

PEONY INSTRUCTIONS

- 18 gauge cloth covered floral wire
- 180 g Italian crepe paper (in various colors)
- 160 g German crepe paper (green)
- Scissors
- Tacky Glue
- Turmeric
- Templates

Part 1 -- Flower Center:

1. To create the peony pods, gather three pieces of 18 gauge floral wire, 3 strips of green crepe paper and 3 small pieces of pink crepe paper.
2. Take the pink pieces of crepe and dab very small dots of glue all over the bottom $\frac{2}{3}$ of the piece of pink crepe. Now, take your first piece of floral wire and line up the top of the floral wire with where the glue line ends. Wrap the pink paper around twice to anchor it to the wire and then accordion-fold the rest of the pink paper so that it naturally flares out at the top. Repeat this step two more times so that you have a total of three wires with pink tops.
3. Take a strip of green crepe paper. Dot glue on the strip a few inches at a time. Start wrapping right where the top of the wire is. Wrap the strip up and down about 3-5 times to establish the length of the pod. Then, focus solely on bulking up the center of the pod so that you're able to build a pod shape. While wrapping, you will be pulling the paper strip so it's stretching out as you wrap. The pink should still be peeking out of the top of the green. Repeat until you have 3 pods total.
4. After you have your 3 pods, take one final strip of green paper and use it to wrap all 3 pods together.
5. The next step is to create the fringed portion of the flower center. Take one strip of 180 gram crepe paper in goldenrod. Cut fringe $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way down the yellow strip. Take care to leave the bottom $\frac{1}{3}$ untouched.
6. Once the fringing process is complete, twist the fringe with your thumb and forefinger.
OPTIONAL: To create the look of pollen, lightly coat the ends of your fringe in tacky

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glue and dip the glued fringe into turmeric. This step is not necessary but adds a bit of realism to your flower.

7. Add glue to the base of the fringe and wrap it around your three pods.. Make sure that you are wrapping it tightly, stopping to periodically press tightly to ensure there are no air pockets or gaps. You want to line up the base of the fringe with each wrap around the pods. This is a critical step for ensuring your petals will stay in place.

Part 2 -- Petals:

1. Use your petal templates to cut the specified number of petals.

Note: There are 4 different types of petals.

Petal A: 6 petals

Petal B: 6 petals

Petal C: 6 petals

Petal D: 10-13 petals

2. After you've cut all of your petals, it's time to shape them.

To shape your petals, use your thumbs and forefingers to slightly cup the center of the petal. Make sure to keep the edges intact. You are only stretching the interior part of the petal. Remember that you cannot UN-stretch the paper once you've stretched it so take your time and work slowly. You can always go back and cup the petal more deeply if needed.

3. After shaping your petals, it is time for petal placement. Do not overthink how you are placing your petals. Take your time to stop and look at your flower from above to see how it is coming together aesthetically.

For all of your petals, you will dab tacky glue at the petal base and adhere to the center with the bottom level of the petals lining up with the bottom of the fringed center. As you place the petals, you should be aligning each layer level to the previous layer of petals.

4. Layer 1: Overlap each petal just slightly so that the first layer of petals swirls around the center evenly.

Layer 2: Place the first petal offset to the first layer of petals. Overlap each petal just slightly so that the second layer of petals swirls around Layer 1 evenly.

Layer 3: Place the first petal offset to the second layer of petals. Overlap each petal just slightly so that the second layer of petals swirls around Layer 2 evenly.

Layer 4: Place the first petal offset to the previous layer of petals. Overlap each petal

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significantly more than previous layers so that the final layer makes a complete circle around the entire flower. Think $\frac{3}{4}$ of an overlap rather than a $\frac{1}{2}$ overlap.

Press tightly after placing each petal so the glue sets. You can periodically turn your flower upside down and press down to make sure the glue is setting and that the flower petals won't slip.

OPTIONAL: To create a more realistic look, make small cuts and nicks in the petals of Layer 4 to mimic the real weathered look of peony petals.

5. To finish your peony, take two large green triangles of paper. Dot glue over the entirety of the triangles. Glue your first triangle directly underneath the bottom of your peony and stretch around the base of your flower. Then take your second triangle and stretch it on the opposite side of your peony so that it fills in the gap that the first triangle made so now the underside of your flower is completely covered by green.
6. Now take a strip or two of green crepe paper and wrap down the entirety of the stem to finish the flower.

Part 3 – Leaves:

1. Cut 2 leaves with your templates from green crepe.
2. Gently shape your leaves just like we shaped the petals.
3. Leaves: Dab glue on the bottom portion of each leaf and attach each of the two leaves at offset angles to the floral wire. I like to have the leaves, one on each side of the stem. Dab glue on a strip of green crepe paper to cover and secure the leaves to your stem.