



MAKEALONG



SPRING / SUMMER 2024
SERIES GUIDE

@thehandmade Florist
#HandmadeFloristMAL

WELCOME



Hello! I'm Hannah: founder and maker of all things floral at The Handmade Florist. The Handmade Florist is the home of beautiful handcrafted felt creations... made by you! My do-it-yourself craft kits and tutorials are the perfect way to learn this amazing craft and make your own long-lasting floral displays.

If you're looking for a new project to get your crafting off to a flying start in 2024, you've come to the right place. My Spring/Summer felt flower Makealong is a five-month project that I think you'll love. In this guide I've put together everything you need to know about the Makealong and all you'll need to have ready to take part. Are you ready? Let's begin!



WATCH THE VIDEO!

If you're short on time, you can find all the essential information about the Spring/Summer Makealong series in my new video (under two minutes long!). [Watch it here.](#)

Share your makes!



I LOVE seeing your creations - finished *and* in progress - from the Makealong, so make sure you're following me on Facebook or Instagram (@thehandmade Florist) and tag all your Makealong projects #HandmadeFloristMAL - I try to share as many as I can over on my stories. While you're there, why not have a look at what others have been making and give them a like too? Previous year's Makealong participants found it a great way to connect with other makers.

JOIN THE CLUB!



My **Happy Flower Makers** club is the place to be for everything felt flower making. By joining me as a member you can help me to continue creating beautiful projects, like my Makealong, for you to enjoy. Plus, you'll unlock exclusive projects and discounts, and get early access to the Makealong.

Reasons to join:

- ♥ Early access to each new Makealong project
- ♥ Digital cutting files (SVG & DXF) for each Makealong project
 - ♥ Discounted Makealong supplies
- ♥ Beautiful PDF instructions for new Makealong projects
 - ♥ Access to my 'Makealong Minis' series*
 - ♥ Access to the Makealong project archive*

...PLUS MORE!

** selected tiers only*

Find out more at <https://thehandmade Florist.com/pages/happy>

Q&A

WHAT IS THE MAKEALONG?

My Makealong is a fun and easy way to learn felt flower making from the comfort of your home. It is broken down into single projects each month which, combined together at the end of the series, will make a beautiful felt flower display.

HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

The Spring/Summer series runs from February to June 2024.

WHAT WILL I MAKE?

In the Spring/Summer series, you can choose to create a bouquet OR hoop/wreath with the flowers you make. The flower designs will be the same whether you choose a bouquet or hoop. Just like in previous years, I'll be keeping the final displays a secret so you won't know what you're making until each project arrives.

HOW DO I JOIN IN?

Each project will be released in my main email newsletter at the end of each month (usually the last Friday of the month). Simply download the templates and watch the video tutorial using the links sent in the email to get started on each project.

CAN I GET PDF INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PROJECTS TOO?

This year, my step-by-step, full colour project instructions are again available as part of my Happy Flower Makers membership. To find out about membership options, visit <https://thehandmade Florist.com/pages/happy>.

DOES IT COST ANYTHING TO TAKE PART?

The video tutorials and templates are provided free. The only costs are for your own tools and materials (see below), and if you choose to subscribe to my Happy Flower Makers club to gain access to the PDF instructions and digital cutting files.

WHAT DO I NEED TO TAKE PART?

You can find a full list of all the tools and materials you'll need in the next section of this guide.

WHERE CAN I BUY THE MATERIALS?

The materials required are widely available online, and I am also selling felt packs, felt balls, wire etc. on [my website](#), along with complete supplies bundles, so you can be sure you get exactly what you need. There is no obligation to purchase from me and if you already have your own materials this is absolutely fine.

CAN I CHOOSE MY OWN COLOURS?

Of course! You can see my chosen colour palettes later in this guide (there are two different choices), but if you want to make the flowers in your own colours, that's fine too.

CAN I SEE WHAT THE FINISHED DISPLAY WILL LOOK LIKE?

I've decided to keep this one a mystery once again - I love surprises and I think it adds to the fun of the projects not

knowing what you'll be making until each new project arrives.

DO I HAVE TO MAKE ALL OF THE FLOWERS?

No. Make one or two, or make them all... it's entirely up to you. Each flower will be a gorgeous creation in its own right, so you could even make a whole bouquet of just one project. They will also be great additions to any other felt flower projects you make, so you can come back to them in future.

I HAVEN'T MADE FELT FLOWERS BEFORE, CAN I STILL JOIN IN?

Absolutely! Each project will come with a video tutorial to guide you through making your flowers. The Makealong is a great place to begin if you're new to felt flower making.

DO I HAVE TO COMPLETE THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S PROJECT BEFORE I CAN BEGIN THE NEXT?

The flowers can be made in any order so you're free to make them whenever you can. If you miss or want to skip a month, it won't affect the following month's project at all.

HOW MANY OF EACH FLOWER WILL I NEED TO MAKE?

That's entirely up to you. I'll give recommendations for how many of each flower might work well in the finished display, but you can make as few or as many as you want.

WILL ALL THE PROJECTS BE NEW DESIGNS?

There will be a mixture of exclusive designs as well as reimagined designs from my new and existing tutorials.

HOW DO I ACCESS THE TEMPLATES?

The templates will be in PDF format and sent as a link in my email newsletters each month. The video tutorials will be uploaded to a private playlist on YouTube, with a link to each video included in my email newsletter.

WILL THERE BE A WAY TO SEE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE FOLLOWING THE MAKEALONG HAVE MADE?

I would LOVE to see your creations from the Makealongs, so I'll be encouraging everyone to share theirs over on Instagram and Facebook using the hashtag **#HandmadeFloristMAL** (why not have a look there now to see some of the flowers from previous Makealongs?). There's absolutely no obligation to take part in this way but, if you do, please take time to like others' makes and share positive comments too.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Tools

- ♥ **Scissors:** I always recommend having a good, sharp pair of scissors just for your felt and a separate pair that you use to cut out your paper templates.
- ♥ **Glue gun** and sticks to use with it.
- ♥ **A set of craft/jewellery making pliers**, with round-nose and wire cutting pliers included (optional but recommended): see page 13.
- ♥ Access to **printer** for printing templates*.
- ♥ **Box or tray** to keep your felt and felt offcuts in throughout the series: some projects will use the same colours - see page 7 for details of my NEW Makealong project box!
- ♥ A **bottle, vase or box** to keep your flowers in throughout the series.
- ♥ A **vase** to display your final bouquet in (if you're making the bouquet version).

Materials

- ♥ **Wool-blend felt** sheets in a mix of colours (see Colour Guide): you should be able to make all of the flowers using just one A4 sheet of each colour, and you will have leftover felt in most colours so you can make more flowers at the end of the series if you want to.
- ♥ **Felt balls** (see Colour Guide).
- ♥ **8mm wooden (or other material) beads** (optional). You will need around 35 beads in total, but I'll share an alternative making option if you don't have these. These will be hidden inside the flowers so don't worry if you're using coloured beads.
- ♥ **Florist wires:** for the bouquet, I'll be using 30cm long 19 gauge florist wires (around 40 in total); for the wreath, I'll be using 18cm long 22 gauge wires (around 40 in total).
- ♥ **Florist tape** (used in both the bouquet and wreath) - I will be using dark green tape for the spring version and brown tape for the summer version.
- ♥ **Paper-covered floral binding wire/bind wire:** this is a thin, very flexible wire, usually covered in paper. I'll be using dark green binding wire for the spring version, to match the florist tape (see above). For the summer version, I'll be using dark brown binding wire to match the florist tape. If you can't find binding wire where you are, use 26 gauge standard florist wire instead. You'll need up to 10 metres for the whole series.
- ♥ **Wreath hoop** (wreath only): I will be using a 25cm metal hoop with a gold finish to assemble my wreath.
- ♥ **Ribbon** (for hanging the wreath - optional)
- ♥ **Paper** for printing templates*.

Shop for Makealong supplies
(including supply bundles) at
[thehandmade Florist.com](https://www.thehandmade Florist.com)

or

>> [CLICK HERE](#) <<

to go straight to my Makealong
Supplies shop!

**No printer? No problem! This year I am again offering the option for UK customers to have a printout of the templates for each project posted each month. See my website for further details.*



NEW! MAKEALONG PROJECT BOX

Keep your Makealong supplies all in one place with my special branded Makealong 2024 project box! This A4 size box is big enough to store your felt and other supplies (apart from the wreath hoops!) and it's a great way to keep all your off-cuts together throughout the series. A limited number of boxes are available. Find them in my [Makealong Supplies Shop](#).

COLOUR GUIDE

It's time to introduce the TWO colour palettes I've chosen for the Spring/Summer Makealong series! Each palette contains eight shades of woolblend felt, plus complementary felt balls. You may want to use this as a guide for your own colours, or why not choose a completely different palette? It's entirely up to you. In the next section you can find my tips on selecting your own colours.

Note: where manufacturer-given names are different to my own for the felt colours selected, I've included these in brackets (*'also known as'*).

As well as felt packs for the Makealong, individual felt sheets are also available on my website, so you can pick and mix your own colour palette!

Spring Palette - 'Spring Zing'

FELT

- ♥ White (also known as Fresh Linen)
- ♥ Mellow Yellow
- ♥ Gold
- ♥ Lavender
- ♥ Rich Purple (also known as Purple Rain)
- ♥ Periwinkle
- ♥ Dusky Rose (also known as English Rose)
- ♥ Pea Soup



FELT BALLS

- ♥ 6 x 1.5cm Yellow



Summer Palette - 'Summer Haze'

FELT

- ♥ Hint of Apricot (also known as Suntan)
- ♥ Straw
- ♥ Apricot Blush (also known as Blush)
- ♥ Buttercream
- ♥ Blush Pink (also known as Blushing Bride)
- ♥ Wisteria
- ♥ Vanilla Latte
- ♥ Dusky Green (also known as Shady Grove)



FELT BALLS

- ♥ 6 x 1.5cm Light Peach Pink



WHICH COLOUR...?

If you're purchasing a Makealong felt or supplies pack from me, why not add on a felt colour swatch card too? This postcard size card is a handy reference as you make the flowers for your Spring or Summer Makealong projects. Find it in my [Makealong Supplies Shop](https://www.thehandmade Florist.com).



NEW! CRAFT PROJECT TRACKER

If you like to look back on your craft projects or keep a diary or journal, this one's for you! My new craft project tracker sheets are a colourful, fun and easy way to keep note of the amazing creative projects you've started (and finished!). These

A5 pads come with 50 sheets, which are all ready for you to fill in with your project details and progress. Why not use them alongside the Makealong to track each project as you complete it?

Find them in my [Makealong Supplies Shop](https://www.thehandmade Florist.com).

CHOOSING YOUR OWN

If you would prefer to choose your own colour palette, here are my top tips to help get you started:

- ♥ **Primary colours:** start with a couple of colours that work well together and that you would like to be dominant in your display
- ♥ Next choose a couple of **secondary colours** that give a nice contrast to your primary colours. These can be used on other flowers in the bouquet.
- ♥ Choose some **accent colours** to help your display 'pop' and draw the eye to different shapes and textures. These will really bring the display to life.
- ♥ Now choose a **leaf colour**. Think about a shade that will complement the other colours in your palette, to help bring everything together.
- ♥ Look for **inspiration** everywhere. Of course we have real flowers to give us ideas, but don't stop there – whether it's some wallpaper you love, a row of beach huts, a painting or even a jar of buttons, colour combinations are ALL around us! Keep photos of your finds to refer back to later.
- ♥ Where are the flowers for? If you're making your felt flowers for a **particular room or season**, think about the final display in that setting - what colours do you want to complement the surroundings?
- ♥ Think in **shades**, not just colours. Don't limit yourself to 'just red' or 'just yellow'. Using different shades of the same colour can help to add subtle contrast to your felt.
- ♥ Give it **time**. Cut strips of the colours you've chosen and lay them together, then stand back, take a photo, and maybe even leave for a day or two if you're not in a rush. Sometimes a bit of time and space will give you different ideas and inspiration... and don't be afraid to change your mind!
- ♥ Add **harmony** by repeating colours. Using the same shades across different flowers will help to add balance and bring your flowers together as one display rather than individual elements. For example, the yellow you use for the petals on one flower could also form the small yellow centre of another.
- ♥ Why not create a **mood board** to help you work up a colour theme for your display? You can see my Spring and Summer mood boards on pages 8 and 9.



FELT COLOUR CHART

If you're choosing your own felt colours but aren't sure which to buy, you can now purchase a felt colour chart from my shop to help you decide! Each card is complete with swatches of over 70 colours of wool-blend felt.

Order yours [here](#).

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Printing & cutting the templates

Templates will be provided in PDF format and these are full size when printed on A4 size paper. I recommend using Adobe Reader to view and print the pattern: ensure that your page setup in the print options is set to A4 and that you select to print at actual size to avoid any scaling or shrinking. Always make sure you've cut out and have all your felt pieces ready before you begin assembling your items, so you don't leave your glue gun on for longer than needed. Note, I also provide a Letter size option for those using this paper size.

Cutting your felt shapes

Always make sure you are using sharp scissors to give your felt a clean and neat finish - if you can, keep a pair of scissors that you use just for your felt, and a separate pair that you use to cut out the paper templates.

I always recommend cutting strips or small blocks from your felt first, just big enough for each shape. This makes handling the felt much easier and it will help you to cut more accurately.

For most shapes, I simply hold the paper template to the felt as I cut around it (rather than using pins or trying to draw around the template). Then, if I'm cutting more than one of the same shape, I use the first shape cut from the felt as my template for the rest - felt clings to itself really well, so this will give you a helping hand as you cut your shapes.

Watch my how to video for cutting your felt shapes at:

thehandmade Florist.com/blogs/how-to-videos/how-to-cut-out-your-flower-shapes

Glue gun tips

I use a hot melt glue gun with a fine nozzle. Whatever glue gun you're using, here are my top tips for using it:

- ♥ Allow your glue gun to heat up properly before using it (test it on a scrap of felt first): using it too quickly will likely result in wispy glue strings uneven blobs of glue.
- ♥ Less is more! You only need a fine layer of glue to bond your felt - be gentle with the trigger of your glue gun.
- ♥ After you've applied glue to your felt, don't pull the glue gun immediately away; instead, hover the nozzle over the glue for a few seconds to break the trail of glue. This should help to reduce the amount of stringy, wispy strands on your project.
- ♥ **NEVER touch the tip of the glue gun or the molten glue!**

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Using craft pliers

Craft pliers are often sold in sets of three, with round-nose and wire cutting pliers provided along with flat-nose pliers. They are really handy to have and relatively cheap, so I'd recommend getting a set if you can. I'll be using wire cutting pliers to trim the stems of my flowers before arranging my bouquet. I'll also use round-nose craft pliers to help assemble some of the flowers.

Wrapping your florist wires

Before making the flowers, we'll begin by wrapping each of the wire stems in florist tape. This helps to give the stems a more natural finish. Florist tape is a stretchy paper tape that becomes tacky as you stretch it. Here's how I recommend wrapping your wires:

1. Begin by releasing some tape from the roll and gently stretch the end of it to make it tacky.
2. Place the tape over the end of the wire at an angle and grip it between your fingers as you begin rolling it.
3. Squeeze and stretch the tape as you work your way along the wire, keeping the tape tight and at an angle. The tape will become tacky and stick to itself as you stretch and roll it.
4. Continue to the end of the wire, allowing an overhang at the end. Trim the overhangs.
5. If you've got any ripples or creases in the tape after wrapping the wires, gently smooth these with your fingers.
6. Repeat these steps to wrap the rest of your wires.

Tips:

- ♥ If the tape breaks as you're using it, don't panic! Simply trim the end to neaten it, then reattach to the wire, overlapping with the tape you've already attached.
- ♥ Wash your hands after using the tape and before touching your felt - it can make your hands sticky and will make your felt fluffy!

Watch my how to video for wrapping florist wires at:

thehandmade Florist.com/blogs/how-to-videos/how-to-wrap-florist-wire