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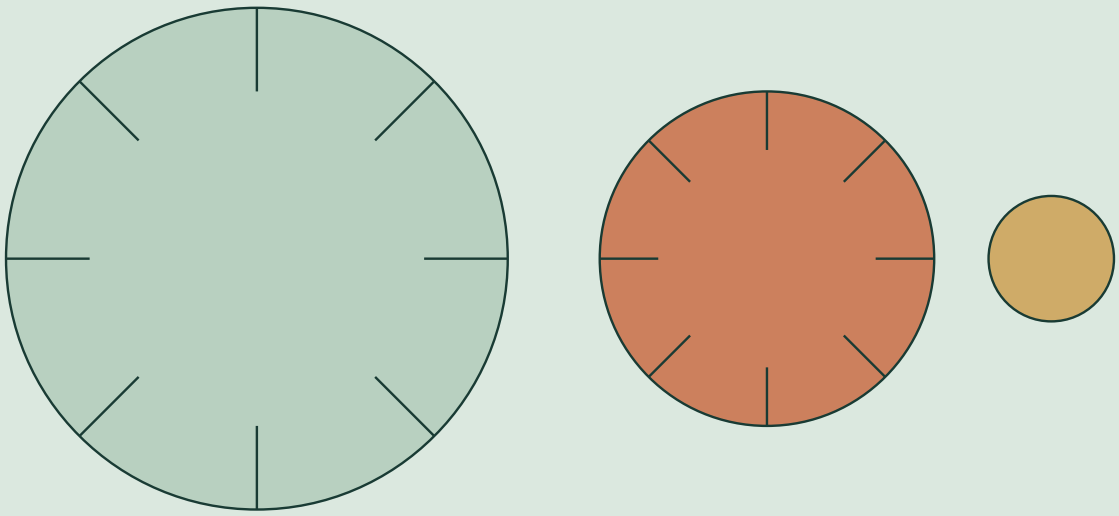
Create a Small Table Centerpiece from Paper Flowers



Make five layered paper flowers on a low, vase-free folded-card display base.

14 practical steps • Original diagrams and maker records

Illustrative plans — not physical test results

Before you start

A low paper flower display adds colour to a table without water, wire or a vase. The design uses five flat layered paper blooms attached to five folded card stands, arranged on a rectangular card base. It is an indoor decorative display, not a candle surround, food-contact decoration or outdoor ornament. Paper and adhesive are combustible; keep the display away from flames, heaters, hot dishes and wet surfaces.

Materials

Sound card for a 180 x 120 mm base and ten 30 x 35 mm stand strips; coloured paper sufficient for five 60 mm circles and five 40 mm circles; five 15 mm centre discs; compatible labelled paper adhesive, scissors, ruler, pencil, flat protective mat and spare scraps. Use only clean material and follow adhesive directions. Keep cut pieces, scissors and glue away from children and pets. No candles, wire, skewers or open flame are used.

Plan the project

Cut a 180 x 120 mm card base. For each of five stands, cut two 30 x 35 mm strips. Mark a crosswise fold 15 mm from one short end of each strip, giving a 15 mm foot and a 20 mm upright panel. Fold each strip into an L shape. Bond the backs of the two upright panels together, keeping their bottom folds aligned so both feet rest on the base, one extending 15 mm forward and the other 15 mm backward. Let this bond cure according to label directions. Viewed from the side the assembly is an inverted T, with a 20 mm upright and two opposite 15 mm feet. The footprint is 30 x 30 mm. Attach each flower to the front face of the upright panel with its bottom edge aligned to the bottom of the panel, so the bloom stands about 60 mm high above the base. Position the five upright centres at (35, 30), (90, 30), (145, 30), (62, 90), (118, 90) mm from the upper left of the base. All feet stay inside the base; neighbouring 60 mm flowers in a row overlap slightly in front view, so stagger or angle them if edges interfere. The petals are made from 60 and 40 mm paper circles: mark eight evenly spaced radial directions and cut from outer edge inward 10 mm and 7 mm respectively, leaving intact central hubs. Overlay smaller circle with cuts rotated and add a 15 mm centre. Use the printed scale templates or draw measured circles.

Steps 1–2

1. Choose the display spot

Choose a dry level table away from flames, heat and food service. Check a low 180 x 120 mm footprint fits without blocking sightlines or walkways. If the site is damp or exposed to wind, choose another decoration.

2. Select the palette

Choose three coordinating paper colours and one centre colour. Use stable card for the base and stands. Reject wet, greasy or brittle paper. Thick card that will not fold cleanly is not suitable for the small stands.

Steps 3–4

3. Cut the base

Mark a 180 x 120 mm rectangle on sound card and cut it flat on the table using suitable scissors. Check that it rests without rocking. Do not force scissors through very thick card; choose another material.

4. Mark stand positions

From the top-left corner mark five upright centres at the coordinates in the plan. The first row contains three, the second row two. Keep the base oriented the same way throughout the build.

Steps 5–6

5. Cut and fold the stands

Cut ten 30 x 35 mm strips. Mark one fold 15 mm from a short end of each. Fold each into an L shape. Bond two 20 mm upright faces back-to-back, aligning their folds so the feet extend 15 mm in opposite directions at the same level. Repeat for five stands. Let each bond cure according to the adhesive directions and check each 30 x 30 mm footprint.

6. Make the flower circles

Print at actual size and check the 20 mm calibration bar, or draw circles of 60, 40 and 15 mm diameter. Cut five of each size, using one layer at a time. The circle edges need not be perfectly scalloped.

Steps 7–8

7. Form the larger petals

Mark eight equally spaced radial directions on each 60 mm circle. Cut inward 10 mm at each direction from the outside edge, stopping before the centre. Round petal corners slightly if desired, keeping the central hub intact.

8. Form the smaller petals

Repeat on the five 40 mm circles, cutting inward 7 mm along each of eight radial directions. Gently lift or curve the outer petal portions with fingers. Do not crease or cut the hub apart.

Steps 9–10

9. Layer the flowers

Dry fit each 40 mm circle over a 60 mm circle, rotating the petal cuts relative to the larger layer. Centre a 15 mm disc over both. Apply compatible paper adhesive according to label instructions and allow it to set flat without crushing the petals.

10. Attach blooms to stands

Apply adhesive to the front face of each fully cured upright pair as directed. Align the bottom edge of each large flower with the bottom of its upright panel so the bloom extends above the stand. Support the bloom until the bond is set; do not depend on a tiny point of contact.

Steps 11–12

11. Dry arrange all five

Place the stands on the marked positions. View from both long sides. Adjacent blooms may overlap in projection; adjust position or rotate stands slightly while keeping the entire footprint on the base and avoiding actual petal interference. Record any changes.

12. Attach feet to the base

Lift each stand one at a time and apply compatible adhesive beneath both feet as directed. Replace it at the selected position. Keep the base flat and leave the adhesive to cure fully according to its instructions.

Steps 13–14

13. Inspect the arrangement

Confirm the dry base rests level, feet are flat, blooms stand without detaching and no sharp or loose parts remain. Repair or remake any weak stand before using the display. Keep away from hot dishes, flames, water and children or pets.

14. Record and store

Complete the palette, positions, fold and attachment records with actual measurements and observed condition. Mark DECORATIVE READY, CHANGE or HOLD. Store dry in a box taller than the flowers so they are not crushed.

Fix, care and preserve

Stand leans

Recheck the two L-shaped halves and aligned bottom folds; use card that holds a crease.

Petals tear

Reduce cutting depth and handle the intact hub, not the petal tips.

Flowers collide

Adjust or angle stands in the dry arrangement before adhering their feet.

Base warps

Reduce adhesive wetting and remake on suitable card if warping persists after cure.

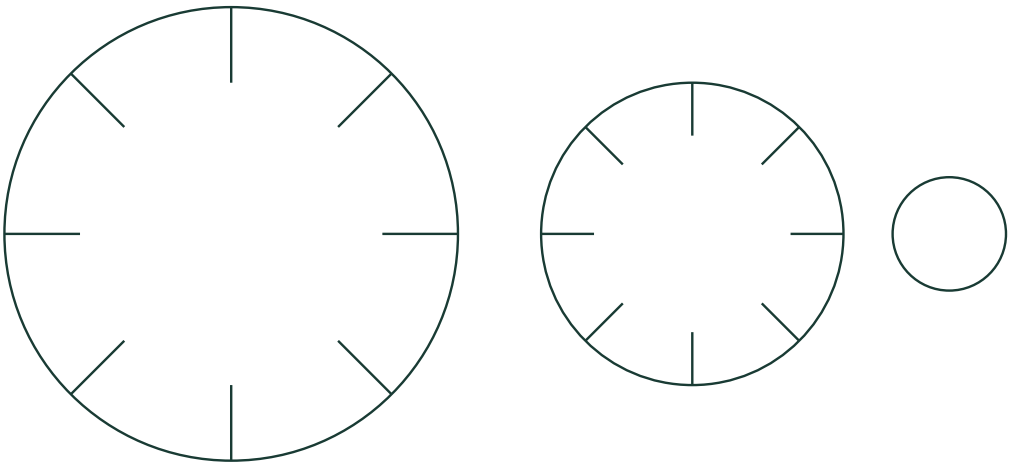
Originality and evidence boundary

Original Steadleaf English prose, design, dimensions, artwork, diagrams and maker records. Follow actual material and tool instructions. No physical construction, cutting, sewing, adhesion, washing, durability or safety testing was performed by the publisher. Adult decorative craft only; no safety or archival certification.

Print the following pages separately if desired. For any actual-size template, disable fit-to-page scaling and check the printed calibration bar. Measured schematics are not full-size cutting patterns.

Pattern 1

Flower cutting sheet: actual-size 60 mm and 40 mm circles with eight radial slits (10 mm and 7 mm deep), plus 15 mm centre disc. Print at 100% and verify 20 mm calibration bar. Repeat five times.

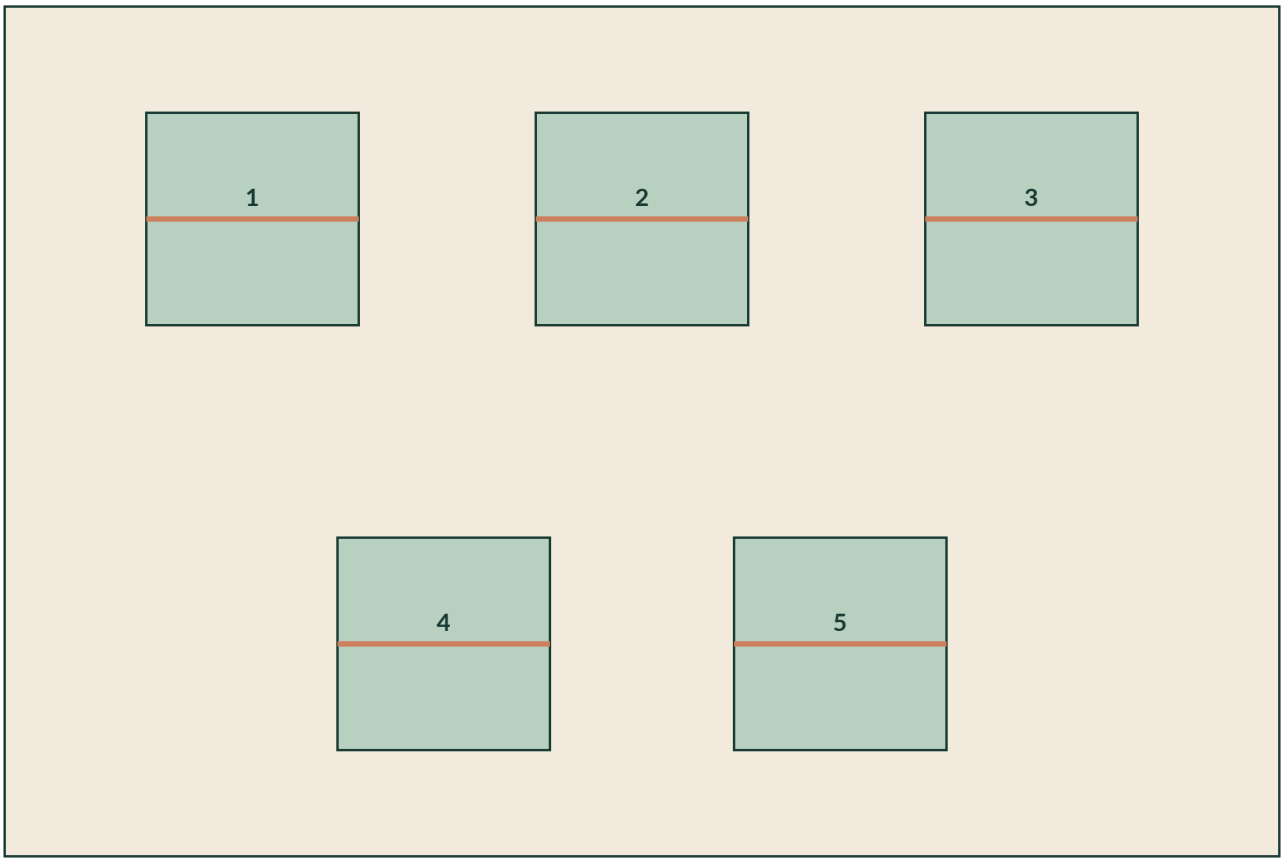


60 mm 40 mm 15 mm

20 mm calibration bar

Pattern 2

Vase-free arrangement: 180 x 120 mm base with five 30 x 30 mm stand footprints; upright centres at (35,30), (90,30), (145,30), (62,90), (118,90) mm. Two 30 x 35 mm strips per stand, each folded at 15 mm; bond the two 20 mm upright faces back-to-back with opposite feet. Measured schematic.



180 x 120 mm base / 30 x 30 mm feet



Cut 2: 30 x 35 mm

Bond upright backs



Inverted T

Record 1 — Materials and plan

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Base material / actual dimensions

Flower paper colours / circle sizes

Ten stand strips / five upright pairs / folds

Adhesive compatibility and label cure time

Dry arrangement: row 1 / row 2 positions

Petal clearances / adjustments

Display location away from heat / water

Decision: PROCEED / CHANGE / HOLD

Record 2 — Finish and display

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Actual base and bloom height

Five flower layers / centres

Stand attachment and flatness

Feet and adhesive cure observation

Loose parts / tool count

Display and storage limitations

Disposition: DECORATIVE READY / CHANGE / HOLD

Date / unresolved issue