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Making Paper Flowers

from Crepe Paper

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Preface

Hello,

I am delighted that you are giving me your time! I can assure you that once you start making paper flowers, you won't be able to stop!

My paper flower journey started with folding origami flowers and simple paper flowers with instructions from the internet. Then, one birthday, I received a craft book featuring all different kinds of paper flowers – including a crepe paper flower! I bought some simple crepe paper and got started. With growing ambition and in search of better paper, I discovered the Italian company Cartotecnica Rossi, which sells a huge range of crepe paper in different colors. I created an account on Instagram and started posting my flowers – and quickly became part of a worldwide community of paper flower artists!

Over time, Cartotecnica Rossi also became aware of me. Almost two years ago, I became part of their artist gallery and they invited me to Creativeworld in Frankfurt in 2023. I opened my Etsy store and began selling my paper flowers there.

In 2024, I was invited to the Creativa in Dortmund by the lovely Dagmar, who noticed me in Frankfurt. That's where the idea for this book was born ...

How should you use this book? Well, quite simply: work your way through it, page by page! Read the techniques carefully and get familiar with the paper. Then follow each tutorial in turn, and finally, you'll find a few suggestions on how to decorate your flowers!

You can find the templates to download here:
www.mitp.de/0950

You can find the right materials here:

Crepe paper:
www.cartotecnicarossi.it/en

Glue and wire:
at your local craft store or on Amazon!

But now I hope you have lots of fun with this book! I would be delighted if you shared your creations with me on social media like Instagram or TikTok (**#paperlene**)!





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Materials

Crepe Paper

Due to its vertical structure, crepe paper can be stretched and is therefore perfect for your flowers. In addition to the wide variety of colors, there are also different types of crepe paper that differ in weight and stretch content. In this section you will find a list of the most important crepe papers for me and their properties.

1 90 g Italian Artist Crepe Paper

The huge selection of colors and the high stretch content of 500% makes it my favorite for good reason. All colors have their own number code and name. You can order a catalog with all the color samples from the manufacturer Cartotecnica Rossi. I will give the code and name in this book. When I use this paper for flowers, I usually laminate two pages, but more on that later!

2 180 g Florist Crepe Paper

This crepe paper has a stronger grain and in some cases still has so-called »machine lines«, which no longer exist on newer rolls from Cartotecnica Rossi. The stretch is not as strong with this crepe paper. However, in addition to the more 'colorful' tones, there is a large selection of green and brown tones, which I like to use for stems and leaves. It's a similar story with the 160 g crepe paper, which is available in similar colors.

3 Doublette Crepe Paper

Here, two layers of crepe are joined together, often in two different colors. It does not come in rolls, but in a smaller folded version. It is also a bit more difficult to obtain and trickier to work with. Nevertheless, you can achieve great effects.

4 60 g Fine Crepe Paper

This crepe paper can be found in different qualities in craft stores. It has less stretch and needs to be worked more carefully. However, I still like to use it for particularly fine flower parts or I use unpopular colors to make the stems thicker.



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Materials

Tools

1. Scissors

Perhaps the most important tool for your flowers is a sharp pair of scissors. They must be able to cut through several layers of paper without tearing or bending the crepe. In addition to my normal scissors, I also have a pair of precision scissors that I use to cut out details.

2. Pliers

You need these to cut or shape wires to the right length.

3. Glue

I use different glues: a liquid craft glue that is clear and dries quickly, a glue stick for laminating and hot glue for attaching polystyrene balls to wires.

4. Wire

I like to use paper wire as a flower base because it is already thinly wrapped in paper. I also use different diameters of wire, which I usually need for leaves or multi-part flowers.

5. Florist Tape

A self-adhesive tape that is available in different colors. It can also be used for wrapping.

6. Polystrene Balls

I use different sizes to create a base for the flower. Attached with hot glue, they form a stable base.

7. Brush / Chalk / Gouache

For individual color aspects or complete coloring, the application of pastel chalks with brushes or applicators is particularly suitable.

8. Felt-Tip Pens

Felt-tip pens, especially the »PITT artist pens« from Faber Castell, are also suitable for fine color application.

9. Ruler

Essential for measuring lengths and for embossing fold lines.

10. Embossing pens

A good aid for rounding petals or embossing patterns into paper.



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Techniques, tips and tricks

There are many different techniques for working with crepe paper. In this section, I will show you the basics as well as some tips and tricks!

Have the courage to try out your own techniques!

Tip

QR-Code for laminating crepe paper



1 Stretching

To do this, take the crepe paper strip between your thumb and the heel of your hand and pull it apart with evenly distributed pressure. The paper must be pulled apart slowly and with a certain amount of care. By the way: the paper can usually withstand more than you think and if it tears, simply start again from the beginning!

Caution

Don't just pull with your fingers, otherwise the paper will deform!



Project 1

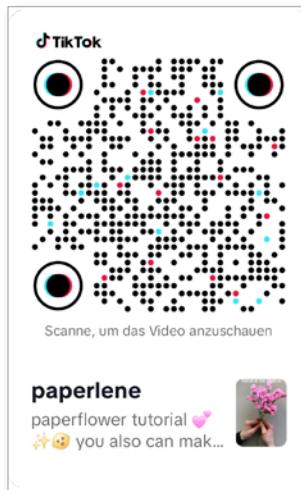
Statice

Materials

- 60 g 204 »Baby Pink« Crepe Paper
- 90 g 367 »Crocodile Green« Crepe Paper
- Scissors
- Liquid Craft Glue
- Wire 3x 25 cm length
- Ruler

Variation

- 60 g 205 »White Pink«
- 60 g 303 »White Cream«
- 60 g 277 »Purple«
- 60 g 330 »White«



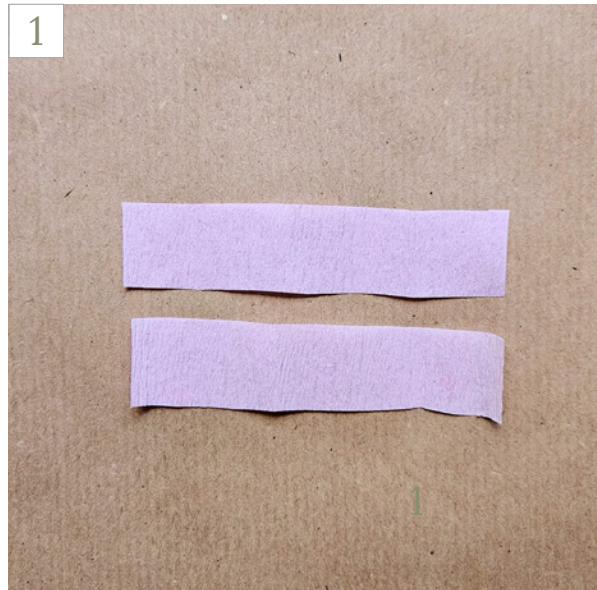
Tip

Statice come in many different colors! So feel free to try out other colors.

Look for pictures on the internet and match your colors. Maybe you'll find even more inspiration that way!

1 Cut 48x 2 cm x 8.5 cm long strips from your 60 g »Baby Pink« crepe paper roll.

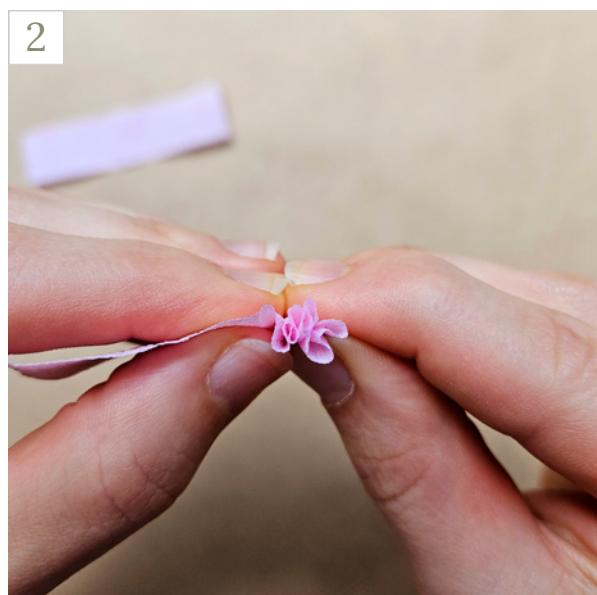
You can carefully stretch the strips if the structure of the paper is too strong for you.



2 Take the strip between your thumbs and forefingers.

Now fold the strip into round folds. These can be of different sizes.

You should end up with an accordion shape with rounded edges.



11

Now take two twigs and glue them together 4-5 cm below the last flowers. To do this, put a little glue on one stem and hold the second one to it. Wrap a green strip around the glued area.

Wrap the strip around the second branch until you reach the beginning again.

Now place the green strip over the fork in the branch and carefully pull it through so that the strip lies tightly in between. Now wrap it down over the stem from the back left. This will give you a neat finish and prevent it from tearing.

11



12

Proceed as in step 11 with the third branch.

Glue it to the other side of the main stem and wrap the green strip back through the resulting fork in the branch.

Then wrap the green strip all the way down. If you still have strips left at the bottom, simply wind it upwards again.

Apply some glue to the end point.

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