

Paper Flowers

Supplies:

- Tissue paper, old newspaper, magazines or other thin paper
- Scissors or craft knife
- Wire, thread, pipe cleaners or stapler to secure the flowers in the center. Wire or pipe cleaners will allow you to easily gather your finished flowers into a bouquet with “stems”, while a staple or thread will work well for hanging in a garland or setting out flat as table decorations.
- Optional: watercolor paint for tissue paper and/or opaque paint for adding color to newspaper and magazines. Paintbrush and cup for water.



Directions:

- This is an adaptable project with a lot of room for creativity and building in more complexity. Start with these instructions for a basic flower made of tissue paper, then read on for suggestions on how to make yours unique.
- Cut 4 to 6 strips of tissue paper, all approximately 7” x 11”. Play with mixing paper colors vs. using all one color. Stack all the sheets together.
- Fold the short side of the stack back and forth like a fan approximately 1.5 inches wide.
- With your paper stack still folded into a tight fan, secure the center of the fan. Find the center by folding the fan in two and making a crease. Use a length of wire or a pipe cleaner about 10-12”, looping around the center of the bundle and securing with a few twists. With thread, string or yarn, tie a short section (about 6-8”) in a snug knot around the center. This creates a loop that is easy to use when stringing flowers together as a garland to hang. One other option is simply to staple through all the layers.

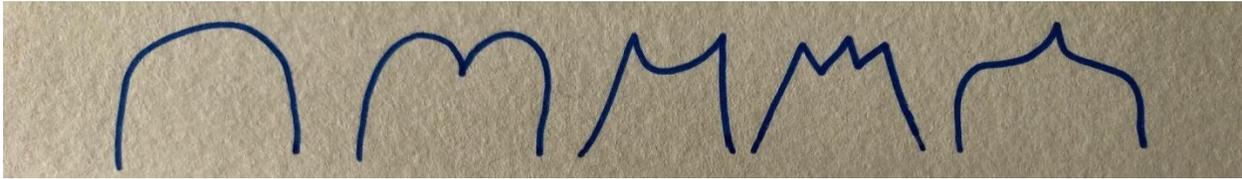


- Starting with either the innermost or outermost layer of paper, begin to carefully separate each layer to add volume to the flower. Fluff up the flower and hide the seams.

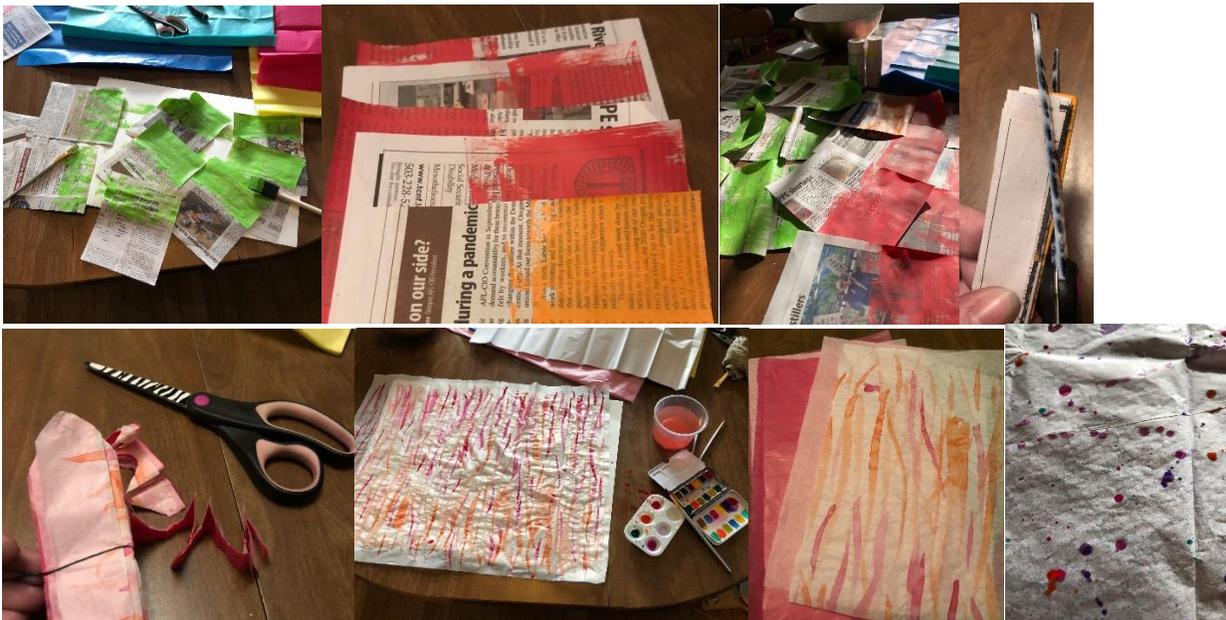


Directions (continued):

- The look of petals can be changed by varying the shape of the tips of the folded fan strips. Try cutting the following shapes, and experiment with your own shapes:



- Save the scraps from your tissue paper for use with other projects!
- You can use different sizes and shapes of tissue paper. Try using square stacks as well as smaller or much larger pieces of paper.
- Like the paper size, the width of the fan folds can vary. Experiment!
- Try adding more sheets of paper to your stacks. This will make your flowers bigger, with more petals.
- Upcycle old magazines and newspapers. Change the look and add color by painting over parts or all of the paper before you fold it. If you use a heavy coat of paint, your paper may curl up. Let it dry, then stack the paper up and lay a heavy book over it. The curled edges will flatten back down.
- Create your own designs on tissue paper by using watercolor. Choose colors you like, then paint lines, shapes or spatter color. Add these sheets into your stacks.



Interaction:

- Bundle your flowers together into a bouquet (easiest if you used wire or pipe cleaners to fasten) and leave them as a gift for a neighbor or friend. Attach a home-made card if you like. This project pairs well with a game of “ding-dong-ditch”, ringing the doorbell or knocking and then running away.
- String flowers together to make a garland for your door or window as a gesture of cheer. There may be individuals or families out for walks who are counting handmade crafts or flowers as part of a scavenger hunt.