

MAKING A SUMMER FLOWER CROWN



Flower crowns have been a meaningful part of traditions and ceremonies for centuries. They've been a part of weddings, midsummer celebrations, May Day, and other festivals and special events all over the world.

Flower crowns have something a bit magical about them, and we find them irresistible to this day.

Incorporated into bridal showers, birthdays, and anniversaries, they are simple to assemble. Create a few from your heirloom flower garden for yourself and gift some to friends.

There are many ways to create a beautiful flower crown. I learned to make them while working for a florist as a teenager, and this is still one of the easiest techniques I've found.

MATERIALS

Measuring tape

Thick floral wire (I like 22-gauge)

Wire cutters

1 roll of green floral tape

Floral snips or shears

Ribbons

Hot glue gun (optional)

Focus flowers: You'll need an odd number of "focus flowers," as they will be the focal points on the crown.

Filler flowers: These flowers should be smaller than the focus flowers so that they accent the main ones.

Greenery: This will create the "base" in which the flowers will be placed.



1 Begin by measuring the circumference of your head with the measuring tape. Whether you'd like the crown to sit high or low, make sure the tape is sitting exactly where you'd like the flower crown to sit.

2 Leaving the floral wire attached to the spool, measure out the length needed for your head and then add 1 inch to the length. I like to double my wire base because it gives me more to work with while securing the flowers to the crown. To do this, roll more wire off the spool to the same length you measured before and cut with wire cutters. Bend the entire piece of wire in half. There will be a natural loop at one end. At the *other* end, twist the wire ends together and bend the last 1 inch to form a hook. This is how the crown will hook together.

3 I like to cover the entire base with green floral tape. This ensures that if any part of the base becomes visible at any time, it'll be covered and will blend in. Here's how floral tape works: The adhesive on the tape doesn't work until it is slightly stretched. Use a finger and your thumb to hold onto the tape end at one end (usually against flower stems) and pull the other end taut as you go along wrapping stems (or what have you).

Starting at the loop end of the crown, cover the entire base with the floral tape. It wraps up quickly if you wrap it at an angle as you go.

4 There are two ways to get the flowers onto the crown. I'll describe both ways so you can decide what works for you.

Add the flowers individually:

Starting at one end (using floral tape), add the focal flowers, filler flowers, and greenery individually all the way down the wire, trimming the ends as needed with floral snips. Be sure to place the focus flowers evenly throughout at regular intervals. All the flowers should be facing the same direction as you add them. This method often creates a thinner flower crown (although not necessarily) and is a slower process. However, the flowers will often remain tighter against the crown because the flowers are taped separately.

Add the flowers as tiny bouquets:

Instead of placing the flowers singly onto the wire, you can make a bunch of tiny bouquets. (The completed flower crown in the first photo took eight tiny bouquets.) Simply choose some flowers and use floral tape to wrap the stems to create sweet little bundles. Adding miniature bouquets to the crown speeds up this project. Occasionally, once the crown is placed on a head, a gap in the bouquets may become apparent. If so, adhere one of the flower stems from the next bouquet to the wire, or wrap on an individual flower.

5 Hook the bent end of the wire into the loop at the other end. Finish your flower crown by tying long ribbons from the back; hot gluing two short ribbons and tying them into a bow; or hot gluing flower heads onto the back to hide the hook if necessary.