

# DECORATE WITH *flowers...*

*Create a gorgeous setting for entertaining, inside and out, with these summer craft ideas*

## *Tip*

Choose woody-stemmed flowers such as rose, waxflower and eucalyptus. These will dry beautifully for a long-lasting display



## FLORAL PENDANT

Transform a lampshade frame into a beautiful hanging arrangement with fresh and dried flowers. To begin, remove the bulb holder in the frame with wire cutters, then completely cover the wire sections with moss, using florist wire to hold it in place. To

create the floral base around the rim of the shade, make a small bunch with four or five stems - no larger than 10cm in length - and wire in place. With alternate posies facing slightly up or down, gradually layer up and work around the rim, covering the wire

each time and building the arrangement. Finally, add a ribbon to hang up the pendant.

Old **lamp shade**, try Ebay. **Florist wire**, from all good florist supplies. Preserved and dried **flowers**, from a selection at Atlas Flowers and Dowsing & Reynolds. **Ribbon**, from a selection at Jane Means

## NAPKIN TIE

Tie a tissue paper blossom around a napkin for a take-me-home party favour. Measure and cut through several layers of tissue to make a 20cm square. Create a 1cm fold at the bottom of the layers of tissue paper. As if you were creating a fan, turn over and repeat on the other side. Continue until all the paper is folded, concertina-style. Cut the folded tissue in half to create two sections, then place them on top of each other. Tie the tissue paper together in the middle with a piece of string, then cut off the corners of the tissue at each end to make curved edges. Create the ruffles by delicately pulling apart the tissue layers and fanning them out. Finally, thread ribbon through the string loop and tie the flower on to a napkin.

**Tissue**, from a selection at Hobbycraft. **Ribbons**, from a selection at Jane Means. **Plates**, £9.50 (small); £12 (large); **placemats**, £16 for two, all Nordic House. **Napkins** and water **jug**, from a selection at Neptune. **Glass**, £10 for four, Sainsbury's. **Cutlery**, stylist's own

*Tip*

Use a chopstick or straw to separate the tissue if tricky to manipulate

*Tip*

Try different-coloured sheets of tissue to get a mix of petal shades

## DECORATIVE LANTERN

Add a paper posy to a lantern for a pop of summery colour. Take three lengths of tissue each measuring slightly different widths - try 2cm, 3cm and 4cm. Fold each over once to make a square shape. Continue until you have a concertina of tissue folds. Leaving a 5mm border at one of the unfolded sides, cut a half-petal shape then unfold. When open the paper you should have a length of petal shapes with a thin border holding them together. Take a pencil and, starting with the smallest-width tissue, wind the petals around the pencil. When at the end, tape on the next size up and continue winding before taping off the last piece. Push off the end of the pencil and thread covered florist wire down the central hole. Tie a few knots and pull back through the flower to create a stem. Gather a few of these paper blooms together with some dried flowers and tie off in a posy with more covered florist wire. Secure to the top of the lamp with ribbon and use a battery-powered tea light or candle.

White storm battery lantern, £12.99, Lights4fun. Tissue and paper from a selection at Hobbycraft. Dried flowers from a selection at Atlas Flowers

## CHAIR BACK

Create a simple chair decoration from ribbons and flower stems. Take a length of covered wreath wire and wind it around the top rail of a chair, keeping it tight to give a good grip for the flowers – we chose to do a wide blanket stitch around the chair for stability. Repeat this step with ribbon to cover the wire, then attach a few lengths of ribbon at either end to drape elegantly. Snip flowers and foliage to a neat length to fit along the rail and push in behind the wire. We used garden flowers with strong or woody stems, such as roses, plus preserved and dried flowers for longevity. Keep layering along the chair rail until you have a full floral effect.

**Chairs**, £100 for two, The Cotswold Company. **Ribbons**, from a selection at Jane Means. Preserved and dried **flowers**, from a selection at Atlas Flowers and Dowsing & Reynolds





### *Tip*

Add trailing ivy alongside the garland for a touch of extra natural leafiness

## PAPER GARLAND

Trim a gazebo or garden room with a pretty paper garland. Cut out leaf and blossom shapes from paper and tissue. We cut ours freehand, but for ease try a leaf and flowers paper punch, available from all good craft suppliers. Thread a sewing machine with green cotton and arrange a few leaves in front of the sewing foot, at the leaf base.

Slowly start the sewing machine pushing the paper through under the needle to catch into the stitch.

Add flowers and blossom to the garland, stitching them into place until the desired length is reached.

To hang, either drape from garden canes outside or arrange around a window.

**Tissue, sewing cotton and paper** from a selection at Hobbycraft

## FABRIC CACHEPOT

The perfect use for cherished fabric leftovers, these pretty pot cuffs jazz up old jam jars in an instant. To begin, measure the height and circumference of the jar and add 2cm to each measurement. Cut a piece of fabric to this size. Repeat with a complementary fabric, taking 2cm off the height. Take each of the fabrics, wrong side facing, and press a 1cm hem on the longer sides with iron-on fabric-bonding tape. Turn over and position the narrow band on top of the wider one, sandwiching more tape in between, then iron to bond them together. Fold the fabrics into a tube with the short edges meeting, right sides together, and press a 1cm hem together with more tape to secure the edges. Turn right side out and place over your jar.

**Fabrics** (main) Popple in POPP-004, £140m, Fermoie; (detail) Whirlwind in Yellow Ochre, £65m, Zoe Glencross. **Preserved petals**, from a selection at Dowsing & Reynolds

### *Long-lasting flowers*

- Paper, preserved and dried flowers help to make fresh flower arrangements last longer.
- With fresh flowers, the trick is to condition them to make them last longer. Cut the stems a few centimetres up the ends, plunge in fresh water with some flower preservative, and keep in a cool (not cold) room to bring the flowers out without going over. Choose woody or strong-stemmed blooms.
- Preserved and dried stems will give a framework on which fresh flowers can dry, keeping shape while they age. Dried flowers are 'dried' by removal of water, while preserved flowers are treated with silica or borax to make them long lasting. Preserved flowers keep their shape and colour and are slightly more robust than dried.