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Quilling Hints And Tips

By Teresa Leys

Here, we are going to learn some important tips that will help us understand the concept of quilling at a far deeper level. By following these vital tips, we can use the concept of quilling with great expertise and efficiency.

To avoid the problem of different sizes with same measurement materials, ensure to pick spirals of equal dimensions. Make sure the coils are the same size before you glue them. Moreover, do not forget to apply glue on them afterwards.

If you are new to the quilling world, to gather any additional information select a standard art magazine or go to a recognized art shop.

Do not get confused regarding the quilling paper dimensions. Go for the standard dimension. In case of a spiral, it is 3 mm (1/6") and in case of fringed flowers, it is 7 mm / 10 mm (3/8")

Try to avoid using rice or handmade paper for quilling due to their extreme thickness. Making a spiral out of them is quite tough.

To increase the strength of the finished product, put a light layer of proper varnish onto it. Otherwise, adequately gluing is enough to have a firm grip over it.

In case of fringed flowers, choose a wider paper of 10mm and trim it appropriately on the one side of the quilling with the help of scissors. It is also available readymade on the market.

To make 3-Dimensional designs, begin by making the shapes and gluing them to each other on a Quilling mat (a cork mat covered with polythene or baking parchment is quite adequate). Using a quilling needle carefully separate the item from the mat. It will now be free-standing and the glue should make it quite firm. However, a light coat of Craft varnish will strengthen it further.

In order to quill a basket with beautiful flowers, create the figure and paste the glue onto them collectively on a single mat. To make it free standing, take it apart from the mat using a quilling needle.

Have a strong grasp over the strip of the paper to achieve equal tightness in all pieces. Avoid putting too much pressure, resulting into excessively tight spirals. Try to hold the strip being quilled firmly, without stretching too much as this will result in too tight coils.

Use a standard glue for affixing purposes. Craft PVA is the commonly preferred glue. Zig 2-way and Sailor are specialist types of glue. Some quillers think they work better because they are thinner and

they dry faster. In my discussions with other quillers, no one could agree on which was best glue to use, but the most popular was PVA glue which is readily available from most craft shops worldwide. Always use glue sparingly.

You do not have to purchase expensive fringed paper from the market. Whenever possible you can use the scissors to cut the paper strip.

To quill jewelry items, such as earrings or necklaces, use the quilled objects like butterflies, animals, and flowers and attach them to pins.

If you are new to the quilling world, start with some easy techniques, like flowers for a gift tag.

To make folded flowers, use either tailor-made, fringed flower paper or the use scissors resourcefully.

You have the option of shredding the quilling paper to curtail its length.

When using ultra-fine metal glue tips, the best way to clean them is to soak them in extra-strong nail polish remover. This is much more effective than hot soapy water. Organic solvents work every time.

When pushing out grape rolls, I found it easier pulling it inward than pushing it out.

How to make loose coils uniform and the same size? Loose coils will get more uniform in size with practice. Try maintaining the tension. However no two coils will ever be exactly the same, very much like in petals on a flower.

You can make your own quilling board using some cardboard and some washers. Look for washers that are the size as what you want then glue them to a piece of cardboard.

What kind of paper is best used scrapbooks? (Cardstock, or regular weight quilling paper). Cardstock paper holds up very well, but I'd at least try regular quilling paper as it is very strong. Some people use "dots" or "pegs" on their pages to hold the pages up off of the quilling.

The best method for applying glue is to use an ultra fine glue applicator. Only use tiny drops of glue. A small glass with a wet sponge placed in the bottom will keep the bottle free flowing and stop the tip from drying up. Place the bottle upside down with the tip touching the sponge.

To put the strip into proper frame, place a light layer of craft varnish onto it.

For making a 3D design, create various shapes and affix them together with glue. This must be done on a special quilling mat. After that, carefully separate the pieces from the mat with a quilling needle.

To safeguard your finished object, place a light varnish onto it.

Do not forget to store the quilling strips in a constricted style or in a polythene bag. Store the small strips and miscellaneous items in a craft box with various compartments. Long strips can be loosely "knotted" and stored in small polythene bags. Short strips and odds and ends are best stored in a craft box with compartments.

Teresa's website has a Step by Step guide on Quilling. Please visit the site for info at

<http://www.quillingsuccess.com>

Signing With Your Baby: Helpful Hints

By Monica Beyer

Signing With Your Baby: Helpful Hints by Monica Beyer

While there aren't any solid rules regarding signing with your baby, I've had enough experience signing with my own child that I can pass along some helpful hints.

Be consistent. Use the sign the same way every time for the same action or object. This will help your baby become familiar with the sign and she will be able to sign it back to you sooner.

Be happy. Frowning and bored voices will not make a baby eager to sign.

Be open to interpretation. Babies will not always make a sign correctly the first time they sign it, just like they won't speak a word correctly the first time they speak it. Keep signing the word the correct way and your baby will soon grow more accurate.

Be open to suggestion. Sometimes a baby will create a sign for herself. Feel free to continue using it, and applaud her creativity.

Be praising. Act excited when the baby uses a sign correctly, and let your baby know how wonderful you think he is.

Be expressive. Use your face and body in addition to your hands. You can also say the word as you sign it.

Be patient. Babies can take weeks or even months before they make their first sign.

Most importantly, don't think of signing as a skill that has to be mastered. Instead, think of it as what it is intended to be - a bridge of communication before your baby can talk!

Monica Beyer is the mother of two sons and has been signing with her younger son for over 1 year. Visit her website at <http://www.signingbaby.com> or email her at monica@signingbaby.com

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