

How to

Summer blooms for special occasions

Whatever big event you've got coming up, one of these stylish displays will be perfect – and they're really easy, too



Celebration flower ring

A wow-factor display. Hang on a garden gate or on a door inside the house. Or just lay flat and pop a candle in the middle for a centrepiece.

YOU WILL NEED

- 20cm flower foam ring
- 1.5m each cerise ribbon and soft pink ribbon
- 10 stems rosemary; 6 stems choysya; 6 stems alchemilla mollis; 10 stems lavender; 1 large pale pink hydrangea head; 10 white sweet pea heads; 5 pink phlox



1 Soak the **foam** under water until it stops bubbling, then remove. Make a loop with both **ribbons** around the top of the foam ring to create a secure fixing for hanging up your ring. Try to avoid getting the ribbons wet or dirty.



2 Cut foliage stems diagonally to about 12cm long. Starting with the **rosemary**, group sprigs together to cover a section of the foam. Make another grouping with the **choysya**, then the **alchemilla**, then the **lavender**. Repeat until the ring is completely covered.



3 Cut all flower stems diagonally to about 12cm long. Part the **hydrangea** into three equal-size pieces and space around the ring. Add the **sweet peas** and the **phlox** evenly around the ring. Fill any gaps with sprigs of foliage. Your ring is now ready to hang.



Posh party floral bowl

This stunning arrangement of beautiful roses looks almost good enough to eat. And yes, the fruit *is* real – and edible, too!

- 1 Soak **block of foam** as before. Wrap it in a **small sheet of cellophane** (to protect fruit) with its top uncovered, and put in a **glass pedestal bowl**.
 - 2 To fill the gap between the foam and the edge of the bowl, pour in **1 punnet of blueberries**, then layer on **1 punnet of raspberries**, then **1 punnet of strawberries**, saving some to put in with your flowers.
 - 3 Cut **5 duette Ecuadorian roses** to 15cm. Press evenly into the foam to create a dome. Cut **5 pink** and **5 cream spray roses** to the same length and add evenly between the large roses. Push a **cocktail stick** into the base of each strawberry and use to fill any gaps.
- ◆ Fairtrade roses, John Lewis by mail order, from £20 for 14 stems, free delivery

🔪 If you can't find any cellophane, cling film does the job just as well. Top up arrangement with water every other day.



Best-ever birthday bouquet

Give a bouquet of flowers a personal twist – decorate with delicate paper butterflies and pretty pins.

- 1 Wrap **80cm fabric** to complement your flowers around a **straight-sided cylinder vase** (to fit inside a **35cm glass hurricane lantern**), arranging the folds as you go. Put the vase inside the lantern.
 - 2 Top up the inside vase with water, keeping the fabric dry. Build your bouquet in your hands, stem by stem, using a selection of **stocks**, **pink lisianthus** and **Avalanche roses** – or use a ready-made bouquet. Snip 2cm off the end of the stems and arrange in the vase.
 - 3 Dot **5 paper butterflies** on fine wires through the flowers. Push three **pearl-headed pins** firmly into the centre of each cream rose.
- ◆ Super Perfect Pastel Bouquet, John Lewis by mail order, £40, free delivery.

🔪 Tiny decorative stones and shells look great between the layers of glass, or you could even use slices of lemon and lime.

tips



John Lewis's florist Jane Scott created our three super arrangements and shares her top tips

- ◆ Cut flowers will last longer if they're kept cool and out of direct sunlight
- ◆ Replace faded blooms with interesting foliage or flowers from the garden.
- ◆ It may seem like a crime to cut long-stemmed roses short, but if you do you'll find they'll last far longer!

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