

Fabulous Flowers



How to make lots of fantastic flowers

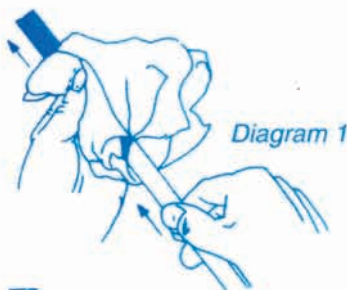
Other things you will need:

Scissors, white paper glue (PVA), modelling dough to fix the flowers in the vase.

Getting Started:

- ✿ When making the flowers it will help to look at the illustrations on the box, so don't throw it away.
- ✿ Lines on the cards show you where to stick the straws. These are only a guide; don't worry if you can't stick the straws exactly between the lines.
- ✿ Between the lines are dots or crosses to show you which straws to use:
blue crosses are for *thick* straws.
red dots are for *thin* straws.
- ✿ Decide what to make first and count how many thick and thin straws you need. Cut the straws to the right length and stick them onto the card. It is easier to start at the top and work down.
- ✿ Read the more detailed instructions before starting.
- ✿ There are more Artstraws in the box than you will need, so don't worry if you make a mistake.





Colouring the straws

Use paints, food colouring or large felt tip pens. The best way is to dip a piece of damp J-Cloth into the paint, wrap it around the straw and slide it along. Colour the straws first and leave them to dry before cutting or sticking (see Diagram 1).

Sticking

Use white paper glue (PVA) because it dries colourless. It is best to apply the glue to the straw rather than to the picture. The straws will stick with only a little glue so do not use too much.

Instructions for making the flowers

1. Gently flatten a thin straw. Cut 3 or 4 pieces each 4cm long.

Cut both ends of each length (see Diagram 2a), half turn and flatten again. Glue the lengths on top of each other (don't worry that you cover up the centre), (see Diagram 2b).

2. Flatten a piece of thick Artstraw. Cut as shown and open out to form petals, repeat this 8 times and glue on top of each other to form a flower, (see Diagram 3).

3. Cut 10 pieces of Artstraw (approx. 2.5cm long) and stick them on, (see Diagram 4).

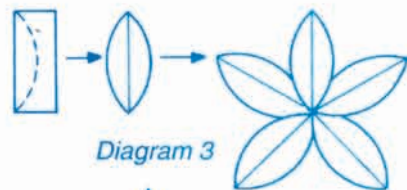
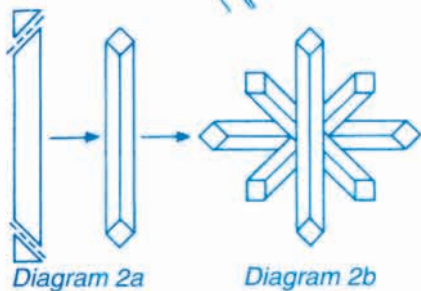
4. Flatten a length of Artstraw and cut V shapes along each edge, (see Diagram 5).

For other flowers, simply cut and stick the straws where shown.

Flower Centres

1. Flatten an Artstraw and roll it up tightly. You may find it easier to wind it round a pencil. Glue the end in place and stick into the centre of your flower, (see Diagram 6).

2. Make a number of cuts in a short length of thick straw. Spreading out the strips shown in the diagram before sticking it onto your flower, (see Diagram 7).



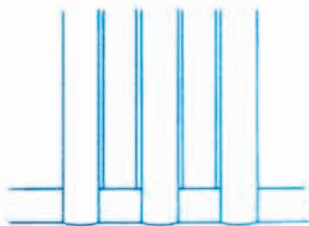


Diagram 8

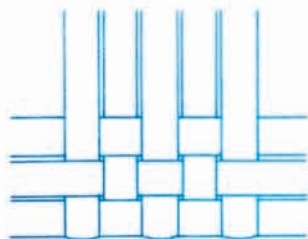


Diagram 9

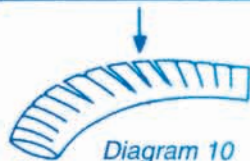


Diagram 10

Making the Woven Basket

Make the basket separately and stick it onto the card **before** applying the flowers.

1. Colour some thin straws. When they are dry, flatten them but do not cut them.
2. Place a straw horizontally in front of you. Stick another straw vertically on top of the horizontal straw. Stick a second straw vertically underneath the horizontal straw, but close to the first straw. Stick a third straw on top of the horizontal straw, a fourth underneath, and so on. Repeat 16 times, (see Diagram 8).
3. Leave to dry.
4. Weave 7 flattened straws in and out of the vertical straws, (see Diagram 9). It is best if the last straw to be woven is glued into place.
5. Place your woven basket onto the picture and carefully cut it to shape. Stick it down.
6. Finish off by sticking straws around the edge of the basket.
7. Now add the flowers.

Instructions for the wall plaque

Don't forget to attach your butterfly to the edge of your plaque. To make him stand out, stick a short length of thin Artstraw to the back of the butterfly. Then stick this to the edge of the plaque.

Instructions for the vase of flowers

1. Press out the vase shape and stick on the Artstraws. Fold the vase along the dotted lines and stick it together.
2. Press out all the flowers. Stick straws onto the flowers and stick a green coloured Artstraw to the back of the flowers to make stems.
3. To fix the flowers in position, put some modelling dough into the bottom of the vase and stick the stems in it.
4. Don't forget to press out the ladybird and the bee. Stick an Artstraw to the back of these little insects and add them to your flower arrangement.
5. Making the leaves: flatten a length of straw and make cuts close together along one side. Bend into shape, (see Diagram 10).

You will have lots of Artstraws left so why not make extra flowers and leaves for your vase.

Artstraws can be cut, curled, folded, plaited and woven to create cards, pictures, masks, flowers, figures, animals, decorations, 3D structures, vehicles and much more.

Artstraw kits and Activity Packs can be found in most good toy, craft, book and stationery shops.

Artstraws are also available in large economy packs for schools and clubs.

Here are a few ideas for other pictures:



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