LESSON XIII

THE MAKING OF RIBBON AND SILK FLOWERS

FLOWERS and blossoms of many kinds can be reproduced in ribbon of various widths, mingled and mounted with the stamens and foliage of the ordinary artificial flowers, but this is a branch trenching so closely on the business of artificial-flower making that it needs time and practice to attain proficiency. It is profitable work, used more for hair and corsage ornaments than hat trimming.

There is, however, one way in which a knowledge of this work can be put to profitable use in the workroom; that is to use up scraps of silks, gold and silver tissue, crêpe, lace and ribbons of all widths, to make pretty trifles for the hair, etc., during the dull season. All these materials may be used double and if possible on the bias.

Lace, however, can be used singly, the shape of the petal outlined in fine lace wire, or silk-covered spool wire, the lace edge turned over this, run in and finished with fine straw braid, chenille, spangles, or narrow lace edging.

Petals of net or mousseline de soie from scraps used thus, spangled all over, and edged with tiny lace, make charming flowers, pansies, wild roses, camellias, etc., the outside petals of course being larger than the central ones.

Each petal is tied with a bit of tie wire; then, beginning at the center, they are arranged and tied together so all the stems are underneath in one bunch. If a long stem is needed, the central petals are tied to a wire, and the rest around it, the end finished by a twist over of the material of the flower. Wings, quills, butterflies can be made in the same way; the shape is in wire, the material laid on flat, cut to shape with one-half inch margin; this
turned over and sewn under the wire, some trimming covering the sewing.

The best education is *observation* and *study*; and if you see an effect that is good, practice it till you make it your own; we all have the privilege of learning from others, and let us work so well that others may find something to learn from us.

The vogue for ribbon and silk flowers has grown considerably in the past few years, and as pretty hair and corsage bouquets and other decorative effects are a profitable adjunct to a millinery business, it is well to know how to make them in the workroom, this being pleasant work to give apprentices during the dull seasons, and a means of using up odds and ends.

Roses and buds, lilies, daisies, violets, "forget-me-nots," dahlias, asters, sweet peas, pansies, carnations, sunflowers, in fact, a great many flowers, are possible of charming reproduction from scraps of silk and ribbon. The few specimens shown in this lesson will suffice to give any intelligent student the key to the production of others, taking as models real or well-made artificial flowers, or copy the pictures to be found in any good gardener's catalogue; and much useful help may be found in a good book of directions for making paper flowers, especially as regards the accessories, such as the calyx, etc., but the wires must be finer and the foliage better than such as are used for paper flowers.

**Ribbon Flowers**

Materials necessary for rose sprays, rose centers, cusps, calyx, rubber tubing, spool fine uncovered flower wire, skein green filloselle silk, green covered wire, two and one-half yards of pink, white, or yellow satin ribbon three inches wide, one and one-half yards of two-inch to match. Rose foliage, one bunch of three sprays is enough for a spray of two roses and buds.

**To Make the Roses**

For the largest rose, cut five lengths of the three-inch
ribbon, each five inches long; double over and gather the
two cut ends together, inserting a loop of the wire, cut
five inches long, so the two ends of the wire come below
the ribbon; draw gathering thread up tight, twist a few
times around wire and fasten off. Make the five petals
thus:

Illustration 1—The work in detail

Cut four lengths of the two-inch ribbon each four
inches long; make four petals in the same way as the
larger ones. Roll the two corners of each petal over and
"slip-stitch" down. (See Ill. I, Figs. 1, 2, 3.)
The petals are now ready to put around the center;
take up one at a time of the smaller ones, tie them to the
central wire with tie wire, just a couple of twists to each;
place so each overlaps the other slightly; next tie on the
larger ones. The curled-over side may be turned to-
wards or away from the center; it looks very natural to
turn a couple of the outer ones away. Bring all as close
up to the stamens (rose centers) as possible, then slip
on the calyx (i.e., the little green leaf star at the base of
roses); now cut a length of tubing to slip over the wire
stem, and over this slide the cusp, the little wax cup that finishes the rose.

The foliage can be tied on with green raffia or tie wire, but may also be slipped into the tubing by piercing this at any desired point.

The calyx will need fastening to the rose petals with a speck of photo paste or invisible stitches.

If rose centers are not at hand, center the rose by making a bud as directed further on; or a yellow center can be made with yellow baby ribbon, tied in tight knots as directed for "forget-me-nots."

**Half-Blown Rose**

For this use three of the two-inch and four of the three-inch ribbon petals, curving them over the center, except one or two petals, so the center shows only on one side.

[Image: Illustration of a rose]

**ILLUSTRATION II—THE FINISHED ROSE**

**Rose Buds**

Around the top of the loop of wire (cut five inches long and doubled over) twist a bit of white wadding; cut a piece of the two-inch ribbon two and one-half
inches long, cut this in half lengthwise (See Ill. I, 3), place the wadded loop of wire in the middle of one strip, the finished edge upward, and fold the ends toward the middle till they overlap, forming a pointed little almond-shaped cone (Ill. XII). The ends can then be securely wired onto the central wire; calyx, tubing and cusp added, as for the roses.

It is pretty to make buds of various sizes, by adding from two to five petals of graduated sizes. The flow-

ers and foliage are then arranged and tied to a firm wire, encased in tubing, with green tie wire, raffia, or the green floss silk. (Ill. II, Finished Spray; also Ill. XIII.)

Button and cabbage roses are made with narrower ribbon, with a tiny bud center; the petals do not have
the corners rolled back, and are all curved towards the center, lapping each other. (See Ill. XVI.) Full blown roses have the petals all turned away from the center, and are improved by using two shades of ribbon, the darker for the larger petals.

ILLUSTRATION III—FINISHED DAISY SPRAY

Daisies

For a spray is needed 10 yards of No. 2 white or yellow satin ribbon, six yellow or brown button centers (on wire), one bunch suitable foliage, or fern; tie wire, tubing, floss silk.

Measure three-quarters of an inch, and tie a knot in the ribbon (Ill. III, Fig. 1), twist it so the right side comes uppermost, measure another three-quarters of an inch and secure with the end to the base of button with tie wire, repeat the knots, and tie the petals to wire so they form a flat star; if a double daisy is desired make a second row under the first, making the knots at one-inch lengths. From six to twelve petals are required according to size. Now slip on the calyx, which is unlike the rose, being a flat disk, with pinked out edge (there is no cusp); secure with the photo paste and slip on the tubing.
The buds are made on the wadded wire loop. Tie a two-inch bit of ribbon in a knot around the middle of another two-inch bit, secure the knot to top of wadded wire by a stitch, bring the four strips down over the pad and secure to the wire with tie wire, slip the calyx over this, snipping it three or four times from the edge to near the middle, so the sections will lap and secure with photo paste, twist the rest of the stem with green silk, beginning and ending with a tied knot. Larger buds are made by using more bits of ribbon, tying all at the middle with one knot.

Wire to a firm wire, introducing the foliage, with silk or tie wire.

Violets

Of No. 2 satin ribbon 10 yards in the preferred shade, violet foliage, orange sealing wax, tie wire, green or purple raffia.

Cut as many bits of tie wire five inches long as you require violets, double in half, twist a tiny loop in the top, and on this drop a bead of the sealing wax. Some slip yellow glass beads on and twist to hold firm, or a double knot of orange silk. Measure a half inch from end of ribbon, tie a knot (Ill. IV. Fig. 1), twist the ribbon on both sides of the knot, form the petal and twist to beaded central wire, the same as for the daisy, continue round as many petals as desired, and a second row for a double violet, this having the petals three-quarters of an inch; be sure to twist the ribbon. This is the difference between the method of making
daisies and violets; in the former the ribbon is kept flat, the latter is twisted to get the crumpled petal effect. From four to six petals are enough for a simple violet, two to three for buds. (Ill. IV. Figs. 2 and 3.) Wind the green silk closely around the base of the finished flower; this forms a cusp. (Ill. IV, Fig. 3.) If green stems are desired, continue the silk to the end of wire; if for mourning, make center of white wax or bead, and wind stems with purple raffia or purple silk. Mount the finished flowers with the leaves in the same way as before directed, or in a solid bunch.

ILLUSTRATION IV. FIGS. 1, 2, 3
BUNCH OF VIOLETS AND DETAIL

Violet Buds
For these cut as many lengths of wire as desired, making a quarter-inch loop in the end; twist a bit of
wadding round; cut two bits of ribbon each one and one-half inches long, tie a knot around center of one with the other, fasten on top of loop, bring the four ends down over the pad, *twisted*, and secure to base with green silk. Slip on a round calyx, snip same as for daisies, and paste to bud; very little of the violet shows.

The paste should be put on with the tip of the little finger. Spiral buds are made by twisting one strand of ribbon over a closed loop of wire, with one petal at base. If you desire soft stem buds or violets, use purple rubber or muslin tubing, and secure this in suitable length over the short wire stems, wiring the soft stems in place to the bunch; or double knots may be tied in four-inch lengths of ribbon and these wired in, but they do not look as natural. The bouquet is much improved if tied with a yard of No. 7 ribbon to match, in a couple of long loops and ends, and the collected stems encased in silver or purple paper.

ILLUSTRATION V—RIBBON SPRAY OF FORGET-ME-NOTS

"Forget-Me-Notfs"

Blue No. 1 ribbon, 10 yards; skein of green filloselle; tie wire and suitable foliage; maiden-hair fern being the prettiest. Measure off two dozen lengths of tie wire five inches long, slip a pink bead, or make a pink silk knot on the double middle. Measure off one-half of an inch at end of ribbon, make a tight knot, repeat
knots at every three-quarter-inch space till you have four (see Ill. V), fold the petals in a cross, pass the middle of wire loop with bead over center and twist underneath; bend upward, and secure the two cut ends underneath with the green silk, beginning and ending with a tie to the end of the stem.

The buds are made by tying the ribbon in a knot on the loop, twisting it down over the wire to a depth of half an inch, then finishing with the green silk. Some spiral buds may be introduced. To mount, tie flowers, buds and foliage in pretty grouping on a firm green wire, with green silk, or green tie wire; lay on one at a time, tying neatly and firmly. (Ill. V. "Forget-me-not" Spray.)

Flowers may be suitably perfumed by putting a bit of good sachet powder in the wadding of buds, or between the double ribbon or rose petals, or by laying the materials for a few days in a box with sachet powder.

Silk Flowers

Silk pieces for flowers should be on the bias, and of thin material, but taffeta, on the straight or bias, can be used for some blossoms, either using the selvedge as one would ribbon, for sweet peas, pansies, orchids, etc., or the edge finely pinked out or frayed, as for carnations, and similar blossoms.

For silk roses the material should be on the bias, and of thin make, as it is used double. If the strip is long enough, it may be run to form the petals, but
short bits can be gathered into single petals and wired on to the central stem.

The bias strip, measuring from three to six inches across, is folded over edge to edge and gathered, as shown in Ill. VI, the petal being twice the length of its depth; this is for the inner petals, the wider is shirred in straight lines, as is Ill. VII; the threads are later drawn up from end to end, and the petals arranged and secured to the rose center by fine tie wire,

ILLUSTRATION VII
STRIP GATHERED FOR OUTER PETALS

around the ragged end. The length of each petal should, for the small ones, be at least twice the width, and three times this in the larger petals.

ILLUSTRATION VIII
PIECE OF SILK FOR BUD CENTER

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THE ART OF MILLINERY

If you have no stamens to center the rose with make it of a three-inch square of silk (Ill. VIII), which may be the same as the rest, or of a deeper shade, or even a yellow center in a pink rose; indeed several shades of pink may be used in one rose. In arranging the petals lap them slightly, except the outer ones, which may be curved back. To return to our center; gather a circle in the square (Ill. VIII), insert a five-

ILLUSTRATION IX
FIRST FOLD FOR BUD CENTER

ILLUSTRATION X
WIRE LAID IN BUD CENTER

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inch loop of wire with a bit of wadding twisted on, (Ills. IX and X), draw the thread up tightly, and wind the petals around this center. A variation of this is to gather a four-inch square as before, then having secured the four points to the wire, draw the puff down by a few stitches in two or three little puffs. (See Ill. XI.) This gives the effect of a just opening rose; such a center should not be yellow, however, but deep rose in a pink rose, slightly yellow in a white rose, and deep orange in a yellow rose. This is also the center of some buds.

Small buds and centers are made by folding the square in a triangle (Ill. IX) with the wire loop inside,

ILLUSTRATION XI—PUFFED CENTER

folding both sides over (Ill. X) and over again (Ill. XII), then with tie wire securing the points to the wire, a closed calyx is slipped on, secured with photo paste to the bud, a tiny cusp comes next, and a bit of fine rubber tubing puts a neat and suitable finish to the bud. Pretty moss roses and buds are made by substituting the feathery sea fern for the calyx, pasting
several bits of this on the petals, wiring on at the base, then putting on the cusp, etc. Buds of various sizes and degrees of openness are made by wiring on few or more petals of suitable sizes. (Ills. XIII and XIV.) In using single petals, hold the ends firmly and secure each with one twist of the wire only, till a circle of them is in place, then
A CABBAGE ROSE

ILLUSTRATION XIII
LARGER BUD

ILLUSTRATION XV—LARGE BUD CENTER
SPRAY OF RIBBON ROSES AND BUDS

BUDS AND DETAILS OF VARIOUS BUDS IN RIBBON
DETAIL OF BUDS AND CENTERS

SILK ROSES; BUDS, AND DETAIL
add a few twists more, avoiding any clumsiness in construction or untidiness in finish.

If one has neither calyx nor cusps, the first can be replaced by bits of green silk cut out to shape, or narrow ribbon or silk gathered and set on; and a cusp can be made of green sealing wax, molded around a thick wire, first wetted or greased, as it will then pull off.

Ingenuity in devising pretty conceits is a great gift, but quite capable of cultivation and well worth while, for the profits to be realized from the "piece box." Not only odds and ends of silks and ribbons, laces, velvets, etc., but old flowers will often yield the calyx, stamens, cusps, wire, etc., for use in making the flowers.

Carnations

As before observed these can be made of straight, or bias silk, pinked out at one edge in tiny points; if a pinking machine is not at hand, snip out with sharp scissors. For a large flower three strips are used, measuring one and one-quarter inches wide by six inches long, one and one-half inches wide by seven, one and three-quarters by nine. These are gathered in rather large stitches an eighth of an inch up from the straight edge (the ends being also pinked out); the threads are drawn up tightly around a central double wire loop made of a four-inch square of silk drawn down in little puffs as directed for rose bud center (Ill. XI); and each successive ruffle, beginning with the narrowest, is tied tightly below the button close up against each other. Calyx, cusp, and tubing complete the flower.

The calyx and cusp for carnations are different to the rose variety, and in making buds the center shows little; half open buds have just a little frill or two breaking out between the long green points, and the foliage is also quite different; it is essential to get the correct accessories, or imitate them cleverly in silk or ribbon. Maidenhair fern is made with No. 1 green ribbon, fine
brown tie wire and green filloselle. Knots form the leaves, with a tiny loop left above each, the wire being hooked in the knot, the ribbon cut off and neatened with the silk, beginning and ending with a tie. Use a bit of the real fern or well-made imitation as a model.

**Dahlias**

These can be made of silk or ribbon. If of silk, it may be on the straight if there is a selvedge, if on the bias it must be double. In either case this flower, as also the sunflower, is best made on a round foundation, in size from one and one-quarter to two inches in diameter. The petals are made and sewn on singly, beginning at the edge and working round and round to the center, letting each row lap the previous one, one half; the center may be finished by a crumpled puff, a circle gathered round drawn together, sewn on and drawn down in little puffs by a few stitches from underneath.

**ILLUSTRATION XVII**
**SWEET PEA**

**ILLUSTRATION XVIII**
**MAKING SWEET PEA PETALS**

Several shades of the same color can be used in these flower rosettes. The petals should be cut from one to one and one-half inches wide, and double this in length; they are then folded twice from each side to the middle (much as is done in Ill. X of the rose buds), then the base is sewn in a quarter-inch space on edge of foundation.

A dahlia rosette may be made of three-inch ribbon thus: Allow seven inches to each petal, lay a triple
box plait, with center inverted; beginning at the upper right hand edge, plait across the corner, along the lower edge, and again up across the left hand corner to the edge, plait closely, and sew to foundation in a one-inch space, repeat till the foundation is encircled; thus if the disk is four and one-half inches in circumference, you should have five petals; allowing for the lost bits between petals one yard of ribbon will be used. Another row round of narrower ribbon (may be of lighter, or contrasting shade) will make a handsome flower; the center can be filled with little crushed loops. Dahlias of No. 7 or 9 satin ribbon have each petal cut, used flat, the ends of three to four-inch strips folded over twice towards the middle so they meet and are sewn down as before described. Two or three widths of different shades of the same color make a handsome flower, the lighter shade being in the center.

**Sweet Peas**

These also can be made of ribbon or silk. If of silk, it must be on the bias; the back petal is made like a

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**ILLUSTRATION XIX—ARUM LILY**

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rose petal, the central one like the folded bud from square (Ill. XII) and the two side petals like the smaller rose petals, each wired to the stem coming from the central bud. A small calyx finishes these blossoms, with suitable foliage sprayed in. (Ill. XVII. Finished Sweet Pea.) Two or even three harmonizing shades, and colors may be combined; look at the real blossoms for models.

If narrow ribbon is used the back petal is single, gathered at the base and up the sides, the center made on wire as before described and the side petals double as for a ribbon rose with one corner curled over and slipstitched; wire and finish as before directed.

**Arum Lilies**

These are little used except as table decorations at Easter, but are made of wide satin ribbon or bias silk, folded as for a large loop, drawn down and curled back as for a large rose petal, the ragged ends wired around a single stamen, made by twisting wadding around a stem of thick satin wire, and around this winding No. 1 yellow velvet ribbon, winding up from the base then down again so every bit of the foundation is covered.