

## HOW TO

*Make a lilac Pom-Pom Poppy with Tiffanie Turner*

*The first pom-pom flower I ever made was a Green Trick dianthus, a flower in the same genus as the carnation. It was part of a lovely wedding bouquet, and I made little green ball boutonnieres to match. After that, all ball-shaped flowers began to catch my eye, especially the ones I've included here. The Lilac Pom-Pom poppy can be very true-to-life in paper. You can switch the paper colour from lilac to red for a red poppy, or to white for a frilly Swansdown poppy. The Black Swan poppy is an exotic specimen, at least to me. It borrows its centre from another opium poppy.*

*Remember, lopsided is almost never a bad thing. If your flower heads begin to wiggle, secure them to the stems inconspicuously with hot glue. Paper staining is optional, but if you do stain the paper, be sure to plan ahead to allow time for it to dry. This is especially important for the Lilac Pom-Pom poppy, which is stained with the very wet 'squeeze and soak' technique.*





### Materials

PVA glue  
Hot glue  
180gsm lilac crepe paper  
180gsm lavender crepe paper  
100gsm green tea crepe paper  
16-gauge green cloth-covered stem wire  
Extra-sharp scissors

1. Cut ten 1 3/4"-tall x 12"-long strips from outstretched 180gram lilac crepe paper. Stain the top edges of three strips with 180gram lavender crepe paper by wetting the darker paper and pressing it onto the lighter paper with a spoon, transferring the colour. If the paper is water resistant, use the 'squeeze and soak' method by wetting the paper you're pulling the colour from, and squeezing it tightly over the paper you want to stain. Let it soak for a few hours and when dry, cut the seven unstained and two stained strips into petal strips as below, the two stained strips cut along their stained edges. Reserve the final stained strip for use in step 4.

Roll a 1"-tall x 2"-long fringe strip, cut from outstretched 100gram green tea crepe paper. Loop the top of the stem wire down 3/8", interlock with the strip, and wrap around the loop, secure with PVA glue, with the green tips 1/2" above the loop.

2. Roll five unstained strips of petals. Unfurl and apply PVA glue to the 1/2" uncut bottoms of each. Wrap each one tightly round the stem,

aligning the bottoms with the top of the first strip 3/4" above the wire loop. If the tuft rides up the stem, press your finger into the centre and push it back down. When all strips are attached, smooth the base and let them set for 10 minutes.

3. Roll only the tops and bottoms of the remaining four unstained, and two stained strips of petals, leaving the midsections untwisted. Unfurl, then one at a time apply PVA glue and wrap the strips around the base of the flower, saving the two stained petal strips for last. Wrap in the elbow where the vertical base and the horizontal petals meet, so the bottom strip conceals the base and the lowest petals lay horizontally. Groom the bottom layers to droop downward slightly with your fingers.

4. Cut four petals from your final strip of stained paper, as in image below, with the colour at the tips facing either up or down. Cup the centres of each petal across the middle to widen, and droop the ends down by pulling between a skewer or hat pin and your thumb. Equally space the petals around the base, attaching to the underside of the poppy near the stem neatly with a bead of hot glue at the base of each petal. ***The Fine Art of Paper Flowers* by Tiffanie Turner, Watson-Guption £19.99, £15.00 plus p&p, to order T: 01273 488005 or see [www.thegmcgroup.com](http://www.thegmcgroup.com) and quote: R5284, Closing date: 14th February. Please note: p&p is £2.95.**

