



MAKING LEAVES & ADDING MOD PODGE

TOOLS & MATERIALS FOR THIS LESSON

- DETAIL SCISSORS
- NEEDLE-NOSE TWEEZERS
- WIRE CUTTERS/NEEDLE-NOSE PLIERS
- FRINGE CLIP
- PAINT BRUSH
- ART GLITTER GLUE
- MOD PODGE
- 18-GAUGE GREEN PAPER COVERED WIRE
- 24-GAUGE GREEN PAPER COVERED WIRE
- EXTRA-FINE CREPE PAPER – *OLIVE or JUNIPER and CYPRESS*

DOUBLE-SIDED CREPE LEAVES

Double-sided crepe paper makes a beautiful flower leaf when it needs to have a thicker finish. This paper works well for larger leaves and those with detailed edges, as it cuts well on the cutting machine. An example would be the Japanese Anemone leaf. In addition, double-sided is ideal for long leaves such as tulips, as it holds its shape well.

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LESSON 5: MAKING LEAVES & ADDING MOD PODGE

ADDING WIRE TO LEAVES

For wired leaves, double-sided crepe paper offers a robust and refined finish. In addition, since the crepe has a different color on each side, you can cut the set with matching fronts or use a different color on each half.

Using an extra-fine crepe paper for wired leaves is a good choice when looking for a lighter, thinner leaf. An example is the Clematis leaf.

Adding wire to leaves gives the leaves added structure and allows for natural shapes by curving the wire. For both the Anemone and Clematis leaves, follow these steps to add wire to each leaf. These basic steps can be used for most wired leaves.

MAKING THE ANEMONE AND CLEMATIS LEAVES

1. Arrange your leaves with both left and right sides aligned.
2. Cut 24-gauge wires in half for a 6-inch wire for each leaf.
3. Measure the wire that needs glue by laying it onto the flat edge of the center. Pinch the wire at the base of the leaf.
4. Remove the metal tip from the Art Glitter glue and slide the wire into the bottle to meet your pinched fingers. Squeeze the bottle to coat the wire.
5. Place the glue-covered wire onto the center edge of the leaf, leaving a small space at the tip of the leaf.
6. Place the second half of the leaf edge over the first, sandwiching the wire between the paper.
7. Press the crepe with your fingers to compress the edges. Then, run your fingernail alongside the wire to seal the overlapped area.
8. With your detail scissors, clip the tip of the leaf if the overlap is not aligned.
9. Wrap the leaf stem with matching extra-fine crepe paper strips and white glue for a finished look.
10. For the Clematis leaves, stack three, then wrap stems with glued crepe paper strips two inches below the base of the leaf to combine.

LESSON 5: MAKING LEAVES & ADDING MOD PODGE

MAKING COSMOS LEAVES

The Cosmos leaf is soft, feathery, and delicate foliage that requires a unique solution when creating a replica from crepe paper. Each flower in this class will have three leaves for each flower. We will start with the rectangle piece of extra-fine crepe paper to match the template for these leaves.

1. Attach fringe clip onto the base of crepe paper against the grain.
2. Cut eight long points into the crepe along the grain line with detail scissors. See the template for a guide.
3. Remove from the clip and twist each point tightly, from tip to base.
4. Cut 24-gauge wire 4 inches long. Add glue to one end of the base of the twisted strip and place the wire onto the glue.
5. Wrap the wire with crepe at an angle. To keep the leaf as fine as possible, overlay the crepe tightly and lightly at a 60-degree angle.
6. Pinch to seal the crepe paper to the wire.
7. Cover the rest of the bare wire with a matching crepe strip and glue.

MAKING SWEET PEA LEAVES

Sweet Pea leaves are on a separate stem from the sweet pea flowers. For these stems, there are eight leaves.

1. Cut two 24-gauge wires into eight 3-inch wires.
2. Wire each leaf by sandwiching the wire between the two crepe paper leaf halves.
3. Using a matching crepe paper strip and white glue, attach a leaf onto the tip of the 18-gauge wire, with the base of the leaf touching the tip.
4. Wrap the crepe a half inch to one inch down the wire, then place another leaf along the wire, wrapping the crepe to attach it to the stem.
5. Repeat with all leaves, then finish the stem with the wrapped crepe paper.
6. Curve and curl the leaves away from the stem and shape the stem to create a natural look.

LESSON 5: MAKING LEAVES & ADDING MOD PODGE

MOD PODGE ON DOUBLE-SIDED CREPE PAPER

In our studio, we love the Mod Podge look for leaves and petals when we want to create a thicker, glossier finish. We use this technique for Orchid flowers and leaves, Magnolia leaves, Lily petals, and many of our crepe paper plants. Note that Mod Podge only works with double-sided crepe paper. In our experience, extra-fine crepe paper is too delicate and will break apart with this much glue, and heavy crepe paper is very toothy and will over-warp and distort. However, you can use this method for your laminated, DIY double-sided crepe paper.

TIPS FOR ADDING MOD PODGE TO CREPE LEAVES OR PETALS

1. Only use Mod Podge on double-sided crepe paper.
2. Pre-assemble wired leaves and petals before adding the Mod Podge.
3. When adding Mod Podge, work on a plastic, metal, or hard surface. Please do not work on paper or cardboard, as it will stick and tear when drying.
4. Use a large paintbrush and brush in the direction of the grain lines with a thin, even coat.
5. Note that the crepe paper color may bleed into the glue, and crepe paper will start to wrinkle. The crepe paper will flatten again when dry.
6. You can add the Mod Podge glue to both sides of the leaf or petal. For best results, allow the first side to dry before adding the glue to the second.

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