



*A How-To From*

# **PAPER TO PETAL**

## **DIPPED-TIP CHRYSANTHEMUMS /**





# HOW-TO/

## MATERIALS



## ADDING COLOR



# HOW-TO /

## MATERIALS

- Double-sided crepe paper in white, pink/bubblegum, light salmon/rose, orange/red orange, light yellow/yellow, salmon/dark salmon, from: [castleintheair.biz/shoppe](http://castleintheair.biz/shoppe)
- Florist/Italian crepe paper in limelight, limepulp, saddle, twig, and burgundy from: [cartefini.myshopify.com](http://cartefini.myshopify.com)
- Paper-covered 18-gauge 18" floral wire and glue dots from: [createforless.com](http://createforless.com)
- Silver and gold floral tape stem wrap from: [save-on-crafts.com](http://save-on-crafts.com)
- Craft paints from: [shop.plaidonline.com/martha-stewart-crafts-paint/](http://shop.plaidonline.com/martha-stewart-crafts-paint/)

**TRY THIS** Skip the dipping step and make the blooms with different shades of double-sided crepe petal layers.

## TEMPLATES #59, #163-#165

**CUT** *Crepe paper grain runs with height; all dimensions are given as H x W.*

Petal #163: Cut a 2" x 4 1/2" strip, Petal #164: Cut two 3" x 7" strips, Petal #165: Cut three 4" x 8" strips all from white double-sided crepe. Fold each length in half to fit the template, and cut the continuous petal template. Cut a 12" wide piece of limelight and limepulp florist/italian crepe.

**ADD COLOR** Dilute craft paints to desired shades with water in wide shallow containers for dipping. Mix well to remove any clumps of paint. Test colors on strips of crepe and let dry. We used lime green, and flamingo craft paint for the pink and white bloom. With the continuous petals still folded, dip just the tips of the white crepe petals into the paint. Lift up and out of the

container letting excess paint drip off. Carefully unfold onto paper towels and let dry. Repeat with all white petal strips. Set both green florist/Italian crepe papers on paper towels. Crumple a few paper towels tightly in your hand and use to blot color onto the two lengths of crepe paper, let dry. When dry, cut strips the height of template #59 from the green painted crepe. Stretch the crepe gently to remove almost all of the grain. Cut 5 Leaves #59 from the crepe strips, mixing the two colors as desired.

**BUILD** Secure all layers with floral tape.

**1.** Cut six 4" lengths of silver floral tape. Gently *Scissor Curl* each individual petal of all 6 continuous petal strips. With the curled petals facing in, place a glue dot in the bottom corner, place 1/2" of the wire on top and roll the bottom of Petal #163 around the end of the stem wire to create a center. Tightly tape with a length of floral tape. **2.** *Gather and Wrap* 1 Petal #164 with curl facing in evenly around the center and tightly secure. Repeat with a second Petal #164. Repeat with 1 Petal #165. **3.** *Gather and rap* 1 Petal #165 leaving approximately 3/4" of floral tape covered stem exposed from the previous layer to create space between the layers. Secure. *Gather and Wrap* the last Petal #165 and secure.

Adjust the petals by pushing them down to fan out the flower. Again, gently *Scissor Curl* the petals as needed to create the desired overall flower shape.

**4.** Cut a 24" length of floral tape. Begin by overlapping the last piece of floral tape, and moving the tape down on a slight diagonal as you work, add leaves as shown, or at desired points along the stem. When adding in leaves, scrunch the base of the leaf, and catch 1/2" to

3/4" in the tape as you spin the stem and cover it in tape. At the end of the wire, continue to wrap the tape past the end about 1/4" and twist tightly. Trim off the excess leaving a small amount. Gently style the leaves by stretching the crepe and crumple randomly to give them shape. Bend the stem wire gently if desired.

## SKILLS To Cut Continuous Petal

**Templates:** Continuous petals are cut from a strip of paper that has been accordion-folded to the width of the template. Align the base of the template with the bottom of the folded paper, clip the template to the paper, and cut around the template, leaving the base of the paper folds uncut. Our continuous-petal templates are demarcated with dashed lines where the folds should remain intact. The end result will be a series of petals that are connected at the base in one long piece—like a string of paper dolls.

**Scissor Curl:** Begin by holding the base of a petal or leaf in one hand and the top blade of a scissors between your thumb and index finger in the opposite hand. While supporting the paper gently on top with your thumb, drag the blade of the scissors along underside of the length of the piece in the direction of the paper's grain. Work gently not to tear the paper, and use multiple strokes for a thicker piece of paper or to increase the curl. This is the same method often used for curling gift wrap ribbon.

**How To Use Floral Tape:** Holding a stem with one hand, place a petal or leaf at the back of the stem, holding both between your thumb and index finger.

Place the tape on the front of the stem and begin wrapping it around the stem, continuing to hold the petal in place and catching the base in the tape while spinning the stem (not moving the tape around the stem). Wrap the tape around the base of the flower a few times. Continue wrapping down onto the wire at a slight diagonal, making sure to continually and gently pull the tape as you progress. Tape beyond the center, petal, or leaf and down onto the stem to be secure. Helpful Hints: Firmly but gently stretching the tape as you wrap is crucial to release the adhesive that makes it stick to itself. With one hand, hold and slowly twist the stem while applying pressure to the tape. The opposite hand stretches the tape as you work. Overlap the tape as you wrap, adding pressure with your fingers to prevent unraveling. Make a few fingernail scores at the end of each length of tape to help it adhere. When building a flower, keep a small pile of precut 3"-4" strips of tape at the ready.

**Gather and Wrap:** Use *Gather and Wrap* to attach continuous, cuff, and large single petals. Start by placing a flower center at the base of one end of a paper strip, supporting both between thumb and index finger. With your other hand, begin gathering the strip of paper against the stem while rotating the flower slowly as you pinch and wrap the paper around the stem until you reach the end of the strip. Hold it firmly together and tightly tape the bottom 1/2" of the paper at the base of the flower center and continue the tape down the stem (to prevent slipping). Continuous petals can be cut into multiple lengths to make attaching them easier.



# TEMPLATES /

