

CREPE PAPER POPPY

Materials: Doublette Crepe Dark Red/Scarlet (1250 mm x 1245 mm fold is enough for 8 poppies); Doublette Crepe Leaf Green/Pale Green; Black Crepe Paper; Florists Wire.

1 Trace and cut pattern of petal shape.

2 Cut four petals for each flower (make sure the grain of the paper runs in the direction shown on the pattern).

3 Flute each petal 3 or 4 times across the top: hold the edge of the petal between the thumb and forefingers of both hands with the fingers close together, pull forward with one hand and push away with the other.

4 With the bright red side toward you, cup deeply through the centre of each petal (hold either side of the petal between thumbs and forefingers of both hands; gradually stretch the petal with both hands to push the petal carefully and evenly to the shape required).

5 Make the centre by crushing and rolling a strip of green crepe paper into a ball just over 1 cm in diameter. Stretch a 7 cm square piece of green crepe paper over the ball pinching it tightly underneath. Flatten on top slightly by pressing on the table.

6 Cut a strip of black crepe paper 3.5 cm wide (cut strip across the grain). Before unfolding cut into a fine fringe 2 cm deep. Cut into 37 cm lengths. Gather the uncut edge around the base of the ball arranging so the tips of the fringe are 1.5 cm above it. Fasten with a piece of wire - twist the wire together and form a short stem.

7 Place the four petals evenly spaced around the centre, with the fluted tops 4 cm above the fringed ends, each one overlapping the other about halfway. Fasten with another piece of wire. Wrap the base of the flower and the stem with a 3 cm wide strip of green crepe paper. Use a little glue at the beginning and the end to hold the paper in place.

