

Paper Flower Bouquets

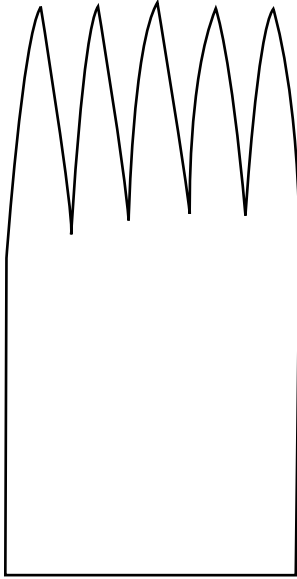
Materials and Technique:

Rose Template (template follows)

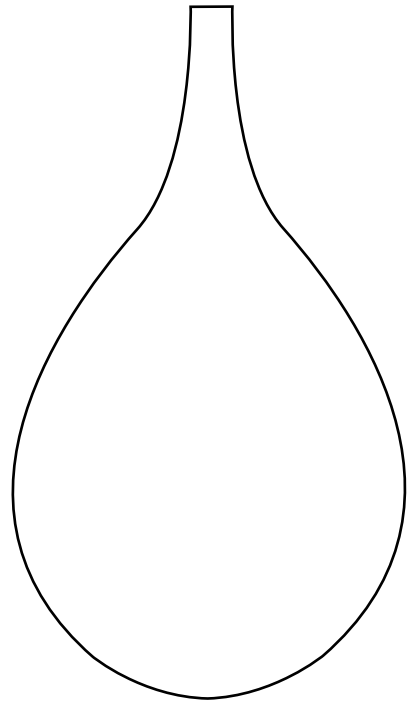
To make a stamen, cut a 2-by-2-inch rectangular piece of cream paper. Roll paper around the tip of a floral-wire stem, using a bit of glue to help it adhere. Cut a 2-by-2-inch piece of light-green paper; fold in half twice lengthwise, and snip fringe about 1 inch deep; unfold. Separate fringe and make it finer by rolling strips between your fingers. Wrap the green piece around the cream piece, then trim tops of the rolled pieces so that the newly formed stamen is slightly domed on top. Cut out templates and trace onto crepe paper, using a dull pencil to avoid snags.

For each rose, make twenty-eight petals (four small light pink, four small dark pink, four medium light pink, four medium dark pink, six large light pink, six large dark pink) and one green calyx. To make several petals at once, fold paper accordion-style before cutting. Sculpt the center of each petal, gently pulling so it becomes concave. Glue petals, wrapping them around base of stamen, starting with the smallest petals and then moving to medium and large, alternating light and dark as you work. Use glue sparingly so that it doesn't soak through the crepe paper, and allow the petals to open away from the center of the flower as you go. Cut out a green calyx; glue calyx around the base of the rose, allowing it to pull slightly away from the bloom. Shape with fingers.

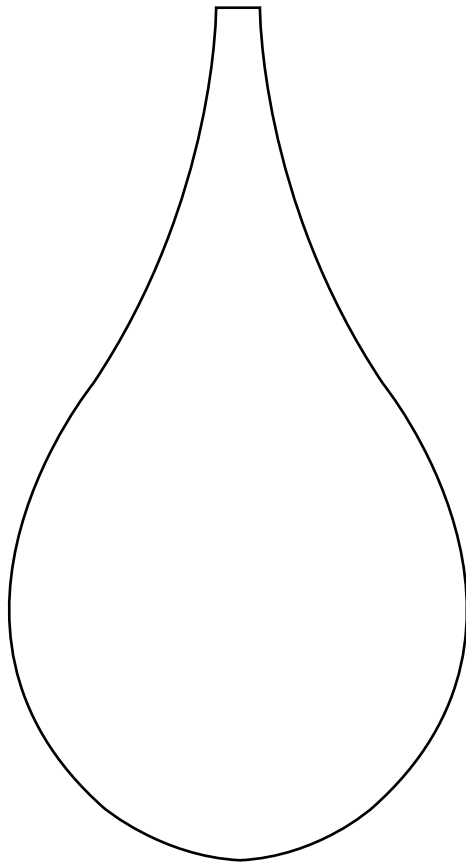
Note: To order back issues of Martha Stewart Weddings, please call 1-800-274-6800



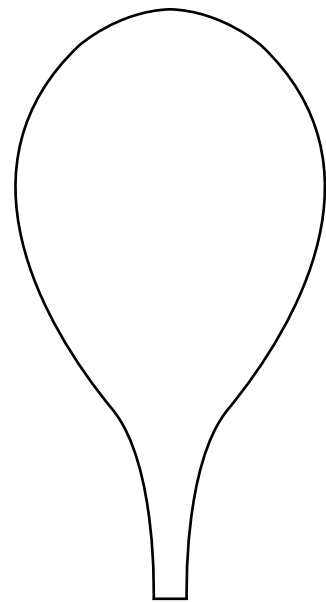
ROSE
(calyx)



ROSE
(medium petal)



ROSE
(large petal)



ROSE
(small petal)