
Paper Wedding Crafts: Create a Floral Head Wreath with Lia Griffith

Chapter 1 - Part 1

Series Overview

(birds chirping) (soft music) - Hi, I'm Lia. I'm the designer, crafter and blogger at liagriffith.com. In addition to my blog, I also contribute for marthastewart.com and I've been a designer in the wedding industry for many years. In the next four weeks, I'm gonna teach you some projects that are perfect for any party or wedding. And then you can take that project and build more to make a perfect cohesive wedding. We'll create a delicate paper flower head wreath and we'll make a paper garland that's perfect to turn into a backdrop for your wedding. Then we'll make a classic topiary out of crepe paper and we'll finish with an oversized monogram that's sophisticated and lux. All these projects can be made ahead of time and they help themselves for working with friends so grab a girlfriend and a bottle of wine and you'll become experts at hot glue and crepe paper. These techniques will allow you to handcraft your perfect day.

Create a Floral Head Wreath

(bright music) - Hi, I'm Lia. I'm the designer, crafter, and blogger at liagriffith.com. In addition to my blog, I also contribute for marthastewart.com, and I've been a designer in the wedding industry for many years. In the next four weeks, I'm gonna teach you some projects that are perfect for any party or wedding. And then you can take that project and build more to make a perfect, cohesive wedding. We'll create a delicate paper flower head wreath, and we'll make a paper garland that's perfect to turn into a backdrop for your wedding. Then we'll make a classic topiary out of crepe paper, and we'll finish with an oversized monogram that's sophisticated and luxe. Welcome to week one. You'll find that through these courses, one of my favorite materials is crepe paper. And today we're gonna make a beautiful head wreath made from little tiny crepe paper blooms. You're gonna need a few simple tools and materials. You can find most of this at a craft store or online. I have a pair of pinking shears, some wire cutters, some sharp scissors. The base of the crown is made out of this floral wire that's covered with paper. I found this at Michaels. And you'll only need about a yard. I then tie my crown off with this pretty ribbon, and I also need about a yard of that too. I then add these little details. They're either called stamen or pips, and you can find these at the craft store. I'm making my flower head wreath with these pretty pastel heavyweight crepe papers. I found these on crepepaperstore.com. And you can actually choose any color you want that will match your wedding. You'll only need a small portion of each color. You can also download the template. And then you'll need a hot glue gun. I like to start by creating the base, cutting the leaves and petals, and then assembling everything together. I'm going to cut this piece of paper-covered floral wire about 21 inches, which is the size of a head. Of course, you can always adjust it later. And we're gonna add ribbon on each end so it will fit exactly. To finish the ends, I'm going to bend the wire back to make a loop, and that's where we're going to string the ribbon through at the end. We're gonna shape the wire like a headband so it will sit nicely on top of the head. I'm kind of inching along with my thumb and pressing the wire into place. Once you're done with that, you can just set it aside, and now we're gonna cut out our leaves. I've prepared two leaf patterns, and one is slightly smaller than the other. The smaller one, I like to use a lighter green because it has that younger leaf feel, and then the larger one is for a darker green. Using the leaf one template, I'm gonna lay this right onto the paper. Now, I'm gonna wanna make sure that the grain of the paper goes along with

the length of the leaf. I'm using the template to cut out the shape. Since I'm gonna cut 20 to 30 of each leaf, I'm gonna show you a faster way to do this. I like to cut a strip about the width of the leaf, maybe a little bit wider; that's okay. Cut it the full length of the paper. And then I'll fold it in half, place the pattern, and then just with one cut I have a leaf a lot faster. Notice that the top and bottom of the points of the leaf are right on the fold. And once you get used to this size, you can go ahead and cut it without the pattern. All leaves vary, so a little bit of variation makes it look more realistic. There you go. Go ahead and cut out 20 or 30 leaves with the darker paper and the larger template, and then we're ready to move on to paper flowers. The head wreath features two flowers. We have a blush apple blossom and then a cream cornflower. I have five to seven of the cornflower on each wreath and eight to 10 of the blush blossoms. We'll start by cutting the blush blossom petals. I've cut a strip of the blush paper the same width as the width of the petal. Just like on the leaf pattern, I'm gonna fold it in half and I'm gonna lay the petal over the top. Make sure that the points are right on center. And then I'll use my scissors to cut out these heart shapes. Each apple blossom has six petals. Go ahead and cut out all your petals for all your flowers, and then we'll go ahead and work on the center. For the bloom center, I'm gonna use the cream paper, and I've cut it the width of the pattern again. And then on each end I want to use the pinking shears, because I like things not to be blunt. You'll just need one of these centers for every flower, so go ahead and cut out everything you need for all of your blooms. I'm gonna fold the center piece in half so both of the pink edges are together. Use my straight scissors. And I'm gonna fringe the pinked edge so it looks like this. And then between my finger and thumb, I'm just gonna roll that into a tight spiral. And there's the center. So once you have all your centers done and your petals cut, we're ready to assemble the blooms. To shape the apple blossom leaves, we're going to gently pull the center of the crepe. This is why I love crepe paper, because it allows you to make this petal shape really, really easy. And then we're gonna take the top edge and gently stretch that out. That will make a little bit of a ruffle edge. Go ahead and shape all six petals. You'll wanna form kind of a cup shape. The petals are so tiny. You just have to be really gentle with them and try not to stretch 'em out too much. So let's assemble our first apple blossom. Start with the center and one petal. Put a little dab of glue on the point, and then we'll place that center in, and we're gonna wrap it around. I'm kind of pushing it out with my thumb to create a little cup around the petals like that. When using a hot glue gun, I really prefer to use one that has a high-low temperature or just a low. I never use it on high, 'cause I will burn myself. I have many times. And the low is perfect for paper. The second petal, do the same thing. Just add a little bit of glue down at the bottom. And then we'll place the center and the other just a little offset so that you're overlapping, but not so much that you're right on top of each other. And again you can kind of pull and shape your petals as you go to make it just so. And then petal three. We'll keep this repeating. Overlap. You can kind of squish it at the bottom there to hold everything together. And then adjust and pull your petals. Sometimes with these thicker papers, once you pull it out, it will actually shrink back in a little bit, so sometimes you have to go back and rework it. There's my fourth petal. And another one. And the sixth. And then I like to go into the center with this fringe and just sort of push it out a little bit, make it look really natural so it flares just like that. You're gonna make five to 10 of these flowers, depending on how thick you want your head wreath, and then we're gonna move on to the cornflower. So for that one I'm using the cream paper for the outside of the cornflower and then the green for the center. So this is where we're gonna use the pinking shears again. I'll have my pattern. I've already cut my paper the width. Even though you don't need pinking shears on both side of the petal, it just makes it easier to cut it with these shears on both sides. That way your top edge is ready to go. Each cornflower will need just

one of the flower petals and one of the center. For the cornflower center, I've cut this green strip the width of my template. And I'll go ahead and cut with pinking shears the height, just like that. You'll need one of these per cornflower. Both the petals and the centers will get fringed. Starting with the center. On these, I don't need to fold them in half. I'm just going to use my sharp scissors and cut this fringe right along the grain so it looks like this. I'm gonna do the same thing with the white petals. I'm leaving just a hair uncut on the top to keep it all attached. The reason why I like the pinking shears rather than a straight cut is I like the ends to have an angle. It looks less blunt, a little more realistic. There we go. I'm gonna take the center, roll it between my fingers as tight as possible. And for this one I'm gonna go ahead and add just a dab of glue on the end to keep it closed. I'll go ahead and put a bit of glue on the first edge. Place the center. And roll the cornflower. Bit of glue on the end, and then close it off. With my fingers, I'm gonna ruffle out the flower. You'll make five to seven of these for your head wreath. And once you have all your flowers done, we're ready to assemble. (bright music) So I've been working with paper all my life. I think it's kind of my natural medium. And it was about six or seven years ago when I was working at Xerox. I would go in and design print samples for their new printers, and I had done, I don't know, hundreds of print samples for them, and we were trying to think of new ideas and concepts of what we could photograph and show. It's all about color. It's all about the texture and just showing off how the printer works. Well, my photographer came up with this great idea. He's like, "How about we make a paper dress "from Xerox prints?" And he's like, "Let's find an art student that can make it." And we're thinking, we're looking, and then I thought, "Wait, I wanna make that dress." And that opened a whole new area of my life, because I made that dress, and as I'm making it, I'm thinking, "Okay, I have to do a runway show. "I have to do a gallery show. "This is my art form." And I ended up making seven dresses. I had a runway show. I had a gallery show. And I thought, "Okay, I'll do this, it'll be done, "I'll burn 'em in a ceremony, and we're over." Uh-uh, no, it kept going and going. I've made about 36 dresses now. (laughs) Just for fun. This is my art. But I feel like making those dresses, they move, they fit. The girls who wear them don't wanna take 'em off. They feel like they're princesses, you know? That really kind of opened my mind to possibility, and that's when I started making all the paper flowers and the three-dimensional birds and bows and things that I do on my blog. I think that one of my talents is I'm able to see things in three dimensions. So even though it's a flat piece of paper, I can imagine how I might curl it or cut it or shape it so that when I'm done, it's this beautiful fitted down with a long flowing skirt and it'll move. And as it's walking down the runway, until it gets to you, you don't even know it's paper. I feel like paper is really accessible. I mean, anybody can get a piece of paper and make something out of it. If they just have the inspiration or the tools to do it, then they can create a little piece of art. I'll start with the largest flower. These are the pink apple blossoms. I'm gonna add just a little bit of glue on the back and place it on the wire. I'll just hold it for a few seconds until it cools. I'm starting in the center and then placing the flowers randomly throughout. It's just something you have to eyeball. Think of balance, think of a random pattern. You don't want 'em too even. You want 'em a little bit more natural-looking. So I'll add my second. Little bit of glue. And this one, I'm gonna angle it this direction. I wanna think of this to be viewed from at least three different sides. Her head will be right here, so we probably don't need flowers underneath, but we'll want it in all the other directions. My third flower, little bit of glue. And this one I'm going to place like this. Don't worry about the glue showing. We're gonna cover those up with leaves. And we'll move on to the fourth. This one, I'll place it facing this direction again. I have a smaller one here, and I'm going to tuck that right inside of the front piece so we have a little bit more bulk up front. These blush flowers are actually my

focal point. They're the largest flower. And I'm starting with them so that visually they hold the most punch, and then I'll work all the other flowers around it. So with the cornflower, I'll go ahead and start filling in some of the spaces between the apple blossoms. So I see a spot here that looks like it can use this direction, maybe a little closer to this flower, not halfway in between. Since this will be the front, maybe put a cornflower right here so that it falls down towards her head. Glue that in there and let it cool. With this low temperature glue, it's awesome, because I can actually hold the glue without burning myself. It's a little warm, but I never get burned. I'll move over to the other side. Hold that in place, let it cool. Let's see, so this is the front. I'll put that one right there. There are all of our flowers. And now we're gonna move on to the leaves. I'm gonna start with the darker leaves, and I'm gonna tuck these down deep underneath the flowers, and this is where I get to cover all my little glue marks. So with the leaf, I just tug it very gently right in the center, give it a little bit of shape. Add some curve to that. I'm gonna just put a dab of glue right on the bottom tip and tuck that right in there. I'm gonna go ahead and do this for each of the flowers, just to give it that nice base so it looks a little more finished. Another thing to think about is make sure your leaves go in different directions, 'cause you want it to look as natural as you possibly can. Now I'll be adding in the light leaves, and I'm gonna be filling in some of the gaps and giving a little bit more color texture, some variation. You don't have to completely cover your brown wire. It looks very natural to show. But just to evenly place the leaves, it will look really good. Remember to pull your leaf open just a little bit in the middle. Just nudge it open to create some shape before you place it. For the last little element of texture, we're gonna add these pips. I found these at the craft store. And I'll take three of 'em, and carefully wrapping them around my finger, I'm gonna put a knot right in the center. This will make it easier to keep them on the head wreath. I'm gonna fold this in half so that all six little ends are going the same direction. Add just a little dot of glue on the tip. And then I'm gonna tuck 'em right down into the head wreath right between a leaf and a flower. Hold it till it cools. And then you can spray them out just a little bit. I have six more bundles here, and I'm gonna sprinkle those throughout the head wreath. And there you go. The finishing touch is to add a ribbon. This not only makes it adjustable, but it also adds a little bit of prettiness. You can use any ribbon you like. This one is just a little bit under a yard. I'm gonna string that through those holes that I made on both sides. And then you can tie it to fit whatever head you'd like. And there you go. This is such a sweet head wreath. You could make the blooms in any color to match your wedding. You can use it for your bridesmaid, your flower girl, or even the boho bride. And best of all, since it's made of paper, it will last forever. (bright music) One of the trends in weddings right now is to have that statement piece that is handmade that really says something about you as a couple. And one of the best things that I think you can make is this beautiful flower backdrop. Since the flowers are made out of paper, you can make it in advance. You can have your girlfriends over to help you make it. ^And it's something that you can keep even after the wedding.