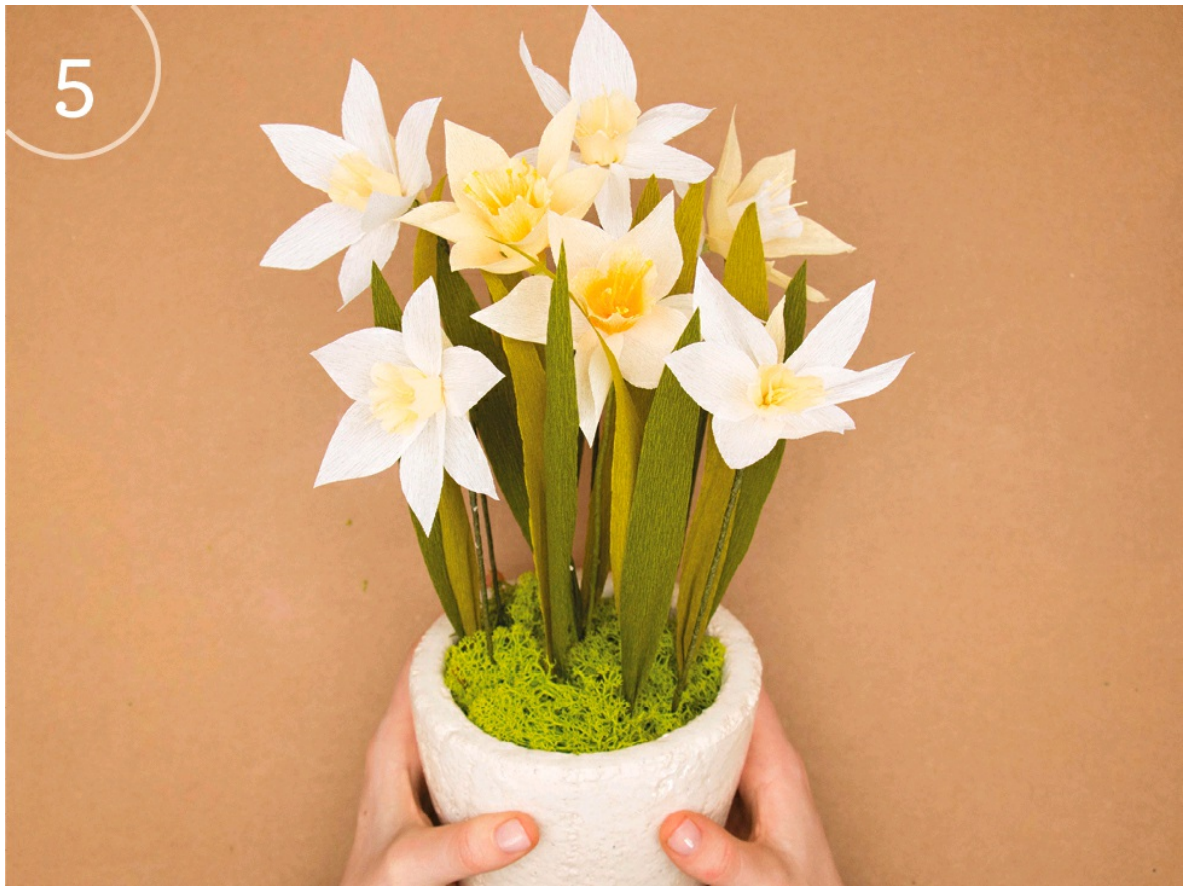
3. Arrange leaves in foam.



4. Arrange flowers in foam.



5. Display your arrangement.



6. For potted tulips, gather flowers and leaves.



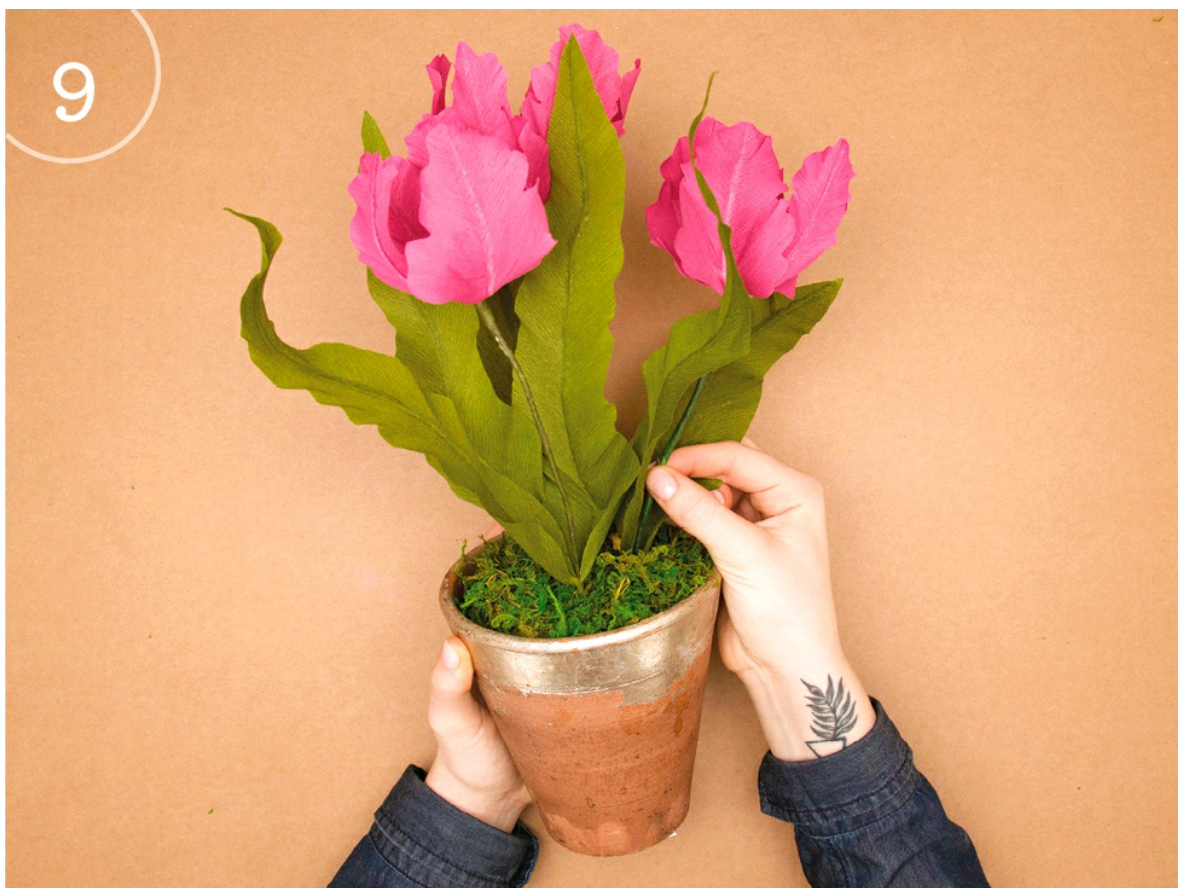
7. Place foam into pot, add paper towels if needed, and cover with moss.



8. Arrange leaves into foam.



9. Arrange flowers in foam.



10. Display your arrangement.

10











TEMPLATES

TIPS:

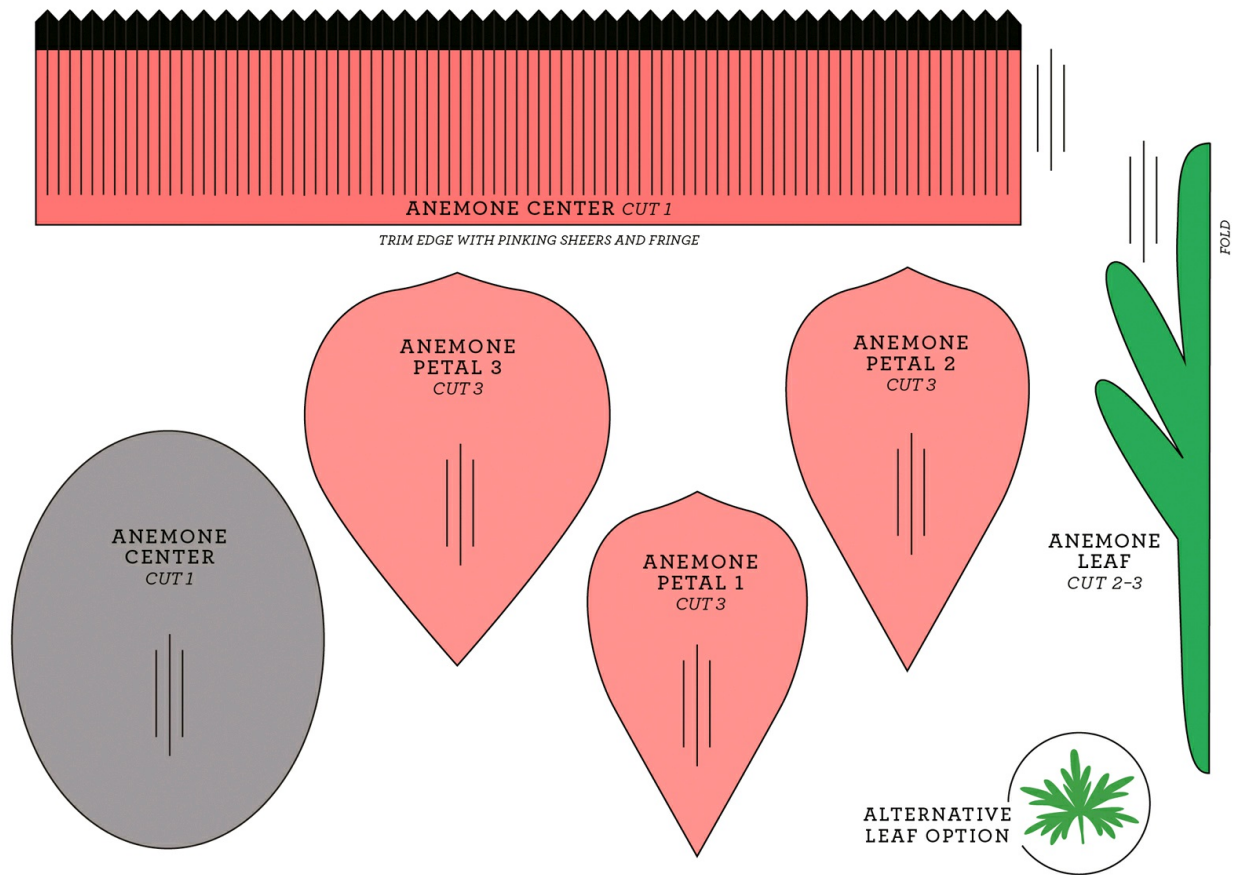
- Each template notes how many pieces to cut per flower. Multiply for as many flowers as desired.
- Be sure to match the grain lines of your paper as shown.



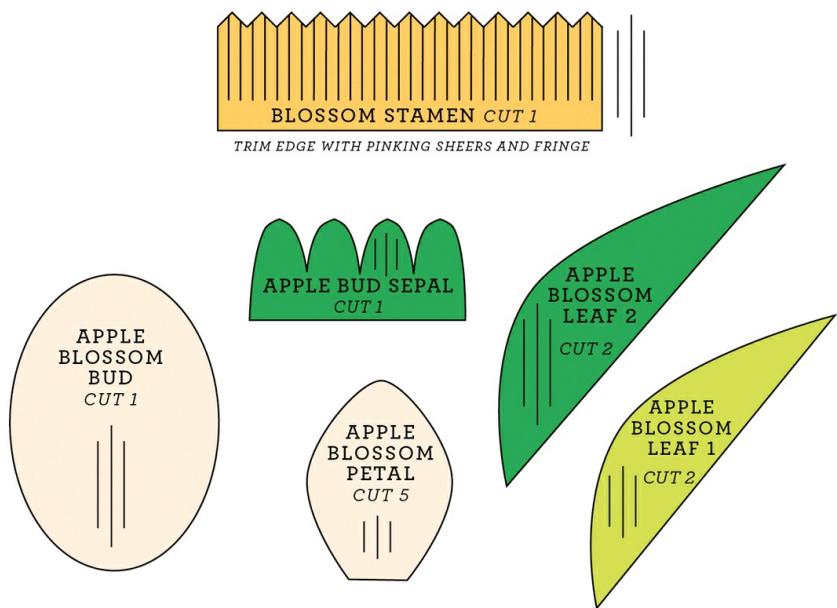
- For patterns: copy onto white card stock, or download printable PDF at

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ANEMONE

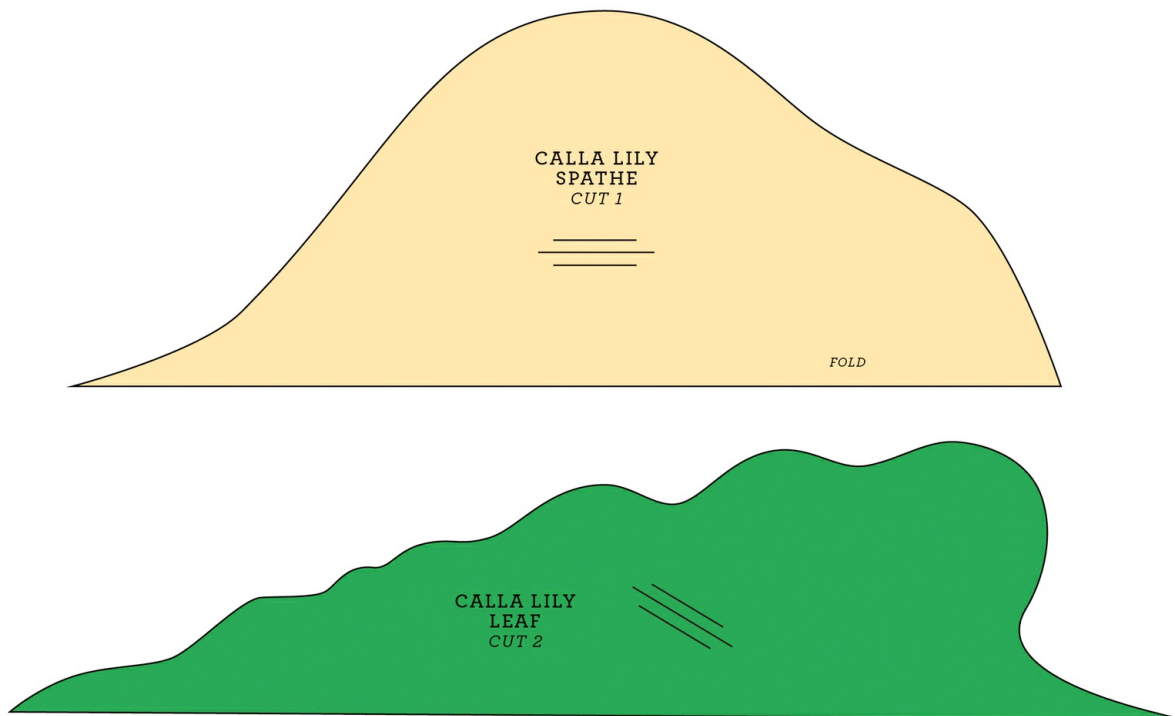


APPLE BLOSSOM

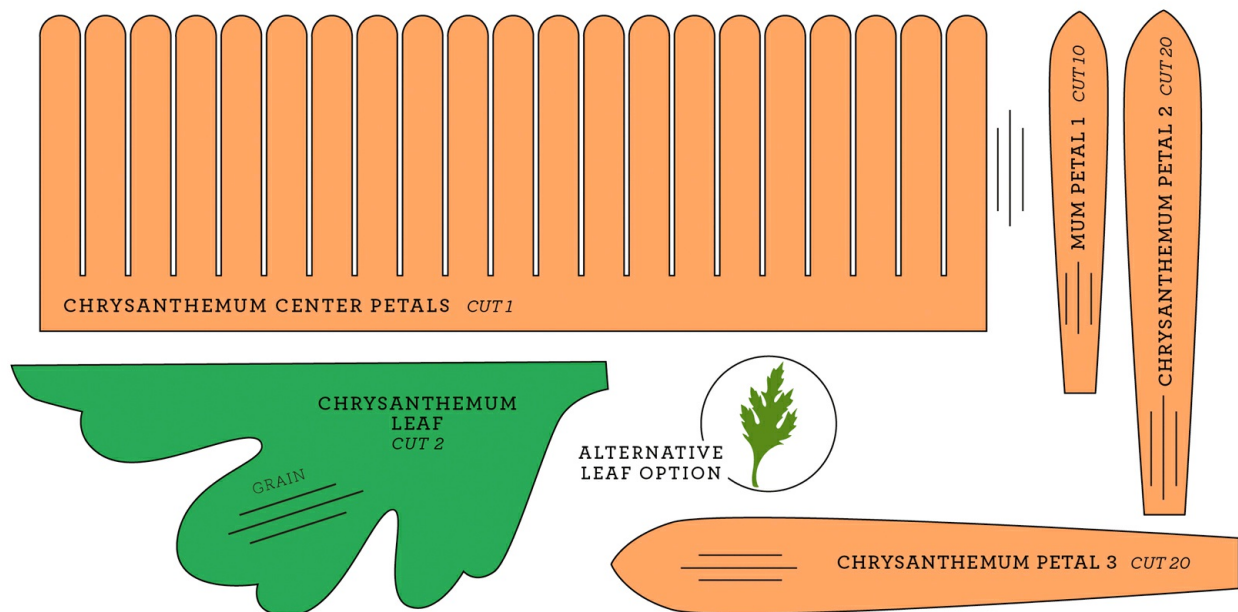


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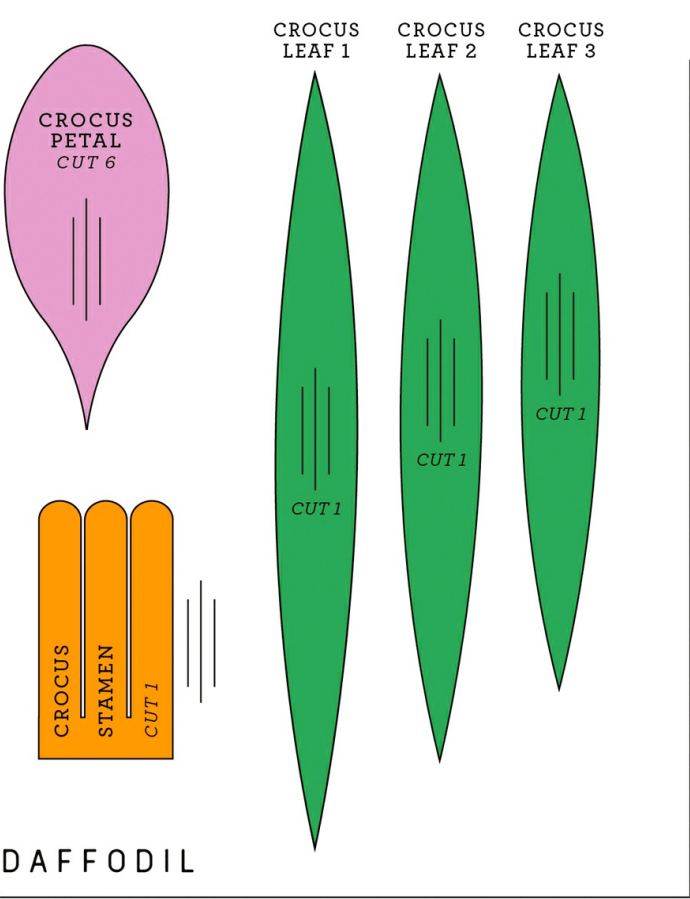
CALLA LILY



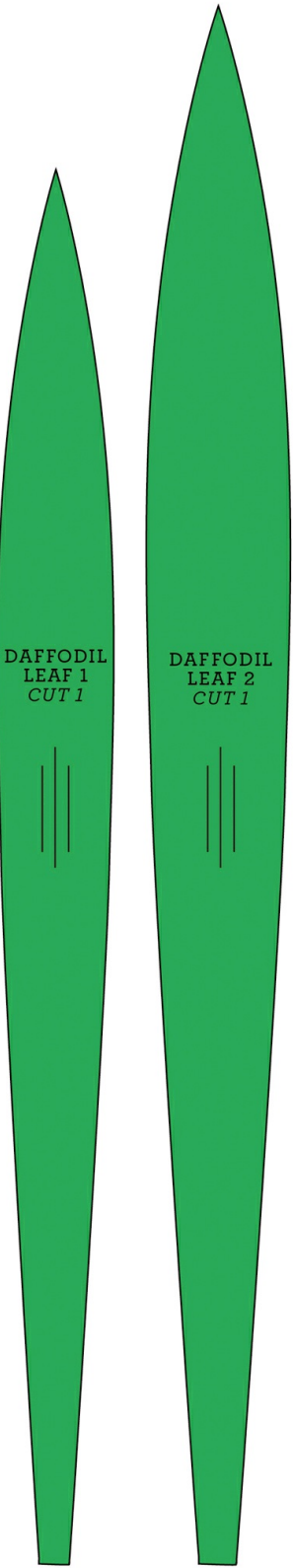
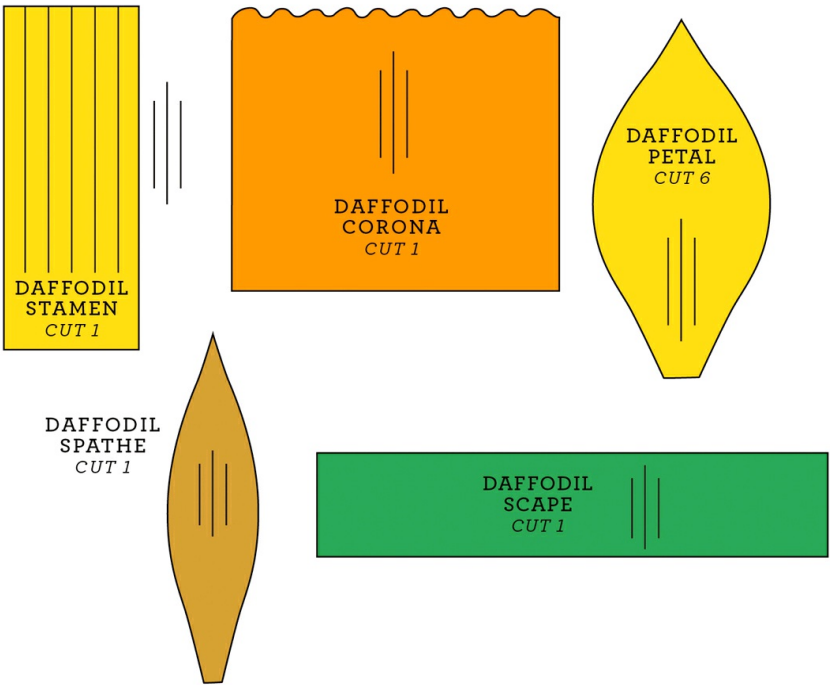
CHRYSANTHEMUM



CROCUS

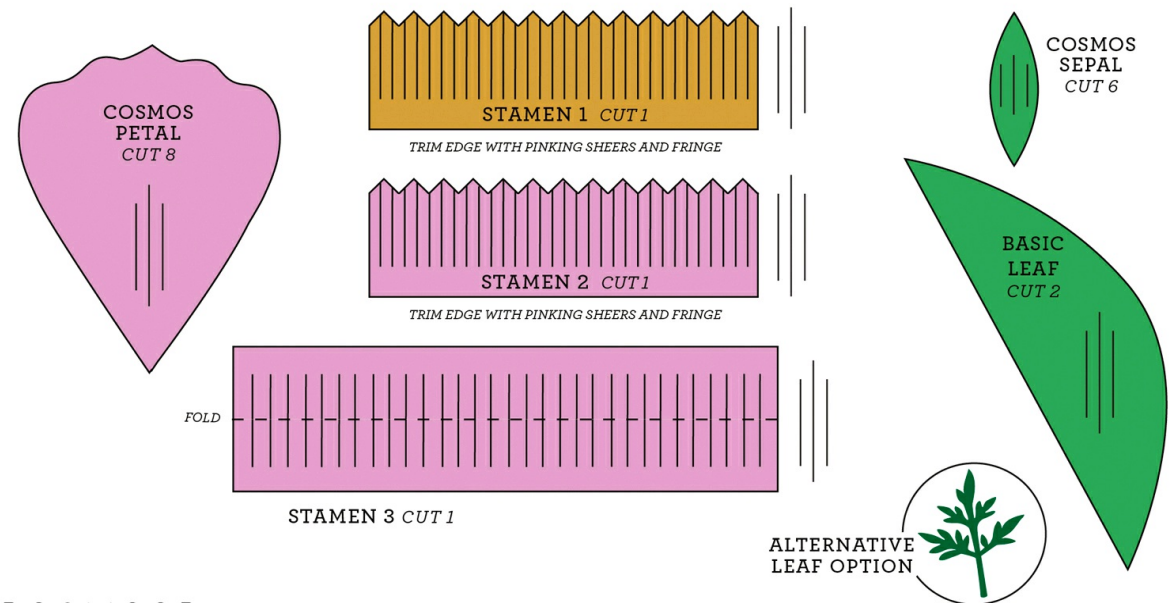


DAFFODIL

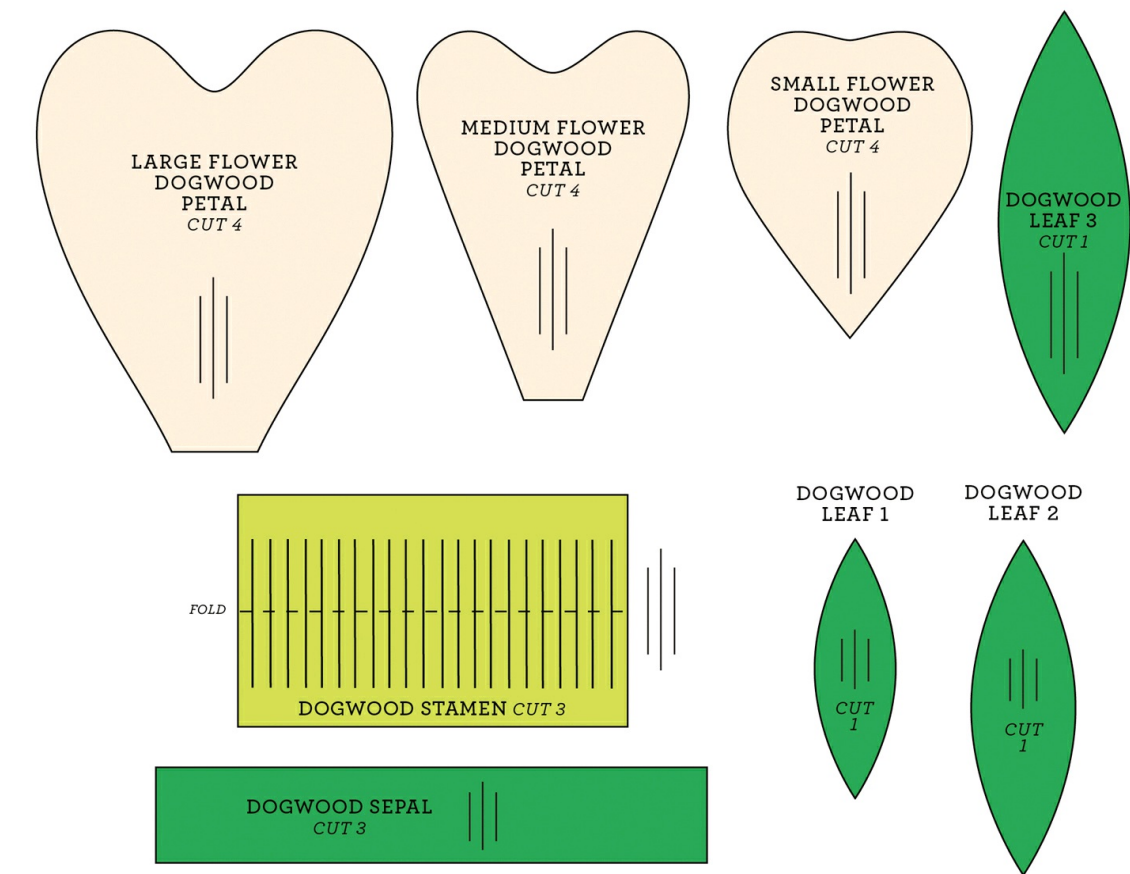


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COSMOS

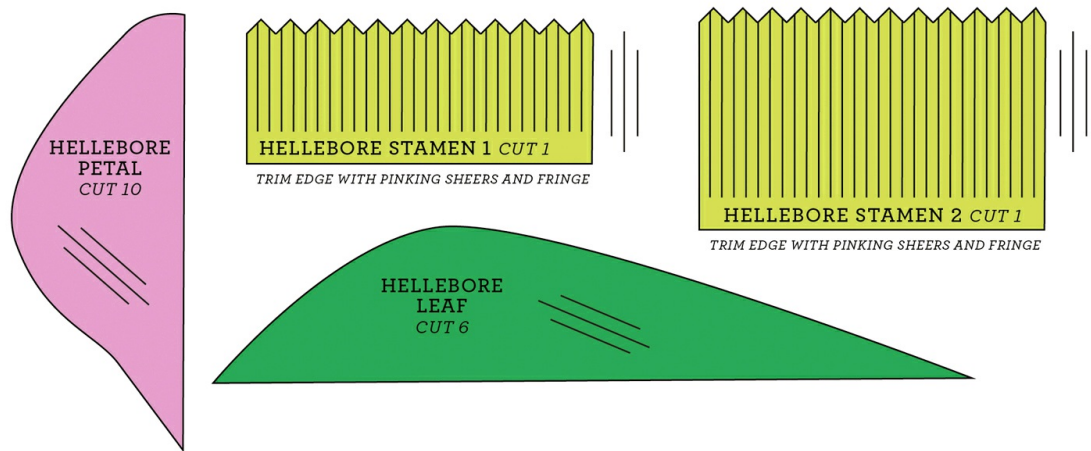


DOGWOOD

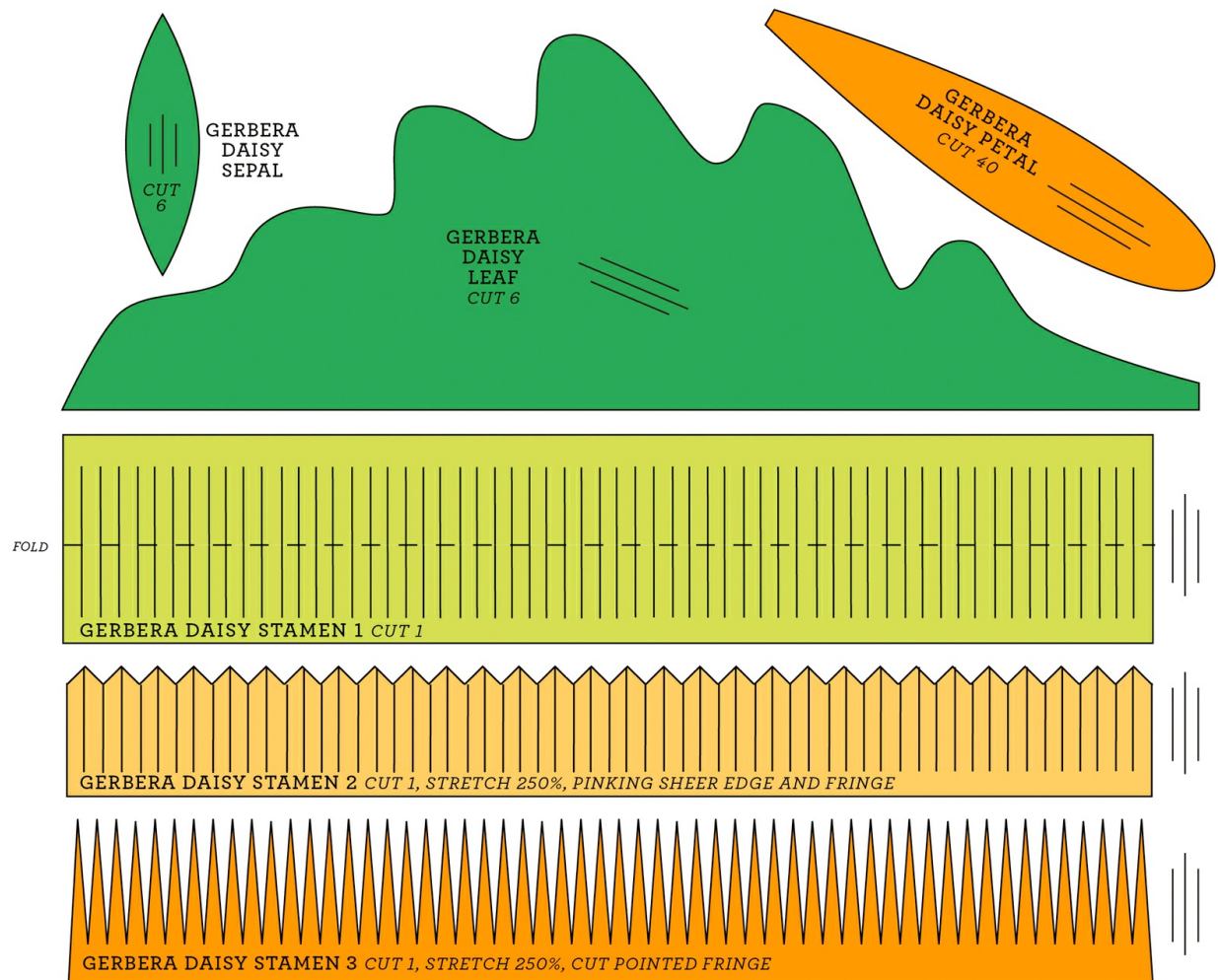


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HELLEBORE

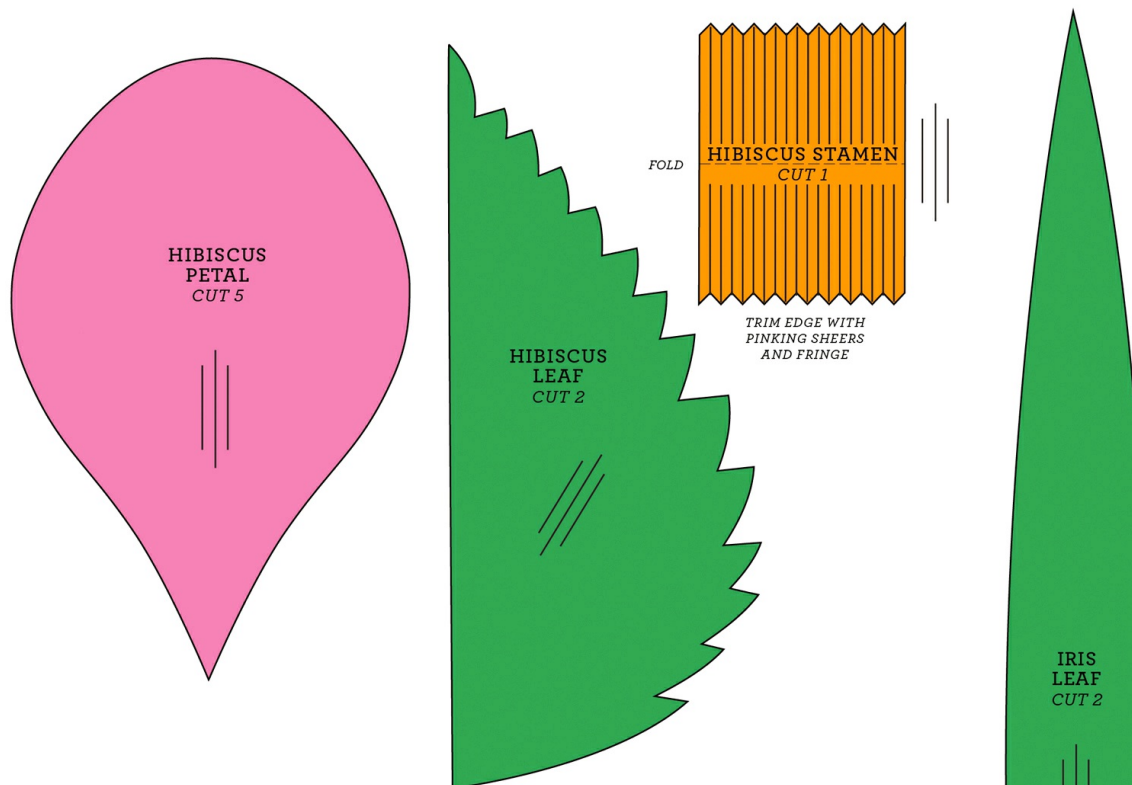


GERBERA DAISY

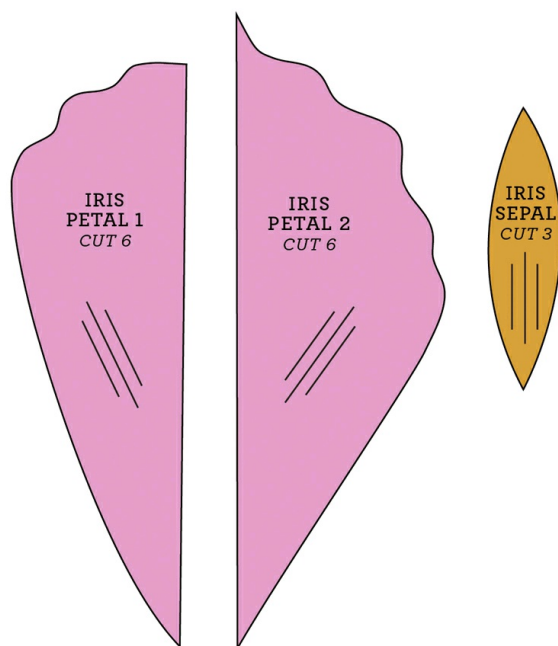


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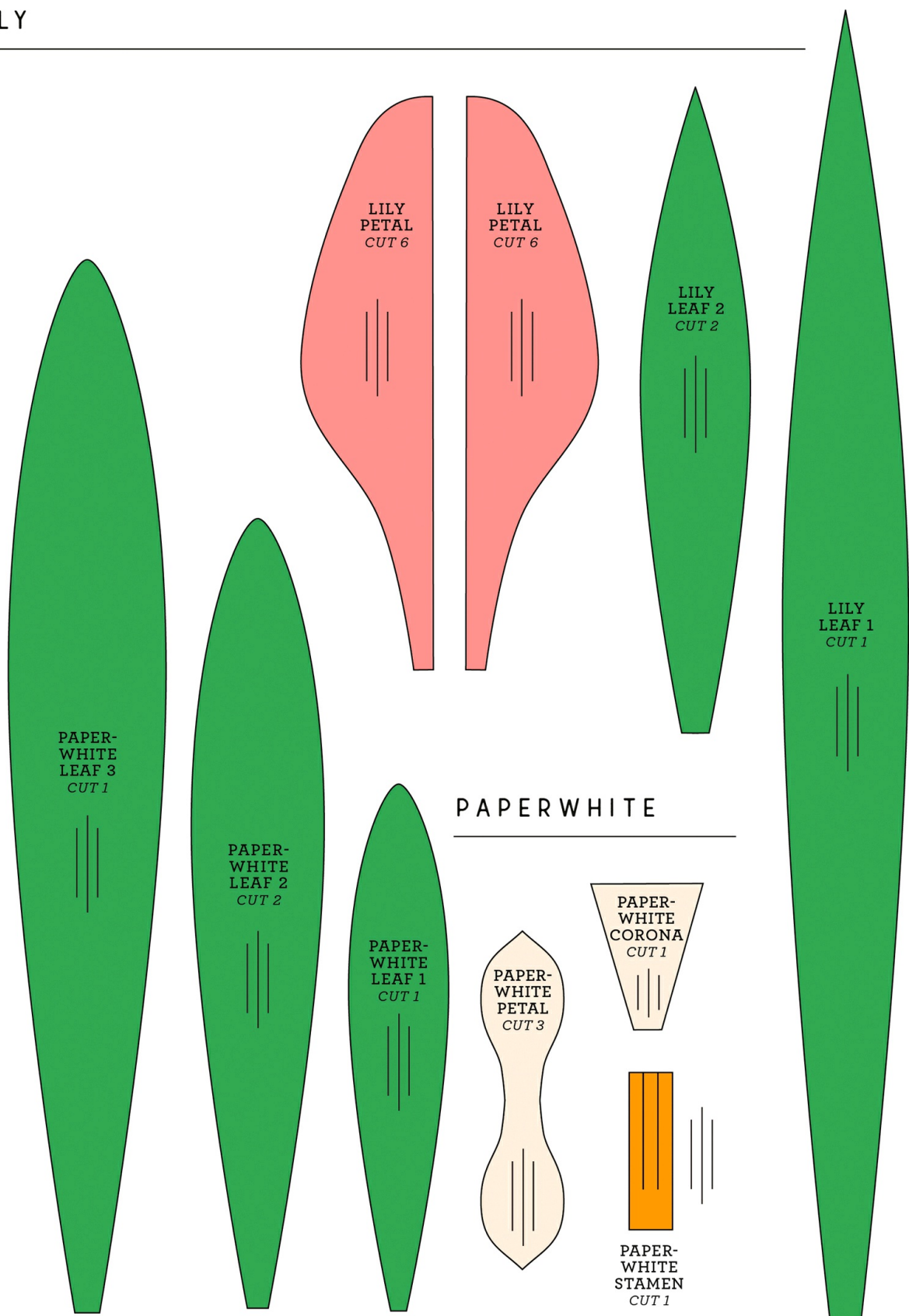
HIBISCUS



IRIS

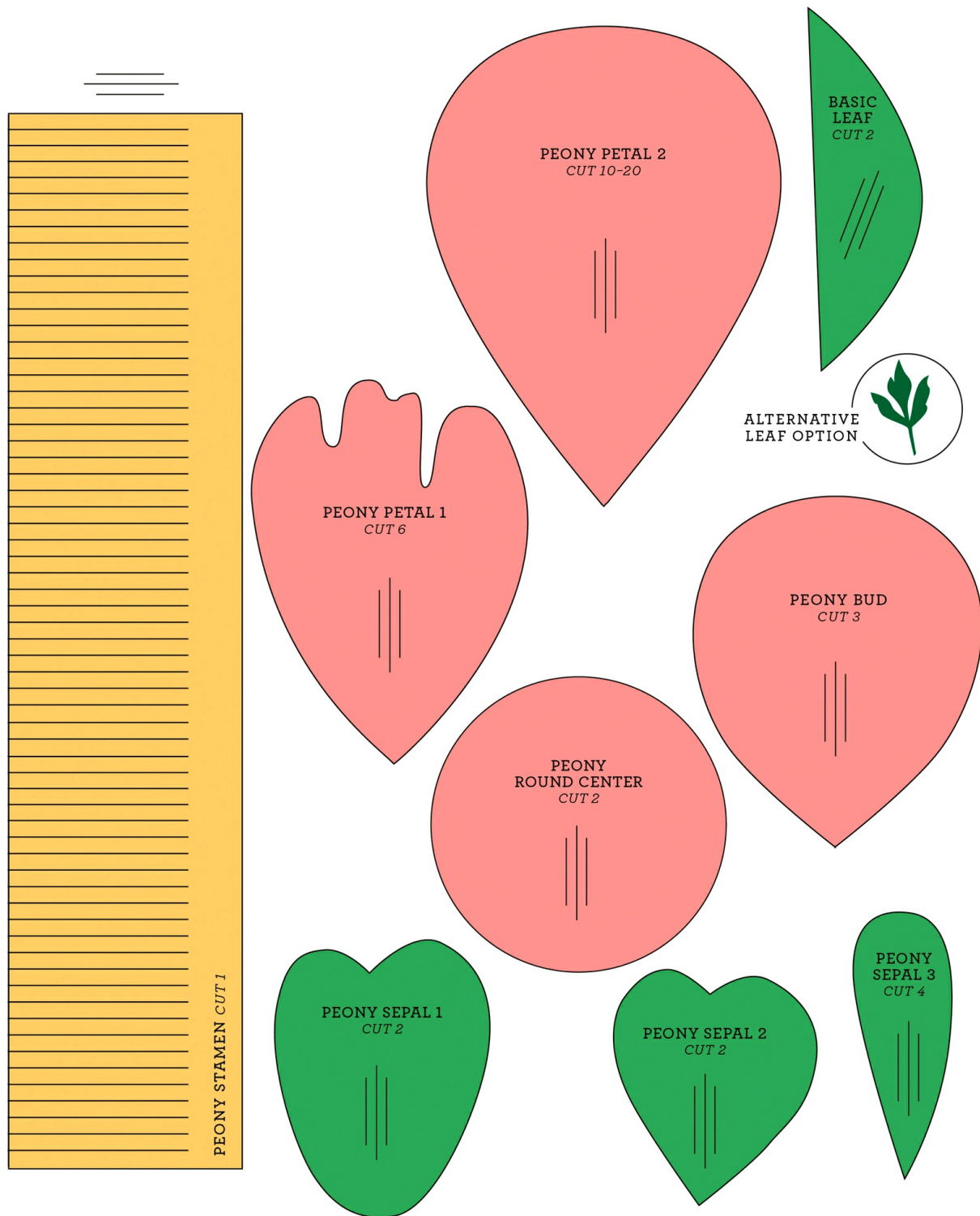


LILY

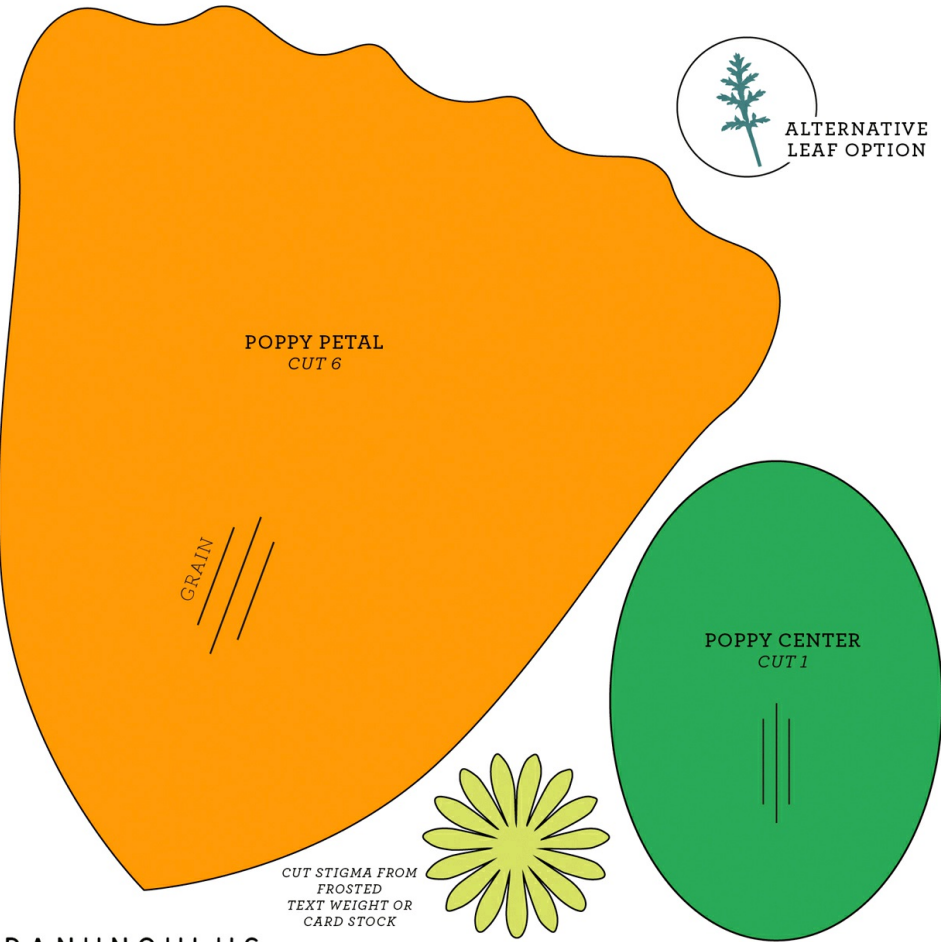


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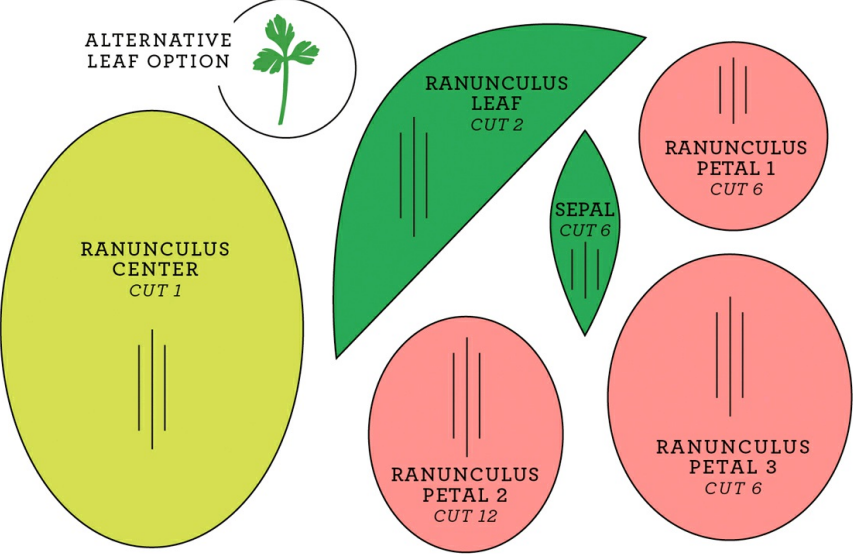
PEONY



POPPY

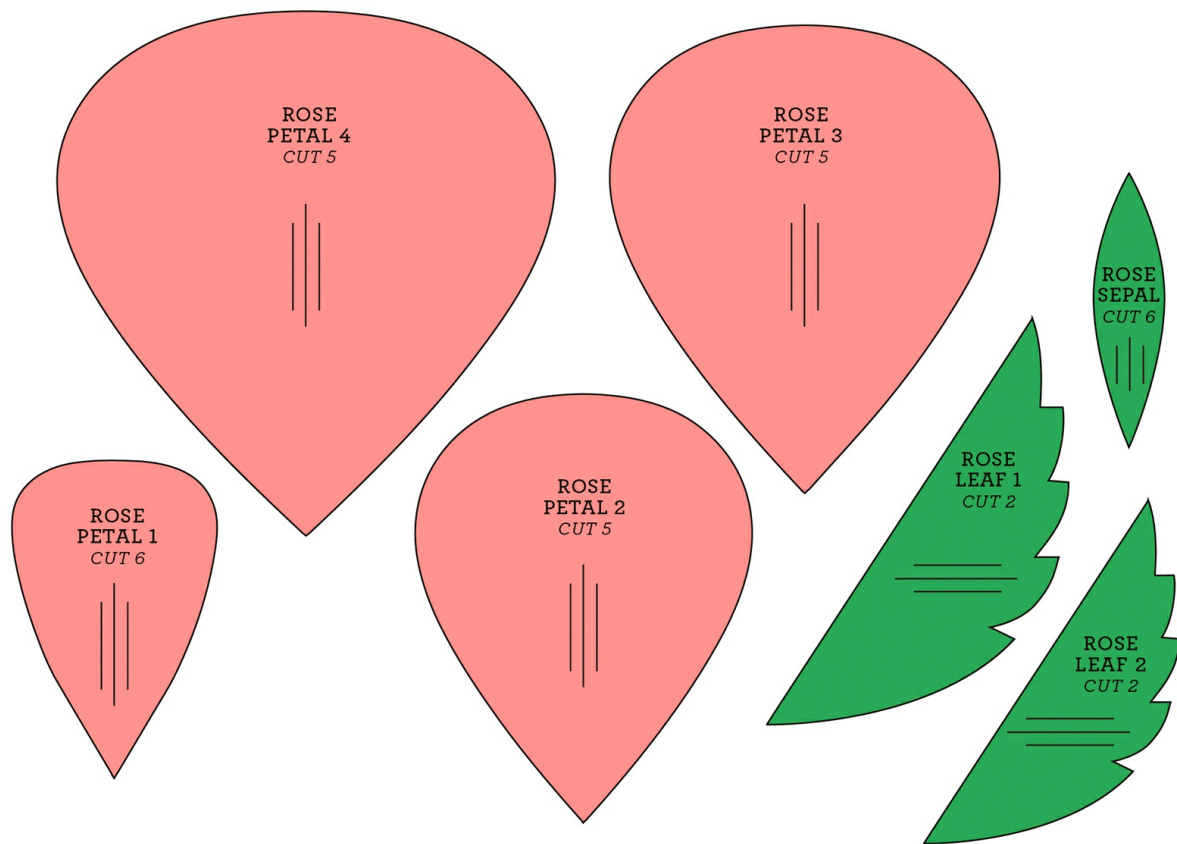


RANUNCULUS

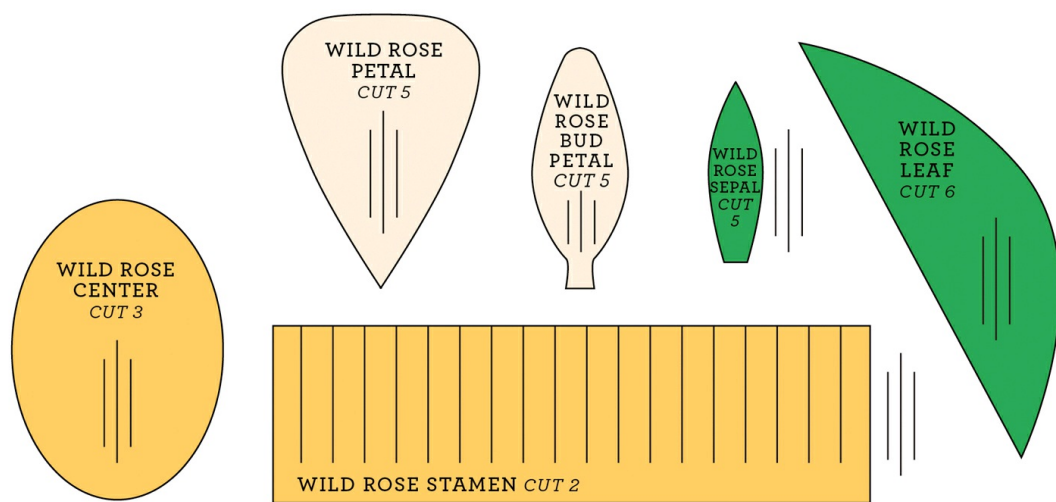


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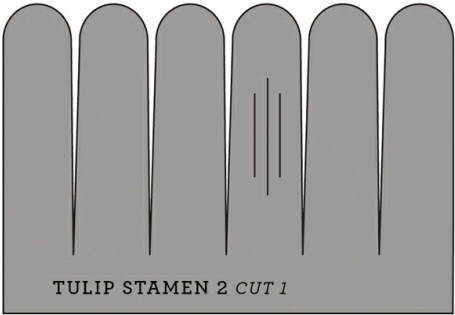
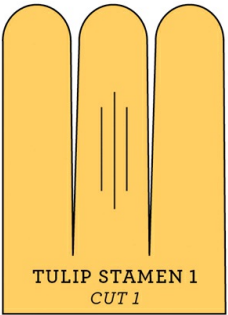
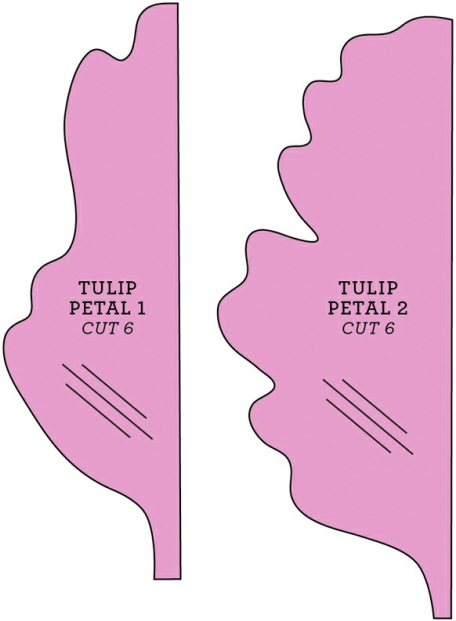
ROSE



WILD ROSE

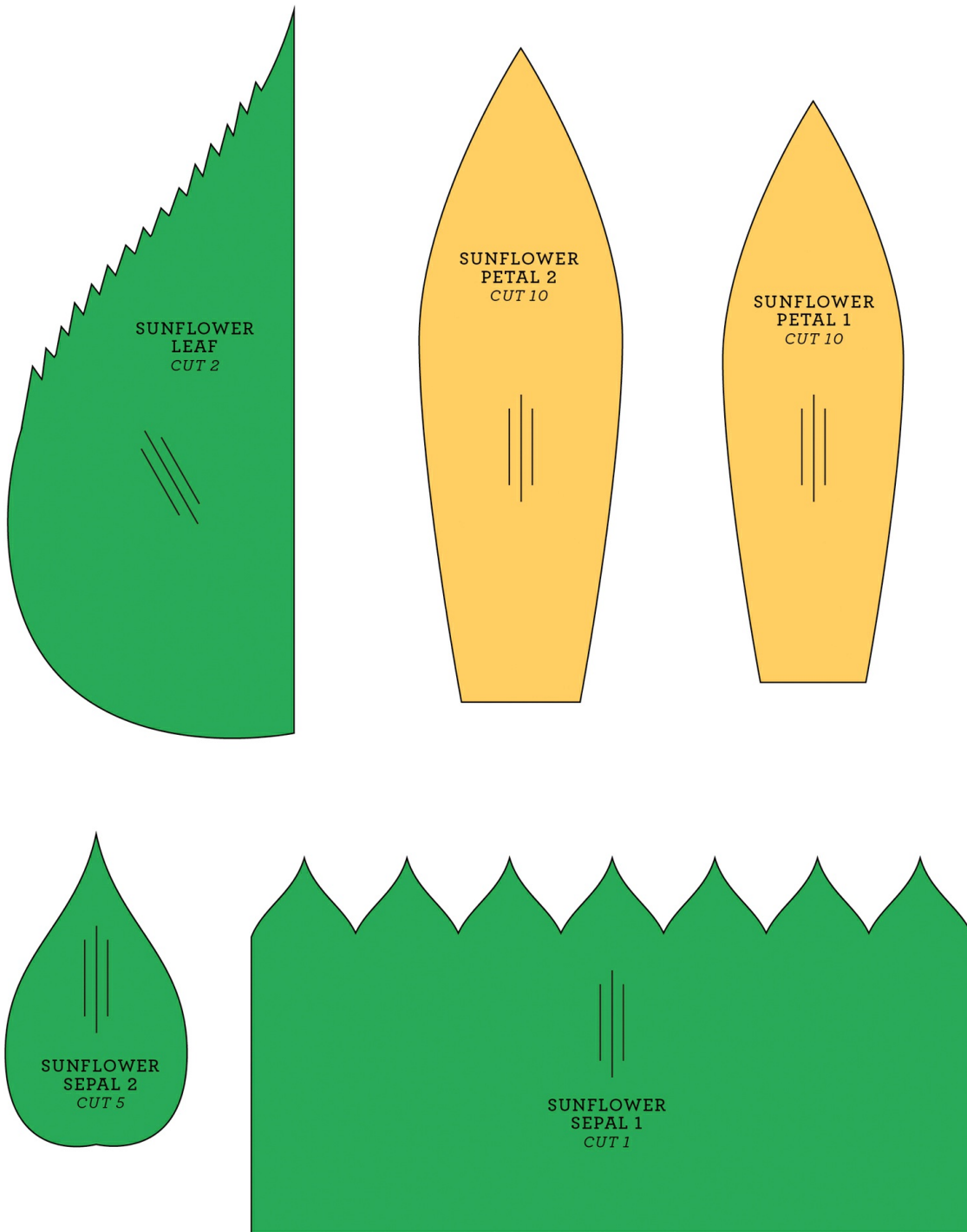


TULIP

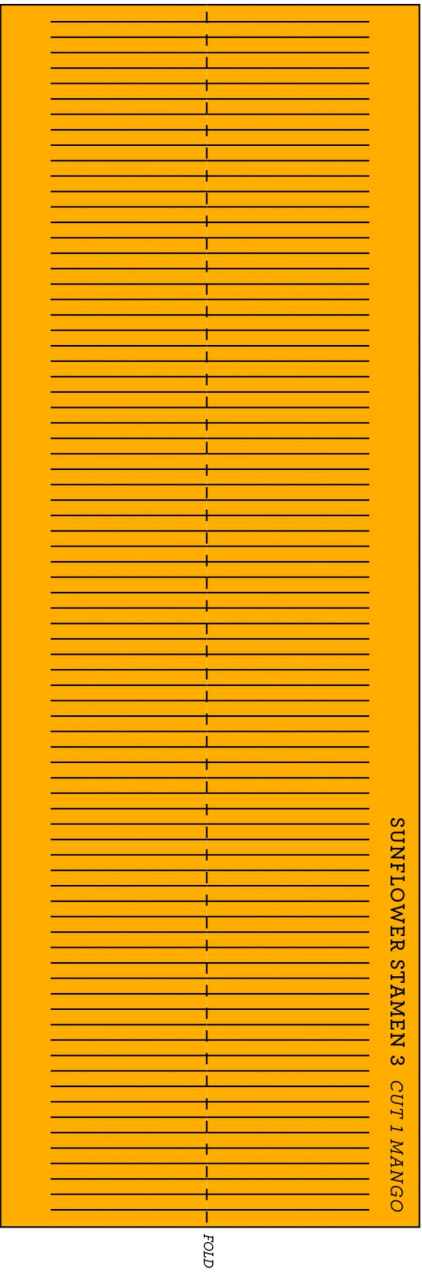
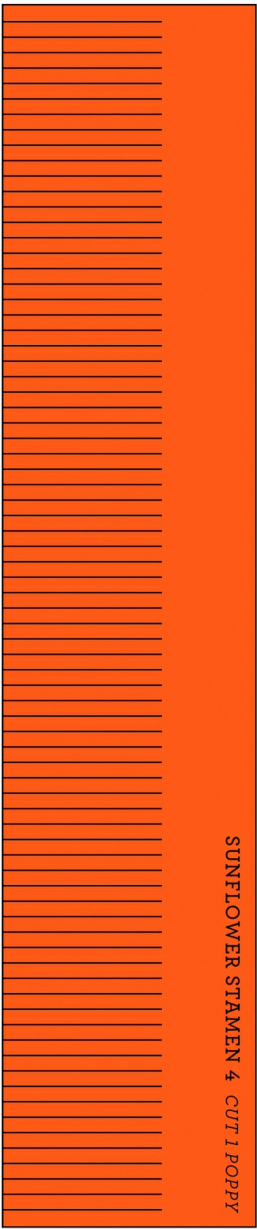
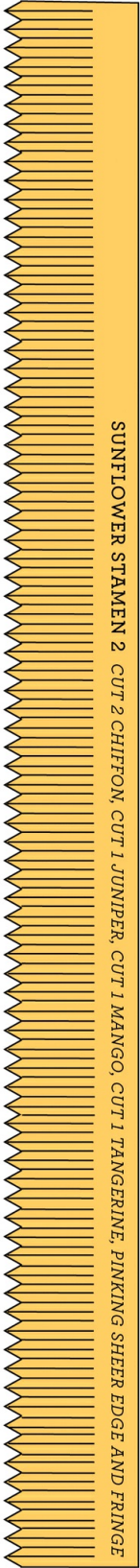
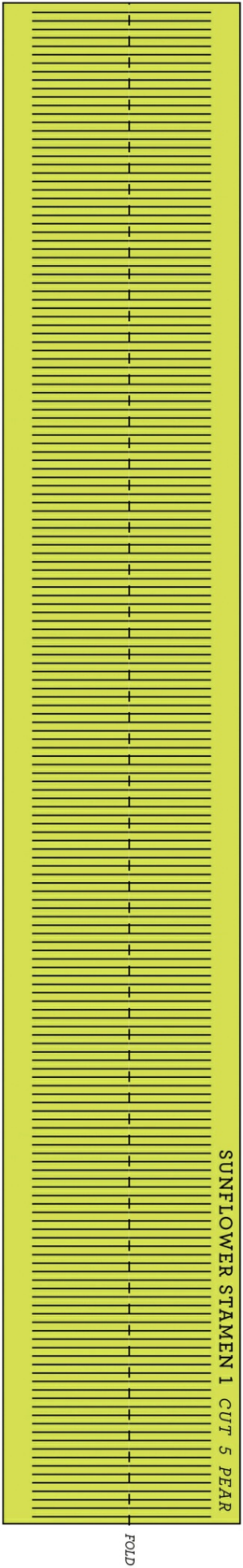


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SUNFLOWER

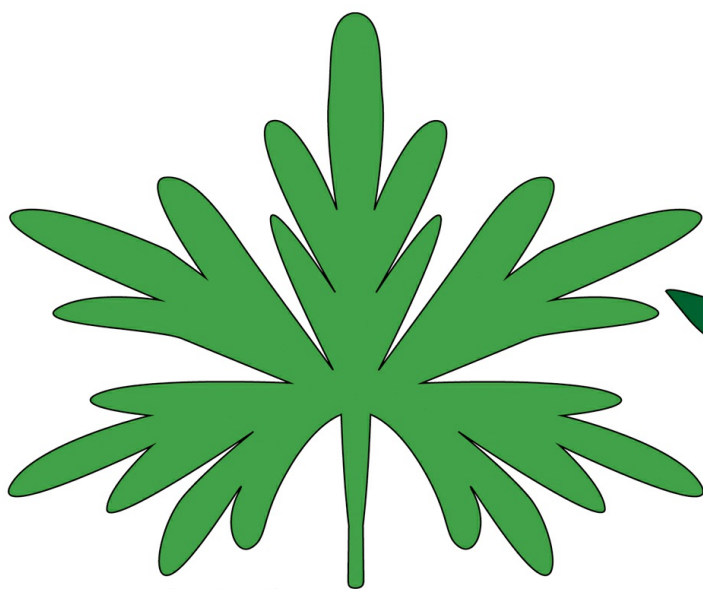


SUNFLOWER (CONTINUED)

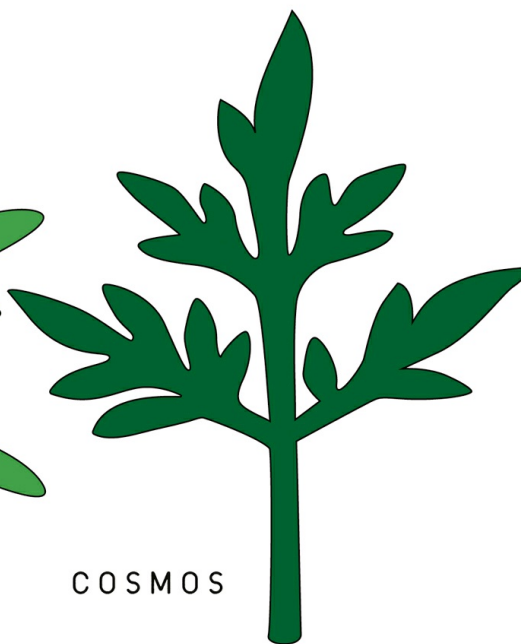


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TEXT-WEIGHT PAPER LEAVES



ANEMONE



COSMOS



TROPICAL

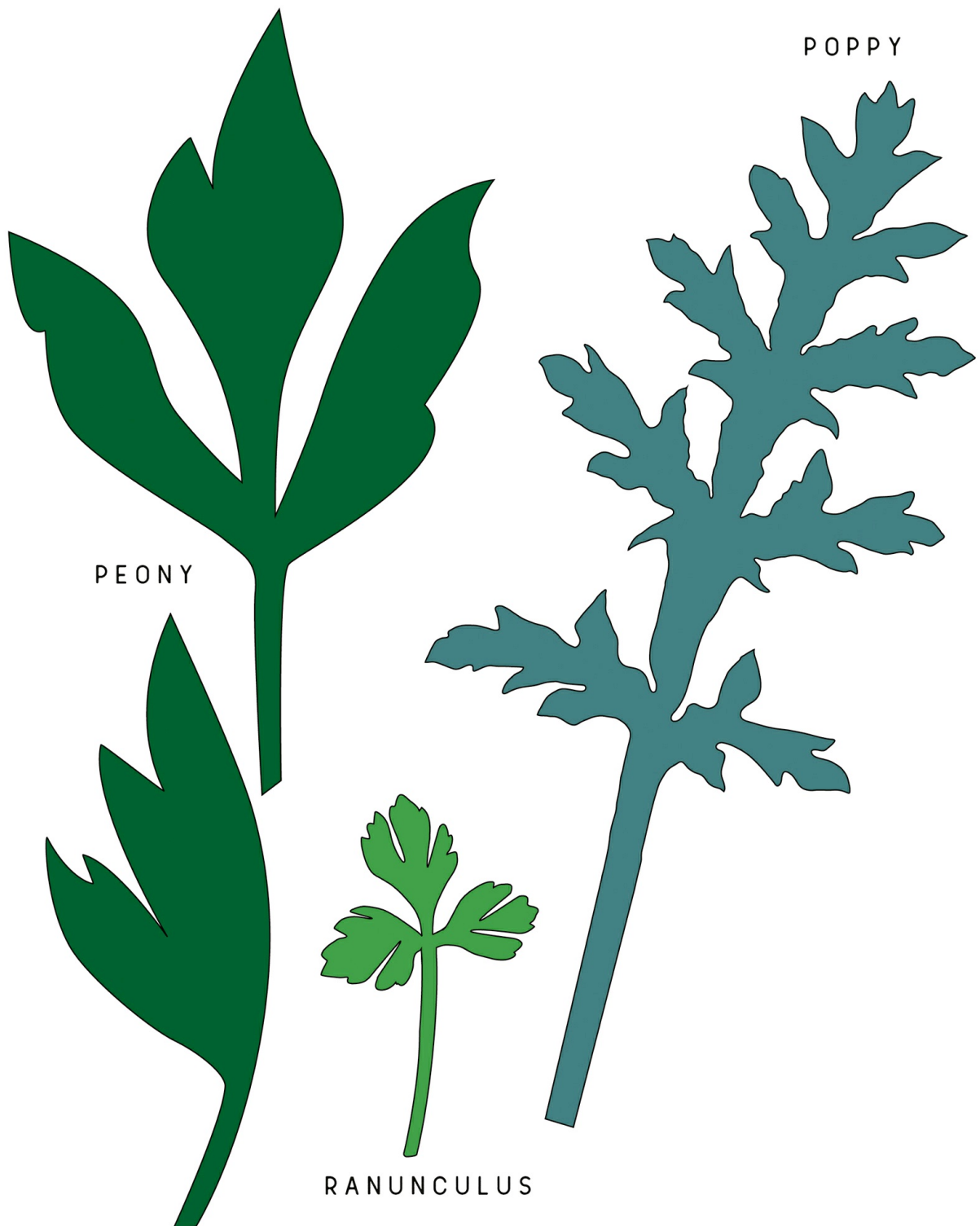


CHRYSANTHEMUM

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TEXT-WEIGHT PAPER LEAVES



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resources

Here is a list of sources where we love to find our papers, materials, and craft tools, but, of course, make sure to check your local craft stores.

[LiaGriffith.com](#)

crepe paper
frosted text-weight paper
floral tape
floral wire
branch wire
foam balls
scissors
low-temp hot glue guns
wire cutters
curling tool
PanPastel pigments
More crepe paper patterns, tutorials, and videos

[Blick stores & Blick.com](#)

crepe paper
floral tape
PanPastel pigments
craft paint
markers
paintbrushes
pastel sponge

[Amazon.com](#)

crepe paper

floral tape
floral wire
branch wire
foam balls
low-temp hot glue guns

JoAnn, Michaels, A.C. Moore, Hobby Lobby, Target &
Walmart

floral wire
branch wire
foam balls
scissors
low-temp hot glue guns
wire cutters
craft paint
markers
paintbrushes

thank you



I couldn't have made the book without the entire Clarkson Potter team, including Derek Gullino, Mia Johnson, Marysarah Quinn, Patricia Shaw, Neil Spitkovsky, Kim Tyner, Merri Ann Morrell, and Alison Hagge. And to Angelin Borsics, for cheerleading my second book.

To Meagan Donnelly, Jessica Nash, and Krista Nuro for their gorgeous crepe paper-flower designs, their continual

exploration, and paper flower expertise.

To Deanna Washington for designing this book and coaching me through the writing process.

To Anna Sjoberg-Smith for her expert photostyling.

To Matthew Nash and Emily Criswell for creating the steps and tutorials.

To Lindsay Zogas for perfecting each one of these crepe paper-flower patterns.

And, finally, to Emily Barnes, Virginia McGregor, Jessica Bonnett, and the rest of the team for supporting, cheering, and adding their input into this book.



*THE EARTH
LAUGHS IN
FLOWERS*

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON





Penguin
Random
House

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