

# Simple Rose Nosegay

## Materials and Technique:

Flower bucket  
2 to 3 dozen unprocessed roses  
Floral knife  
2 to 3 dozen 12-inch lengths of green 24-gauge floral wire  
Light-green floral tape  
Small glass vase  
Satin ribbon  
Round-head pearl pins  
Wire cutter

1. Fill a floral bucket with water; choose warm water if you want the blooms to open or cool water if you want the blooms to stay tight.
2. With a floral knife, strip leaves and thorns from rose stems. Then cut the stems on an angle with a floral knife and plunge into the bucket of water. (Freshly cut stems allow the flowers to drink more water.) For open blooms, leave the roses in warm water for 12 to 24 hours; for tight buds, leave roses in cold water for 3 to 4 hours.
3. Working one flower at a time, cut the stem to a one-inch length. Then insert a 12-inch length of 24-gauge floral wire through the calyx of the flower. Once half of the wire is pushed through, slowly and carefully bend the ends of wire together. Starting just beneath the calyx and working downward, wrap the wire "stem" with floral tape. Repeat process with remaining blooms. Set wired blooms in a vase until ready to arrange bouquet. (If you have a heavier-headed flower, use two lengths of 24-gauge wire. Insert the first wire as instructed above, then repeat crosswise with the second wire.)
4. Gather wired stems, and shape bouquet. Starting at the bottom and working toward the blooms, carefully wrap floral tape around the grouping of wired stems. (For larger bouquets, tape flowers in bunches of 8 to 10 blooms; then arrange the smaller bunches together to complete the bouquet.) Then cut stems to desired length with a wire cutter.
5. Starting at bottom, attach the ribbon perpendicularly to the stems with a straight pin. Then, holding the bouquet with one hand, wrap the ribbon upward using your other hand, taking care to overlap the ribbon evenly. Pin the ribbon in place at the top of the stems, just beneath the flowers.
6. Trim the excess ribbon, leaving a length several inches long. Wrap the ribbon around the base of the buds and secure with straight pins.
7. Evenly space three pearl-headed pins, each inserted on an angle, up the base of the bouquet for decorative effect

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## Sources:

Pastel roses, 'Champagne,' 'Anna,' 'Gilmore,' 'Heather,' 'Darling' Red roses, 'Black Magic'  
Available from local florists and flower markets

Light green floral tape (506A24)  
18-inch-length 24-gauge floral wire  
Floral scissors (426A12)  
Floral knife (422A06)  
Wire stem cutters (462V06)

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Also available from floral-supply and craft stores

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