

Flower Basics - Long Balloons

These are techniques and tips for three basic approaches to growing balloon flowers:
 1. with Round Balloons, 2. with Long Balloons, and 3. with Internally Structured Balloons.

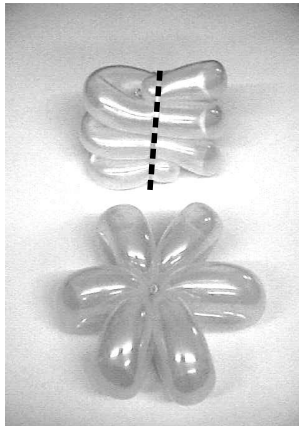
Coiled for Success

There are many effective ways to form flowers with long balloons. The Rouse system of coiling #260 and #160 balloons shown here is one of the fastest once you learn the skills involved.

The basic idea is to coil the long balloon like a spring, hold the coil in one hand, pinch the coil in the middle, and twist it with two hands. Twist the coil at least 180 degrees and stop the twist at a point where the petals you form are in a flat alignment.

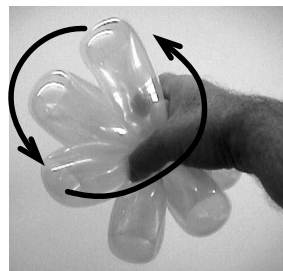
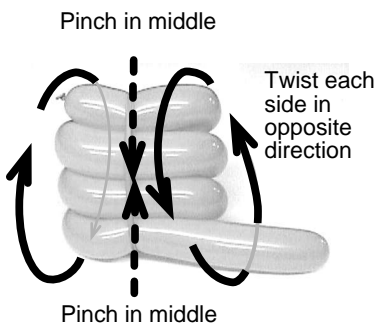
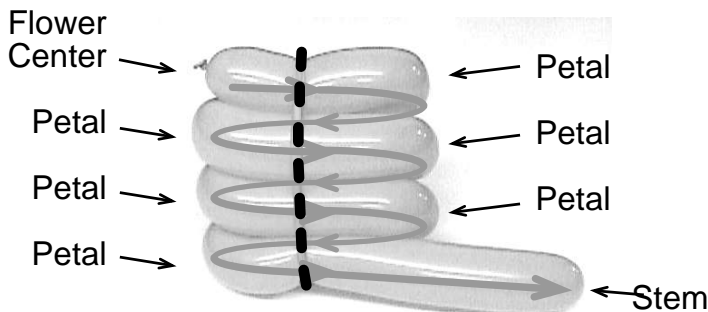


When the ends of the balloon are in the center of the coil and are caught in the twisting, you end up with a flower with petals, but no center and no stem as illustrated above and to the right.



If one end of the balloon extends slightly beyond the center of the coil, it may be used effectively as a center for the flower.

If one end of the balloon extends significantly beyond the center of the coil, it may be used effectively as a stem for the flower.



SMALL GARDEN FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

- A. The base is made as shown to the left with a coil that traps the ends of the long balloon.
- B. The center flower is made with a coil that leaves one long end of the balloon protruding to become the stem.
- C. The stem is anchored by twisting a bubble on the end and putting the bubble on the lower side of the balloon base.
- D. The two smaller three petal flowers are made from a single #260 balloon. Three folds are made in each end and twisted rather than six folds over the full length of the balloon.
- E. The flower centers are made as in the first round balloon design only smaller.

