

How I make tiny butterflies

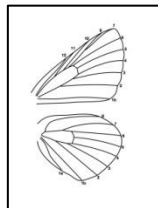
1. Choose a butterfly

This can be your favourite butterfly or one that frequents the flowers that it will adorn in the picture. I have chosen the Common Blue. A good photograph is necessary.



Butterfly-conservation.org

2. Decide on an appropriate size. It helps to know how big the butterfly is in actual size. Photographs can be misleading. The Common Blue is only an inch (2.5cm) from wing tip to wing tip. Relate this to your flower size to determine the actual butterfly size.
3. Find a pattern. Search online for a line drawing of the wing vein detail. Scale this down to size. A copy machine is helpful if you use the custom size settings.



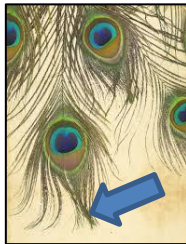
Ukbutterflies.co.uk

4. Select an appropriate silk ribbon. (e.g., Di van Niekerk's 7mm no. 81). Look at the ribbon and choose a similar blue colour for the two front wings and then perhaps a darker or more lilac shade for the two back wings. Apply fray check to the ribbon portion you have selected and then let it dry.
5. Place your dry ribbon over the pattern and trace it off. A sunny windowpane helps or a light box. Remember to mirror images for the top and bottom wings. Cut out the wings.
6. Refer to your picture and paint the white detail around the wing edge. An acrylic paint shows up beautifully. Less is more! When this is dry use

a very fine permanent black marker to draw in the black edge detail. The veins do not all have to be drawn in. Just a hint. Other butterfly types will need this detail. Butterflies that have a specific colour detail can be painted on white ribbon with silk dyes/paint. The fine black marker works well for the veins and spot detail.

7. Body. Overlap the two back wings slightly at the centre points and glue together. Place the front wings in place, overlap and glue together. For the body I like to use the very fine top barbs of a peacock feather. Cut a small piece of barb from the very tip. Place this over the wings and glue in place. Check that the barbules face towards the tail. Lift the wings slightly using aluminum foil as a mould to hold the wings in place while they dry. Trim the body.

8.



Publicdomainpictures.net

9. For the antennae, choose two tiny barbs and glue them underneath the body. Refer to the picture to see the angle of the antennae. If the barb is too thick the butterfly antennae may resemble those of a moth! If so, rather use black thread dipped in white glue to stiffen it. A drop of glue can be added to the tips of the antennae for the ball.
10. Should your butterfly be at an angle where the legs are visible, create the legs using very fine wire. Shape each pair and glue them underneath the butterfly.
11. And there you have a tiny butterfly.

Love Karen

