



Fill your home with flowers

Add colour and interest with these beautiful arrangements by floral designer Jane Scott

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Contemporary cubes

Pack fabric-covered vases with tulips for a modern display

1 Soak three square blocks of florists' foam in cold water.

2 Wrap three cube-shaped vases in fabric, pulling it tight and pinning at the back.

Place florists' foam in each vase.

3 Take around 20 tulips per vase, cut stems to 20cm and push them into the foam.

4 To finish, tie ribbons around each cube and hang a small decoration from each one.

Vases, £11 for a 15cm glass cube, Bloom. Wrapped in (from left): Linara Porcelain RF2494/91, £28.25 per m, Romo. Saville Ruby VN1043/89, £12.25 per m; Saville Cadet N1043/155, £12.25 per m; both Villa Nova. Heart decorations, £16 for three; doves, £18 for three; stars, £16 for three; all Jo Heckett



Top floral designer JANE SCOTT is the creative force behind John Lewis's seasonal flower collections.

For a huge choice of flowers, including Jane's own collection, call 0845 604 9049 or visit www.johnlewis.com/flowers.

Festive lantern

Arrange roses, ivy and pine in a rustic white lantern

- 1 Soak a small block of florists' foam and place it in a lantern.
- 2 Cut a large stem of pine into sprigs of around 15-20cm. Arrange in the foam, with two sprigs spilling out of the door.
- 3 Pick the leaves off a stem of cordyline, spray with glue and sprinkle with glitter, then dot the leaves among the pine.
- 4 Trim the stems of four roses to 12-15cm and push into the foam. Place three bundles of cinnamon sticks between them.
- 5 Spray three sprigs of ivy with gold spray. Place one at the back and let the others trail out of the lantern door.

Ultra Christmas bouquet (71580801), £35, John Lewis. Milton console table, £550, Laura Ashley. Lantern, £30, John Lewis. Candles, £2.99 each, Homebase

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Sheer elegance

This classic bouquet brings glamour to a room – silver baubles and stones add sparkle

1 Make sure your vase is clean and dry. Place five handfuls of white sand in the base, then carefully place five handfuls of silver sand on top. Repeat the steps with white gravel, glass chippings and silver stones, taking care not to mix the layers.

2 Hold a bunch of 10 Longi lilies loosely in one hand and add around 10 silver birch twigs in between them. Bind the stems together with wire or twine, and trim the stems so they are even.

3 Fill the vase one third full of water, pouring it slowly down the inside edge to prevent it from disturbing the stones and sand. Place the flowers in the vase.

4 To finish, wind ribbon around the vase and tie on a pretty jewel and mini baubles.

Longi lilies (71660101), £22 for 10, John Lewis. Vase, find similar at John Lewis. Decorative sand and stones, find similar at HobbyCraft. Ribbon, £21.60 for four spools, Cox & Cox. Mini glass baubles, £3.50 per pack, Paperchase. Bowl, £12.99, Homebase. Baubles, from a selection, The White Company. Aqua mix spotted throw, £25, Marks & Spencer. Cushion, £18, John Lewis

Make your displays last

Try these florists' tips

- 1 If using foam, stems will go in more easily if you cut them diagonally, and they'll take up more water.
- 2 Avoid direct sunlight, heat or draughts, which will shorten the life of your floral display.
- 3 Choose tightly closed buds and keep them in a bucket of cool water in a dark room until needed, to make them last longer.



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Classic centrepiece

This seasonal display will last from Christmas to New Year

- 1 Soak a 20cm florists' foam ring in cold water.
- 2 Take eight pittosporum stems and cut into 8cm sprigs. Insert the sprigs into the foam,

four groups on each side.

- 3 Take 13 small green apples and 18 walnuts, leaving some natural and spraying others with gold paint. When they are dry, attach to wooden skewers (use glue for the walnuts) and insert

into the foam in small groups.

- 4 To finish, cut 12 stems of white carnations to 8cm and group these in the remaining spaces in the ring. Finally, add six mini white candles, spacing them evenly around the ring.

Provençale table, £800; chair, £500 for two; both Laura Ashley. Silk dupion runner, £40; napkins, £30 for four; all The White Company. Wine glasses, £8 each; Wedgwood dessert plate, £13.50; dinner plate, £15; Classic cutlery, £35 for a 24-piece set; all John Lewis. Place cards, £8 for 50, Cox & Cox. Ribbon, from a selection, Norpar Barns



Rustic berry basket

This informal arrangement gives a lovely country feel

1 Soak two bricks of florists' foam in cold water and wedge them firmly in a basket.

2 Cut a variety of foliage to different heights – try

rosemary, rhododendron leaves and hypericum berries – and push into the foam, spacing them evenly around the basket.

3 Wind a trail of ivy up and around the handle, tucking it through the wicker to fix in place.

4 Add four hydrangeas, pushing them into the display to nestle among the leaves.

5 Dot in some pine cones, dried orange slices and gold-sprayed twigs. For the finishing touch, tie a bundle of cinnamon

sticks up with ribbon and tie to the front of the basket.

Basket, find similar at florists' shops or garden centres. Ribbon and pine cones, from a selection, Norpar Barns. Sleigh candle holder, £13.95, Grand Illusions



Wreath of roses

Use roses in every shade of red to make this fabulous wreath

1 Soak a 30cm heart shape of florists' foam in water.

2 Fold a length of ribbon in half and tie a loop around the top of the heart to hang.

3 Take five long ivy stems and push the end of one into the side of the foam frame, winding it tightly around the wreath. Pin into place with wire hairpins.

Repeat with the other stems until the sides of the frame are covered.

4 Take 27 large roses (try El Toro, Calypso or Intuition), five sprays of roses (such as Red Sensation) and eight burgundy gerbera. Cut all stems to 8cm.

5 Insert the larger roses and gerbera evenly around the

frame then place the small roses and buds in groups in between. (If you prefer, you can use carnations or heads of hydrangea instead of roses to cut the cost.)

Ribbon, from a selection, Norpar Barns

See our top tips on caring for cut flowers at www.idealhome-magazine.co.uk/cutflowers