
Cricut Paper Flowers: Make a Hydrangea with Lia Griffith

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- Hi, I'm Lia. I'm the blogger and paper craft designer at Liagriffith.com. One of things I'm known for on my blog are my paper flowers. So, I've teamed up with CreativeBug and Cricut to show you how to make these beautiful hydrangeas. These hydrangeas have a lot of little pieces. That's why working with the Cricut is so perfect. It'd take a lot of time to cut all these out, so I've made them with metallic paper, and I'm gonna show you how to add a little extra dimension into the flowers. I'll show you how to structure the inside with floral wire, and tape it off to make this beautiful bouquet. Once you know how to make one hydrangea stem, you could make multiples in any color you want, and they'll last all year round.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- For this project you're gonna need your computer, the Cricut Explore, and we're gonna have a variety of papers. I'm using metallic, lightweight paper. And here is a light, medium and dark lavender. I also have a variation of a watercolor wash that you can download and print. And I printed on both sides of the paper. And that adds a little extra texture. You can make your hydrangea using the solid paper, because the metallic adds an extra depth on it's own. But if you want to add the watercolor wash, make sure you use a laser printer. This will not work on an inkjet. Not on metallic paper. For the hydrangea, you're gonna need two to three shades of one color for each head. And you'll need a half a sheet of the metallic green for each flower. A light grip cutting mat. Green floral tape. Some scissors. Jewelry pliers. I'm gonna use the scoring tool for the Cricut machine as well as the spatula. Wire cutters if you want to make your stems shorter. Thirty 12 inch, 20 gauge floral wire for each stem. And a hot glue gun. Most of these supplies you can find at your craft store. But for the metallic paper, I recommend that you look online.

Chapter 3 - Make Hydrangea

Cut out petals and leaves using Cricut

- We're gonna start by opening up our hydrangea pattern in the design space. And I have mine open right here. This is really easy. I have it all set up for you, so all you need to do is press the go button. It's gonna pop open to the mat preview. And as you can see, it has it going down the left-hand side of the mat, so that's how I'm going to place my paper. I'm gonna peel off the cover here and save it for later, so I can keep my mat clean. Line this up on the left-hand side. And my pattern is set up to cut on and eight and a half by 11. Smooth it down lightly with your hand. I'm gonna go back to my computer and just click the go button. First thing I wanna do is change the dial for the material using. I'm using a paper, but it is a heavyweight, so I'm gonna go ahead and set it on a light cardstock. When your arrow button is flashing, you know that your mat is ready to load. Slide your mat under these tabs right up against the rollers. Press the arrow button and load the mat, and when you see the cricket button flashing, it's ready to cut. When the machine is done cutting, you can eject your mat by pressing the arrow. This is the fun part. If you're using a new mat, you might wanna roll it first, and this helps release the paper. Then I'm gonna use my spatula and very carefully remove the petals from the mat. Every page has 30 hydrangea blooms, and I use 60

to 90 for each stem, so go ahead and cut two more pieces of paper. To cut the leaf I have my leaf template already up here in design space, and you'll see that I have some score lines as well as cut lines, which means I'll need to load the score tool at some point. I'm gonna click go, and that's gonna bring me to my mat preview. I'm gonna go ahead and rotate my leaf the other direction. I can do that by using this little rotation tool. And I'm gonna move it right over to the edge, and that's where I've placed my paper. So I'll go ahead and click the go button. To load the score tool, flip that open, you'll see the arrow pointing down, and just click it so you cannot see the arrow anymore, and then close that tab. We're gonna cut this in the same way we cut the petals, so I'm just gonna load my mat, and follow the prompts just like we did before. Let's see how these leaves turned out. So, I only need three leaves per flower, so I have enough for two. This makes enough for one hydrangea blossom, but go ahead and cut out all your components, and I'll show you how to assemble them.

Assemble hydrangea and finish

- Before you start assembling the hydrangea, there are two things that you can do to make it look more realistic. And the first thing is to curl the petals and the other is to fold the leaf. To curl my petals, I'm gonna use the edge of my scissors and I'm actually gonna leave them closed. I'll place my thumb about halfway up on the petal and carefully just curl the tip. I sort of pop my scissors over the paper. It might take a little bit of practice and you'll figure out how much pressure that you need to get the curl. This is like curling ribbon during Christmas. I have 90 petals curled and ready to go. And now I'm gonna show you how to fold the leaf. So you can see the score right down the middle of the leaf and I'm just gonna carefully fold it on the score line. I'm not actually gonna fold the leaf completely in half, cause I don't want it to be folded in half, I just wanna give it that nice little bend. Like that! To create your stem, you're going to need the 30 pieces of wire and some floral tape. So I'm gonna make these flush, so they're all even. Using my floral tape, I'm gonna measure about 2 1/2, 3 inches down. The more that you leave on the top, the bigger your bloom will be and each bloom can vary. It's nice to have different size pads of blooms. So I'm gonna start with my floral tape right here and I'm gonna pull it and stretch it as tight as I can around the neck. And then pull it to an angle, I'm gonna move it right down the stem, and we're gonna cover the whole rest of the stem with this floral tape. Takes a little bit of practice, don't worry if you don't get it perfect, you can always re-do it. So I'm gonna wrap the bottom of the stem and sort of give it a finish right here. Tear it off and we're done. You're gonna start with these wires at a 90 degree angle and then just work towards the center to create a dome. And as you go up, you'll make them a little bit higher and higher. This is gonna be the structure underneath the hydrangea. To create more surface area to glue to, I'm gonna use these jewelry pliers and I'm gonna curl these tips into a little spiral. And then I'll flatten them out, just like that. I'm using a round-nose plier to create the circle, makes it really simple. Go ahead and do this to every wire. Now I'm ready to glue on the petals and it's easier to put it into a vase to hold the flower upright. To attach the petals to the wire I'm going to use a hot-glue gun. I have it set on low heat which is plenty for paper. So for every petal I'm gonna turn it to the backside, add just a little dab of glue and then we'll place it right on top of the head of the wire. Go ahead and glue all 30 blooms on all the wire ends and then we're gonna fill it in with the extra blossoms. It's a good idea to go ahead and pull off the glue strings now. We're gonna add more petals and you'll want to do it again. So what we're gonna do is actually glue petal to petal to fill out this whole head. And that's where you're going to need your extra 60 petals. The technique for doing this is add a little bit of glue to the outside of your petal and then lifting up another petal, we'll just glue 'em together like that. And I like to have at least two touchpoints for every petal. So

I'll add the glue on that one and then there's my second touchpoint. I'm gonna keep doing this and fill in all the spaces. You'll continue doing this until you've filled up all the spaces and I like to add at least 60 petals total, but just do it until you feel like it's finished. To finish this off, we'll add a few leaves. I like to add three per bloom, so I'm gonna put some glue right at the base of the leaf. I'm adding quite a bit of glue here and I'm gonna place the edge of the leaf right down onto the wires. So you'll want that glue to grab onto the wire. Another nice thing about adding the leaves to the back of the flower is you cover up most of the wire. You can use a variety of colors to make these hydrangeas. I did this purple color story and you can make 'em in pinks or pale blue or even a white and they're beautiful all year round.