



Fast, fabulous festive flowers

We set floral designer Jane Scott a challenge: to create three inspiring displays using just a few roses and some foliage from the garden...

An elegant decoration for the mantelpiece

30 MINUTES
YOU WILL NEED:

- 2 oblong blocks of Oasis florist's foam and a rectangular waterproof tray to put them on
- 9 taper candles
- Several sprigs of larch or other fir
- 8 strands of ivy, each approximately 50cm (20in) long, and 3 sprigs of berried ivy
- Gold metallic spray paint, £5.99 per 400ml, Plasti-kote (01223 836400; plasti-kote.co.uk)
- 10 sprigs of purple viburnum berries and sprigs of viburnum leaves
- A few sprigs of skimmia
- 9 roses
- Florist's wire
- 6 pine cones

1 Soak the foam in water and place in the tray. Push the candles in and form the basic shape of your arrangement by pushing a few larch sprigs into the sides and top of the foam.

2 Lightly spray the ivy with gold paint. Once it's dry, push the strands into the front. Spray three berried ivy tips with gold and, once dry, push in between the candles.

3 Push the berried viburnum stems in all around the Oasis, then add sprigs of viburnum leaves between the candles.

4 Cut the stems of the roses to 10cm (4in) long, then place them evenly around the top, front and sides of the arrangement. Finally, wind florist's wire around the stems of the pine cones and secure them in the Oasis between the roses.



Expert in action: Jane Scott is a floral designer for John Lewis Flowers Direct (0845 604 9049; johnlewis.com/flowers)

Gorgeous display for the hall

10 MINUTES
YOU WILL NEED:

- 24 laurel leaves
- Gold metallic spray paint, as above
- Double-sided adhesive tape
- Square glass tank vase
- Block of Oasis florist's foam to fit the vase
- 9 roses
- Length of ribbon or cord

1 Lightly spray the laurel leaves with gold paint, leaving some of their natural green colour showing through. Leave to dry.

2 Create a 10cm (4in) deep horizontal adhesive band around the middle of the outside surface of the vase using double-sided adhesive tape. Soak a block of Oasis in water, then place it inside the vase.

3 Cut the rose stems to 10cm (4in) long, then push them into the Oasis so the blooms sit about 2.5cm (1in) above the rim of the vase.

4 Stick the laurel leaves around the outside edge of the vase, overlapping them slightly and pressing them against the band of adhesive tape to hold them in place. Once the outside of the vase is covered in leaves, tie a length of ribbon or cord around the whole thing. ➤

Above right: Gold taper candles, £4 for four, Shearer Candles (0141 445 1066; www.shearer-candles.com).
Left: Noel candle, £17.50, and tealights, £10.50 for six, all Crabtree & Evelyn (01443 445566; crabtree-evelyn.com)



Stunning dining-table centrepiece

 **20 MINUTES**

YOU WILL NEED:

- 22cm (8in) diameter disc or ring of Oasis florist's foam, plus a waterproof tray or plate to put it on
- 15cm (6in) diameter candle
- 6 roses
- Spray glue
- Glitter
- Several sprigs each of rosemary, eucalyptus and skimmia
- Selection of small and medium baubles

1 Soak the Oasis in water, then put it on the tray or plate. Place the candle in the centre. Cut the rose stems to 5cm (2in) in length, reserving the cut stems. Lightly spray the petals with spray glue, dust with glitter and allow to dry.

2 Push three roses into the Oasis to form a tight, triangular cluster. Repeat on the opposite side of the ring. Push sprigs of rosemary, eucalyptus and skimmia in clusters around the rest of the Oasis ring.

3 Remove the hanging attachments from the tops of the baubles. Cut the leftover rose stems into 10cm (4in) lengths and push into the holes in the tops of the baubles.

4 Use the rose stem 'stalks' to push the baubles into the foam in two clusters, one on either side of the ring.

Gold organza runner, £6.29, gold dupion napkins, £11.99 for a set of four, and gold feather and bead napkin pins, £4.39 each, all Walton & Co (01423 326332; waltonsofyorkshire.co.uk). 17cm gold coupe plates, £21 each, and 24cm gold coupe plates, £24 each, both Plato Gold range by Wedgwood. Riedel Vinum Bordeaux glasses, £14.95 each, and rat-tail cutlery, £115 for a seven-piece place setting, all Mulberry Hall (01904 620736; www.mulberryhall.co.uk ✉). Three-wick 6in x 8in spiced vanilla pillar candle, £29.95, PartyLite (01923 848730; partylite.co.uk).