

IDEA 5 - FLOWER ARRANGING

Before you start your arrangement, please think where you might place it ... is it a 'front facing' or an all-round' view arrangement - this is so you can arrange accordingly - a supermarket bunch of flowers might be suitable for this design as it usually contains three or four different types and complementing colours of plant material -

YOU WILL NEED :

A vase or a jug with a reasonably sized opening - made of ceramic, glass or other sturdy material - also a handful of pebbles or anything similar to support your flowers and foliage - a glass rectangular-shaped container is used here, to give a wide space for the plant material -

Plant material - twiggly, branched foliage stems, with or without leaves to act as support for your flowers - foliage stems or berries or large leaves on longish stems can be included for interest and bulk - with all flowers and foliage try to harmonise with the selected container -



Flowers with stems of a reasonable length - flowers can be all the same type and in same colour or in harmonising contrasting colours

You should condition all your plant material by - first, removing all leaves which will be below the water line of your vase - conditioning is done by leaving your plant material in a bucket or large jug preferably overnight in order to take up water - cutting your stems at an angle to produce as big an area as possible for water intake -

Fill your container with clean water, up to two-thirds of the container and add plant food (if you have some and stir to dissolve -



Before you cut the stems turn each piece of plant material on its head and measure where you might want your flower heads to sit (see this picture 2 for height) - place the twiggly material into the container, crossing the stems and cutting to length, to form a pleasing shape when viewed all round - these twigs can also act as support for your flower stems - place your additional foliage stems, stems of berries and large leaves throughout the design - add your flowers, cutting them at different lengths to create a

balanced shape - sometimes it is best to place the larger flower blooms first to ensure they are evenly distributed throughout the arrangement - avoid placing the larger flowers around the lower edge of the design as this will affect visual and actual balance - use some of your foliage or large leaves to soften the edges of the container