

## Roses

Not my Grandmother's roses.

When I was a small child, my Grandmother used to make flowers out of wire and nylon stockings. She would bend and twist the wire into whatever shape she needed for the flower petal then stretch a piece of dyed nylon stocking tautly over the wire before tying off the bottom. She taught me how to do them.

I attempted to make paper roses utilizing her nylon stocking technique but without the wire. It wasn't working for me. So, I adapted the technique to make this rose.

Other than paper of your choice, you will need:

White Air dry clay: I use Makin's Clay or Crayola Model Magic. A small amount is all you need.

Glue: A strong, non-runny glue like Aleene's Fast Grab Tacky Glue or Crafter's Pick The Ultimate Glue.

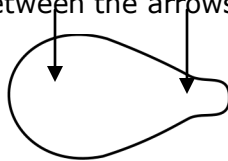
Wood Skewer or something similar

Toothpicks for applying glue.

Optional: Chalk, paint, glimmer mist or whatever you want to fancy up the petals.

I drybrush color onto the edges of my petals and leaves with acrylic paint because I have a ton of it.

The first thing that needs to be done is to form a base out of the clay to build the rose on. Using a small amount of clay, make a ball about 3/8" in diameter. Form into a tear-drop shape with a pointy end. The length of the tear-drop should fit roughly in-between the two arrows on the small rose petal shown below. The base diameter should be no larger than 3/8" and no taller than the measurement between the arrows.



Small Rose Petal



Using the flat end of a wood skewer or something similar, make a hole in the bottom of the tear-drop base. This will let you insert a stem later on if you want one. Since I usually make up several of these at a time, I do this even if I am not currently planning on using a stem. That way I can change my mind.



Set aside to dry while you are working on your petals. It takes about 24 hours for the clay to dry completely, but will stiffen up enough to work with pretty quickly.

There are 5 small petals, 5 medium petals, and 7 large petals each with a tab at their base. I paint my petals before assembly.

The rose center is started with 2 of the smallest petals.

Bend the tab along the base of the petal toward the wrong side or inside of the petal as shown in Figure 1.

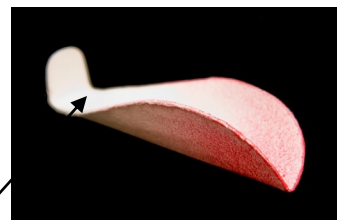


Figure 1.

Using a toothpick, apply glue to the tab on the right side. Attach it to the bottom of the tear-drop. Repeat for the other petal. See Figure 2.



Figure 2.

Apply glue to the tab on the other side bringing it up into the center of the petal a short way. Figure 3.  
Raise the petal up and form it to the tear-drop.



Figure 3.

Repeat for the other side. The finished center should look like this.



Figure 4.

Repeat the steps for Figure 1 and Figure 2 with the remaining 3 small petals.

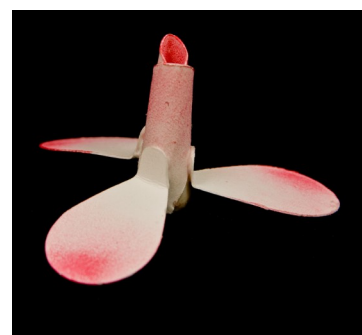


Figure 5.

Repeat the steps for Figure 3 but curl and shape these three petals initially before gluing and raising them up. After they are glued in place you can shape them to fit the contour of **this** rose. If you are using the fast hold, thick glue, it will grab and you can still shape and move the petals to some extent. The paper will soften some but shouldn't tear if you are careful.

These petals need to still hug the center pretty closely, but will loosen up some.



Figure 6.

The medium size petals are next. There are 5 petals. These petals have the same tabs at the bottom but are wider at the top. While the procedure of connecting the petals to the rose is the same, the bending and gluing are different.

Bend the tab to the right side and apply glue to the wrong side.



Figure 7.

The reason: These petals will be bent outward more. With the center, you see the outside of the petals more. With these remaining petals, you will see more of the inside or right side.

Roll and shape each petal just before you glue it and raise it up. That way you can shape it to fit the area that it is filling. Not all petals will necessarily be rolled in the middle. Some may need to be rolled or bent along a side to fit better.



Figure 8.

The large petals are the next and last layer. There are 7 of them. They are done the same as the medium size petals.





### The Rosebud:

The rosebud is assembled like the roses. For this one, I made a tear-drop shape with a wider base. I used all 5 small petals around it, keeping it tight. Bend the tab to the wrong side and glue the right side.

I wanted one that was opening a little so I used 3 of the large petals for the outside. Bend the tab to the right side and glue the wrong side. Shape the petals before gluing up.



I poked a hole in the bottom of the calyx matching the hole in the bottom of the tear-drop just in case I wanted to add a stem. Glue the calyx to the bottom of the rose, right side up. With a toothpick, add a little glue to the base of each "green thing" and glue it to the base of the rose. Bend each "green thing" back and shape it.

### Leaves and Calyx:

I cut the leaves out of dark green paper.

I drybrushed the edges of the leaves and the tips of the calyx with a light green.

Use a medium size stylus and a soft surface, such as a mouse pad or embossing pad, to score the center and side veins on the leaves. The leaves may be bent and shaped along the center score line.