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## **Cricut Paper Flowers: Make Potted Paperwhites** with Lia Griffith

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### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

#### Overview

- Hi, I'm Lia and I'm a blogger and papercraft designer at liagriffith.com. On my blog, I'm really well-known for my paper flowers. I've teamed up with Creativebug and Cricut and we're going to teach you how to make these potted paperwhites by using simple paper cuts. I'll show you how to cut and assemble the flowers and leaves, arrange them in a container, and we'll do a little gold leaf to add a little interest to your container. These potted paperwhites are easy to make and they're beautiful for any season. (cheerful music)

### **Chapter 2 - Materials**

#### Materials

- For this class you'll need a variety of materials and most of it you can find at your craft store. You'll need your computer, a Cricut Explore of course. I have some leaf green and white metallic paper. For the leaf green I actually printed a gradient on both sides and this is an option. You don't have to do this; I just like the extra effect that it gives. If you do this, you'll need to print it on a laser printer only. This will not print on an inkjet with the metallic paper. I've also given you an option of printing the centers on the laser printer, but I'm gonna show you a technique of how to paint these by hand and that looks really pretty. You'll need three sheets of the white paper and four sheets of the green for the leaves and the flowers. You'll need a container for your Paperwhites and I'm gonna use this craft box. You could also use a terracotta pot for these. No matter which container you're using, you're gonna need some stones or some moss to cover the top. Styrofoam ball for a round pot or a rectangle foam for your rectangle pot. Hot glue gun, wire cutters, floral tape, floral wire. I'm using a 20 gage wire, it's about 12 inches long, and I'll need a half a dozen of these for each pot that I make. LightGrip cutting mat, the Cricut spatula. You'll need gold leaf and Mod Podge to decorate your pot. I have some yellow craft paint to paint my centers. Paint brushes for the gold leaf, paint brushes for the paint, and some scissors.

### **Chapter 3 - Make Paperwhites**

#### Print and cut paper on Cricut Explore

- The first thing we'll do is open the paper white template in Design Space. The template's in two parts, so I'm starting with the petals. And if you look over here and your layers palette, you can see where it's scoring and cutting. We're ready to click the round go button. This is going to bring up our map preview. I can see which direction I want to lay my paper. I'll align my paper right on the corner of the mat. This is an eight and a half by 11 sheet on a 12 by 12 mat. If you're using the pre-printed yellow dots, you want to make sure the dots are on the bottom sides so they'll line up the right way with the petals. The first thing I'll do is set the dial for the paper that I'm using. Since the metallic paper is not card stock, but it is heavier, I'll set it on a light card stock setting. Going back to my computer, I'll click the green go button. Before I load the paper, I'll go ahead and insert the scoring tool. The arrow is pointing down, I'll just click it into place, and then close the lever. Loading the mat in, make sure and slide it underneath these tabs and all the way to the rollers. The arrow button is flashing, so I'm gonna press that and it fully loads the mat. When the Cricut button is flashing, we'll press that and it will start scoring and cutting. When it's done cutting, you'll see the

arrow button flashing. Just press that and it will release the mat. This is the fun part, we get to see how it cut. I'll use Cricut spatula to lift the corner of the paper and there are our petals. I'm gonna gently pull each one of them off. Cut two more sheets, which will make fifteen flowers, and then we'll cut our leaves. Back in my Design Space, I've loaded the leaves. You can see over here in the layers palette that we have the score lines and the cut lines. This is ready to go so I'm gonna click the green go button. Which will bring up the map preview. I can see that the leaves are going horizontal, so my eight and a half by 11 paper will be aligned on the 12 by 12 mat horizontally. I'm gonna line it up in the top corner and press it on my paper. If you're using the paper that you've printed a gradation on, I like to have my dark to the left hand side, and my light to the right. That's because some of the leaves are shorter and that way all of them start at the light and go darker. We're gonna load and cut in the same way that we did our petals. Click the green go button, when the arrows flashing, I'll press that so it mounts the mat. When the Cricut button is flashing, it's ready to score and cut. When the machine stops cutting, eject your mat. We'll go ahead and peel off the extra paper. And gently with spatula ... Go ahead and cut three more sheets with the green and once you have everything cut, you'll want to fold on all of your score lines of both the leaves and the petals. The score lines make these really easy to fold. So using them as a guide, I'll just pinch them between my fingers till they look like that. Folding the leaves will give it a little more of a dimension and makes them look a little more realistic. I'm gonna fold the petals in the same way, right there on the score line and just gently in half. The centers have a score line right in the middle. I'll just gently fold them towards my thumb ... Like that. Go ahead and fold all of your petals and leaves and we'll assemble the flowers next.

#### Assemble blooms

- We'll start with making our flowers. I'm gonna put a little dab of glue right on the corner, overlap the next piece and I'll continue doing that on all four petals to form the center of the paper weight I like to make all my centers first before I start adding the petals. And you can pull off the glue strings as you go. For the hot glue gun I like to use a low temperature gun that way I can touch the glue before it cools without burning myself. Low temperature and paper go really well together you don't really need high temperature for paper. Once you have your centers assembled, we're gonna add six petals to each center. So I do three petals at a time, I put a little bit of glue on the tip, overlap the second, I'll do the same for the third petal, and there you can see we have kind of half of a circle. For the second three I'll do the same. Overlap the second. And then the third. Then I'll add some glue to the center of the three, and then place the other three on top. I'm gonna let that cool for a second, put some glue right in the center and then just place that center right down in the middle. Go ahead and make the rest of your flowers and then I'll show you how to paint the centers. I'm letting it cool. Once in we'll have three blooms, so I like to paint the insides right before I put it onto the wire stem. I'm using some okra craft paint. And I'll want to make a little bit of a wash, so I don't need a lot of paint. I'll dip my brush in some water, kind of mix it up just a little bit. Go ahead and take that brush, put it down in the center and swirl it around. It's better to start with a little less paint and add more because you don't want these too dark you want them to look really natural. Now I'm ready to glue them onto the wire. I'm going to take the tip of my wire and just bend it down, probably about a half an inch. It's easy to bend with fingers, you can use a tool if you want to. This will give me more surface to glue my flower onto. So I'm gonna glue the flowers on. Three flowers per stem and I'm gonna put a pretty big amount of glue on the back of my first flower. I'll place it onto the wire, and the way these flowers are shaped in somewhat of a cone, they actually fit

together really nicely. Remove all your strings and let the glue cool. And once that's done we're going to cover the rest of the stem with this floral tape. I'm gonna tuck the floral tape as high up under the flowers as possible, the tape will stick to itself once you give it a little bit of a tug, and I'll twist the wire at the same time I'm gonna pull the tape with this hand and then just move it down the stem. It's a little tricky when you're up under the petals but it's smooth sailing from there. Just move it all the way down to the end of the wire. The floral tape will give your stem a bit of a finished look. I'm gonna pull that off and just wrap it on the ends back around on itself. Depending on your container you may want a shorter wire and that's easy to do with a wire cutter. For this arrangement, I need five stems which will be 15 blooms, you can make more if you want to. To assemble the leaves I'm gonna cut my wire to about four inches. I'll go ahead and cut the whole strip of wire because we'll need one piece for each bundle of leaves. If it's a little longer that's fine. I have two lengths of leaves, I have a shorter and a longer, and I'll bundle those in sections of three. You'll want to make sure that you glue the light end towards the bottom, and that's because the new growth of the leaf is lighter so it gets a really natural look. I'll place my wire, I'm going to grab a short leaf here and just line it up there, and then another long one. So since I have an equal amount of short and long leaves I'll do two short and one long or two long and one short. You'll have a few leaves left over and you can put one or two on a stem. This next one I'll do two shorts and one long. So my first bead of glue I'm able to attach the two leaves. Sometimes I'll want an extra bead of glue for the third leaf. Go ahead and finish gluing your leaves, and then I'll show you how to decorate the pot and put together the arrangement.

#### Create potted arrangement

- On this first arrangement I chose this tall terra cotta pot and I want to pair it with a lower arrangement. So I'm going to use this cute box. I'm going to show you how to add a little bit of gold leaf and then we'll put in the foam, rocks and then make the arrangement itself. It's easier to add the gold leaf when the container's empty so I'm going to use a paint brush, add just a little bit of Mod Podge. And I want this to look fairly worn and rustic so I'm going to give the box, not fully covered but just a little bit of Mod Podge spread over the front. Kind of spotty. And quickly, before the glue dries I'll go ahead and grab my gold leaf and drop it right onto the glue. I'll let it set for just a minute and then I'm going to gently pull off the extra. And once I get the bulk of it off I'll take a dry brush and remove all the little bits and pieces. There we go. I like the way this looks weathered. I'm just going to gold leaf the front, and once you have all the extra pieces taken off you don't really need to cover it with any finish. It's ready to go. If you have any large pieces of gold leaf you can carefully put it back into the package and use it on another project. Once your container's prepared we're ready to add the foam. I have three pieces of square foam. Go ahead and press that in. If it doesn't fit you can use a kitchen knife to trim it off so that it will fit. It's not going to show, you just need it as a base to place your leaves and your flowers. Now I'm going to cover the foam with these rocks to make it really decorative. Another good thing about adding the rocks is it will add a little bit of weight to your arrangement. And in this one where I used moss on the top I actually have rocks in the bottom to give it the weight so it doesn't tip over. Since this is a longer arrangement I'm going to place my flowers more towards the center and then I'll fill it in with leaves all the way around. This is really easy, too. You just slide that right into the foam. You can always move it if you want to. And I'll place the blooms right in a row. Now I'll fill it in with leaves. I'm starting the center towards the flowers and then I'll work my way out to the edge. To make this look very natural I like to place my leaves up and down because that's how they grow in nature. This is looking very vertical and

perfect and nothing in nature is perfect so I'm going to curl a few leaves. Using my scissors, just the edge, I'll pretend this is a ribbon at Christmas and give it a little bit of curl. And since it already has a bend in it you're going to want to help it along. If you think you've curled the leaf too far just pinch it right there and the bend of the leaf will straighten it up a little bit. I'm just going to do this on maybe four or five leaves around my arrangement. This looks really pretty. Since paperwhites bloom between November and January these are great for the holiday and that's why I liked adding that gold foil. But they also work well for spring, and what a great Mothers' Day gift this would make.