

A Dozen Red Origami Roses

Make this everlasting bouquet for your Valentine

By Travis Hydzik



Figure A: A lovely bouquet for your sweetie

Give a unique twist to the traditional giving of roses on Valentine's Day. Handmade origami roses are everlasting and inexpensive to make.

1: Inspiration

Looking for a unique way to convey my love, the idea of paper roses popped into my head. A quick Google search (www.google.com.au/search?hl=en&q=paper+roses) and it turned out it wasn't such an obscure idea.

The first result returned Bloom4ever (www.bloom4ever.com) a company that specializes in hand-made roses, and they were even nice enough to include a How to fold origami roses (www.bloom4ever.com/HowToFold.html) guide. The site lists bouquets of a dozen roses for \$80.

2: Equipment and Materials

Only the most basic craft stationary is required:

- ☉ Scissors
- ☉ Ruler
- ☉ Craft glue
- ☉ Pens/pencils

The most important material is the paper. Unable to find any origami paper, I had to settle for colored A4 paper, and this turned out for the better. I used 80gsm A4 paper. I purchased 100 sheets of red and green for \$6.50 AUS. You may be able to borrow some colored paper from your school or work. One sheet of colored paper is required for each rose and one sheet for each stem and set of leaves. You should experiment with different paper sizes and

thicknesses to find what best works for yourself.

Other materials include:

- ☉ Clear transparent wrap (cellophane) to wrap the bouquet
- ☉ 1mm diameter wire—to make the rose stems; nice to have but not a requirement
- ☉ ribbon to tie the bouquet of roses

3: Folding the rose

This rose was designed by origami theorist Toshikazu Kawasaki.

Start with a sheet of A4 paper, and cut the paper into a square. I used a 17cm square, as I found 21cm width (or A4) was too large, and 13cm (recommended by bloom4ever) was too difficult to fold.

I will not go through each folding step as there are numerous resources already available:

- ☉ How to fold origami roses, at bloom4ever (www.bloom4ever.com/HowToFold.html) Very good instructions, except for step 25.
- ☉ Rose, at pajarita.org (www.pajarita.org/aep/internacionales/intern1-3.pdf)
- ☉ How to Fold a Paper Rose, at wikiHow (www.wikihow.com/Fold-a-Paper-Rose)

I used the bloom4ever instructions for the most part. Even though step 25 is broken into steps, I could not work out how to perform the 'twist' maneuver.

This YouTube video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZnhMl85dq4) saved my life, big credit to

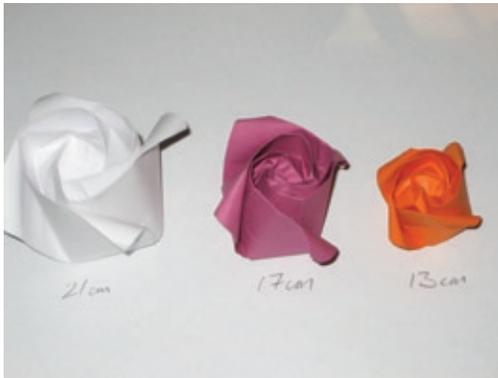


Figure F: Roses from paper squares measuring 21 cm, 17 cm, and 13 cm



Figure G: Rose heads!



Figure B: Everlasting paper roses

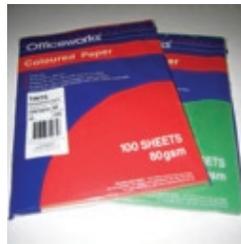


Figure C: Red and green A4 paper



Figure D: Clear cellophane wrap



Figure E: Copper wire for stems



Figure H: Folding diagram—match the triangles; diagonal folding line; join the set of lines in the lower corner

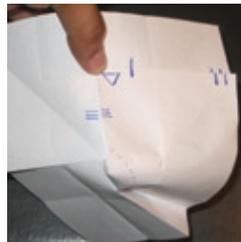


Figure I: It should look like this when folding; note the crunched up part in the center

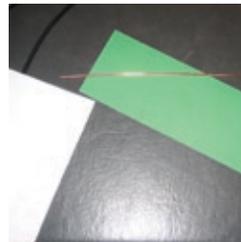


Figure J: Start to wrap a stem



Figure K: Glue this last bit to hold the paper in place



Figure L: Bend the end of the wire into this shape to fit into the rose

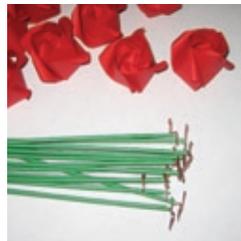


Figure M: Group of stems ready for their roses

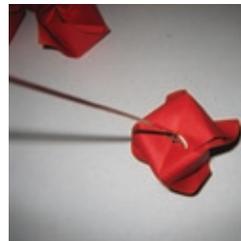


Figure N: Twist the rose head onto the bent end of the wire

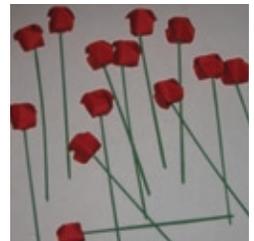


Figure O: Stemmed roses! On to the leaves . . .

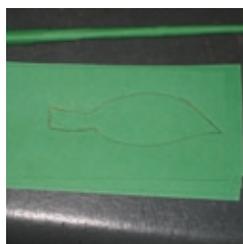


Figure P: Draw the leaves on the green paper. Note the stipules; these will be glued onto the stems.

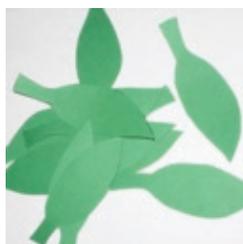


Figure Q: Cut lots of leaves



Figure R: Gluing leaves onto the stems

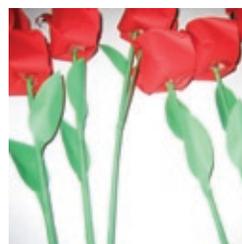


Figure S: Curve the leaves a bit after the glue has dried



Figure T: Tie the bunch of flowers together with a ribbon



Figure U: A beautiful bouquet, ready to be wrapped in cellophane

the producer.

4: Stems

I found some 1.86mm copper wire lying around that could be used for the stems. The advantage of copper wire over a paper only stem is that the copper can be bent allowing for better arrangement of the individual roses in the bouquet.

The copper wire was first straightened by pulling on the wire with one end in a vise. Once straightened, the wire was cut into 30cm lengths. Each wire was then rolled with green paper and the end glued. It is possible to make stems without the wire by only rolling paper.

I needed a simple method of attaching the stems to the rose heads. Each wire end was bent into a shape that allowed the rose heads to simply be twisted onto the wire. Glue was then applied.

I also think it would look nice to make the rose heads from silver metallic paper, with copper or silver stems.

5: Leaves

After Googling "rose leaf" for ideas, basic leaf shapes were cut out of green paper. Each leaf had a little stipule allowing it to be glued to the main stem. There were two leaves per stem, glued in an alternate pattern.

Once the glue dried, the leaves were slightly bent through the center axis and shaped to give a more pleasing look.

6: Making the bouquet

A dozen roses were bunched and arranged together to form a bouquet. The stems were securely tied together with red ribbon. I used clear transparent wrap to wrap the bouquet and fastened it with more ribbon. I made a simple card to accompany the flowers.

Travis Hydzik says, "These roses were the result of wanting to make something special for my girlfriend on Valentine's Day."

