

# How to Make an Easy Bridal Bouquet

Save your bridal bouquet to make on day 3 – the day before your wedding. This will give you time to get experience with other arrangements and give time for the flowers to open fully.



## Set Aside Bouquet Flowers

On the day you get your flowers, after everything is prepped and beginning to open, pick out the best flowers for your bridal bouquet. Set these aside in a special area with a label so they do not get used for any other items. Pull a few extras just in case. Keep delicate items separate and in their own vase. Make sure the flowers still have plenty of water and are in a cool area. If needed, you can cut long stems a bit shorter so they don't hang over a tall bucket.



## Wait & Hydrate

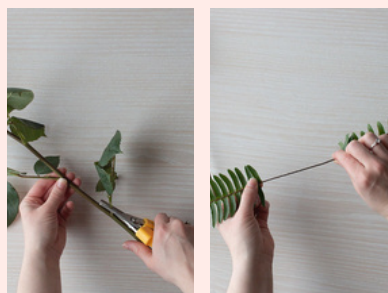
The bridal bouquet is the most photographed item. It will likely make you a bit nervous to start on this right away.

Work on the simpler items like bridesmaids bouquets and centerpieces. This will also give your bouquet flowers an extra day to open and look their best. On day 2 check on the water. Make sure it is clean and that the vessel is full so that all items are hydrating. Make sure nothing is getting smashed or drooping over the side of the bucket.



## Supplies

For a simple organic bridal bouquet you only need flowers, greenery, shears, zip ties, and ribbon. You don't need the ribbon yet so set that aside to keep it clean. Zip ties are sturdy and easy to work with. However, you can use rubber bands or waterproof floral tape if you would prefer. Have a few extra zip ties on hand. You might go through 2-4 if you tighten them too much and want to adjust or add flowers.



## Prep Stems for Building

If you did not already do this when initially prepping your flowers, go ahead and cut all of the leaves and thorns off roses and any other flowers with leaves. If the leaves closest to the blooms look nice you can leave those on. Most types of greenery will have one large stem with several smaller stems branching off. These lower branching stems will get in the way when adding your zip tie and ribbon. They also make the stems look messy.



## Start with greenery and an X

Take two pieces of greenery and lay them down on the table in an "X" shape. The "X" shape is an easy way to create an organic design. Starting flat on the table helps you to create a one-sided design that you can easily hold against your body. It also keeps your hands from cramping and allows you to walk away if needed. Cross the branches approximately where the leaves start so the stems under the cross make a nice clean handle.



## Add a good base of greenery

Add in more pieces of greenery until you feel that you have a good base. You don't have to add it all in at once. You can save a few pieces to add in with the flowers so it is dispersed throughout the design.

Add 2-4 varieties of greenery for different texture and color. It's alright to have the front pieces a bit lower than the back pieces.

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Your bridal bouquet will be the most photographed item. It's alright to set aside 1-2 hours to work on it. Since it might feel overwhelming, don't start on it first.



## Add in Big Blooms

Start adding in your larger volume flowers like Roses, Carnations, Cremones, and Mums. Keep adding the flowers in an X shape so you'll keep the organic shape and have an easy place to add your zip tie at the cross point of the X. Put some stems higher than others. You can cluster a few of the same types together or evenly disperse them throughout the design. This photo shows a fairly even distribution, but clusters can create a "color block" effect.



## Add Small Filler Flowers

Layer in the smaller filler flowers such as Spray Roses, Mini Carnations, Button/Cushion Poms, and Thistle. These flowers still take up a lot of space in the design, but the smaller buds provide texture variation.

With any of these steps, you do not have to add all of these now. You can save a few to add at the end.



## Add in Texture

Add in texture items such as thistle, berries, queen anne's lace, and wax flower. Fill in the gaps and you'll see the design start to come together!

It's alright to pick up the stems of the filler flowers so you can put some texture behind your first stems.

Adjust the height and position as needed so that all of the elements are visible.



## Add Accent Flowers

Add in the remaining accent flowers like Ranunculus, Lisianthus, Scabiosa, etc. These items are usually smaller and more delicate than your other items. We keep these until the end so they do not get squished in the process. Even though these are the last item to add, they do not all have to be in the front. Just like the texture, it is alright to lift up the other stems to put these further back in the design. It will be easier to put longer-stemmed items in the back of the design.



## Add in Remaining Flowers

Add in any remaining items you would like. Fill in gaps as needed.

At this point, add in any remaining filler or texture items to the front of the bouquet so the design feels well balanced.

Don't forget to add some more greenery in between the flowers. Just watch out for those delicate ones!



## Loosely Add Zip Tie

While the bouquet is still on the table, loosely add the zip tie. Tighten it enough that no stems will fall through when you pick it up, but loose enough that you can easily slide the stems up and down.

If it is too tight at first, cut it off and add a new one. (You likely had to buy the pack of 100 anyway.) Once the zip tie is in place, pick up the bouquet.



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Don't forget that the flowers themselves are beautiful so your bouquet is going to be beautiful no matter what.



## Adjust as Needed

Hold the bouquet up and see how it looks. Things will shift a bit; adjust the flowers until they are in a position you like. Be careful not to pull the bloom off the stem. If needed, find the bottom of the stem and push or pull from there. Sometimes it helps to spin the stem a bit if it doesn't want to go straight up or down.

Next, turn the bouquet around. Hold the bouquet against your body. Look in a mirror and continue to adjust as needed or have a friend hold it while you adjust.



## Tighten the Zip Tie

Once it's how you like it, tighten the zip tie all the way. You might want to get a friend's help so you can keep both hands on the flowers. If you added more flowers to the bouquet while adjusting, add another zip tie to hold these in place. If the original zip tie is in the way you can cut it off, but don't cut the new zip tie. Be sure that all stems are inside the zip tie and that everything feels secure. After this, get your vase of clean water for the next step.



## Cut The Stems

At Flower Moxie we like short stems! We want the focus to be on the blooms. It is also easier to hold the bouquet with the blooms angled slightly out when the stems are short. If you like longer stems - that's alright! However, you still want to give them a bit of a trim so they are nice and even. Also, they've been out of water for a while so a trim will help them drink better. Place the stems immediately in a vase of water.



## Store Your Bouquet

Carefully place your bouquet in a vase of water, making sure all stems are immersed under the water.

If needed, either fill the vase more or cut the longest stems a bit shorter so the shorter stems are further down in the water. Store in a cool location where it will not get tipped over.



## Dry & Tie

We prefer to wait to tie the ribbon on the bouquet until the wedding day. This keeps it as clean and dry as possible. However, if needed, you can add your ribbon as soon as you finish the bouquet. Dry the stems with a towel. Wrap your bouquet with the ribbon of your choice. We recommend ribbon that is 1"-1.5" wide. You can either let the ribbon drape or wrap it around the handle and secure with pins. At the very least make sure you cover the zip tie.



## Ribbon

There are different options when wrapping your bouquet. Pick the one that fits your style. A tied knot with draping ribbon gives a whimsical or bohemian vibe. Tied in a bow gives a romantic and feminine touch. For either one, wrap the ribbon around the stem 1-2 times to cover the zip tie. Tie a knot or bow depending on your preference. Either leave the ends long and flowy or cut them short. For a classic and elegant look, cut a shorter piece of ribbon and wrap it around the stem a few times. Fold the ends under and secure with short pixie pins.