

Valentine's Day Roses

by Karen Hardenbergh

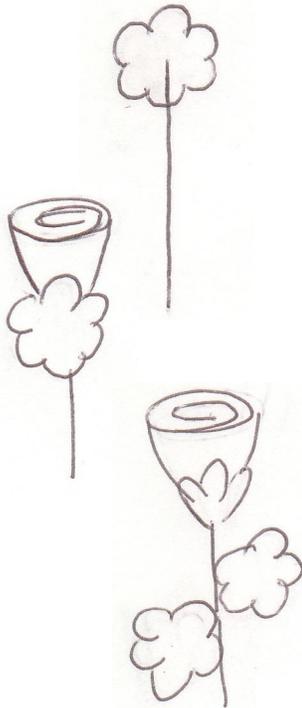
This goes perfectly with the miniature candy heart. A single rose laid across the open candy box, or a half-dozen wrapped in cellophane—you decide!

You'll Need:

- Green and red tissue paper
- Tacky or white glue
- Round toothpicks
- Leaf-shaped hole punch (for foliage in a bunch of roses)

- Fine paper-wrapped florist wire
- Flower-shaped or round hole punch
- Recycled cellophane

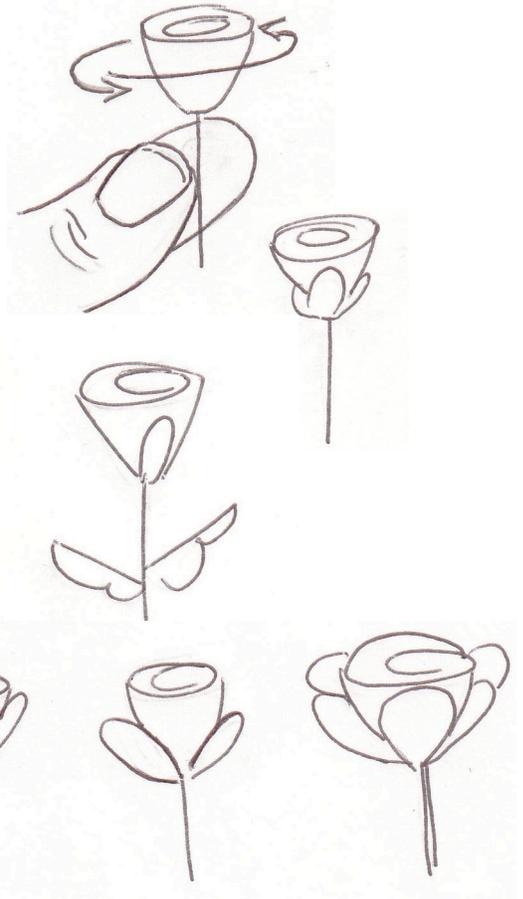
Cut several red flowers or circles with punch. Using a toothpick and the tiniest amount of glue—just enough to cover the toothpick tip—layer the flower or round punches on the end of the wire, several deep on both sides.



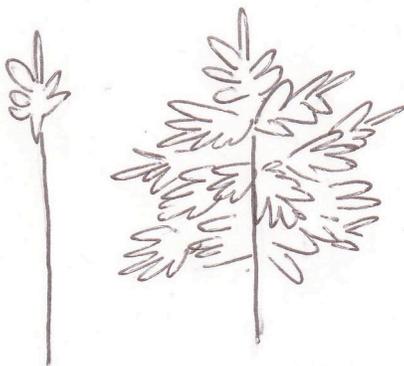
While still wet, twirl between your fingers to form a bud. If the bud is too small, add more punches.

From green punches, add one punch to each side of the wire. Swirl to cup around the bud.

For leaves, use green punches and attach the very tip to the stem. Pinch to form leaves.



For a fuller rose, after you have formed the bud keep adding punches around the base moving down as you go until you get the desired thickness. Finish the same as the buds.



To form the foliage for a bunch of roses, punch out several green leaf shapes. Glue one to the top of a stem pointing up, then overlap more on opposite sides to form something that looks like a fern.

To make a bunch, take six roses of various sizes and gently twist them together. Arrange them on a rectangle of recycled cellophane (mine came from the window of a pasta box and the wrapper from a package of cookies). I used white thread to tie the cellophane closed. A silk ribbon will dress this up.

Now lay this over an open box of miniature chocolates, or place it in your suitor's hand and your room box or dollhouse is ready for Valentine's Day.