

IDEA 8 - DECORATED SPHERES

YOU WILL NEED :

A green floral foam sphere** - 12cm is a good size - a small plate/saucer to present it on - (the sphere being shown is a 16cm size) -

A large bundle of leaves - Ivy leaves are long-lasting and firm - give them a good drink before using - then cut off their stalks -

Some dressmaking pins for securing the leaves on to the sphere - or decorative coloured pins if you have some available -

Flowers - a bunch of spray carnations - or a bunch of small-head supermarket roses -

Foliage - a little bit of small leaf foliage -

** floral foam spheres are available from places like Hobbycraft or online -

WHAT TO DO :

First of all, slice just a thin sliver of the foam approx. 6cm diameter in order to make it balance on its own, without rolling around when it is completed - the thin sliver is then discarded -

Then, place the 'round' end of the foam sphere into a bowl of water (keep the flat end dry) - do not push it down into the water - (you might need to hold the sphere in the water in case it rolls over) - you should leave the foam in the water just until it has soaked about halfway through the foam, then remove the sphere from the water -



Place your foam sphere on your plate/saucer - and start to pin leaves from the dry base area of your sphere, slowly pinning neatly all round till you have about a 6cm diameter area left at the wet round top of the sphere - leave that space, as this will be where you will place your flowers and foliage - you might like to vary your green Ivy leaves with variegated leaves if you have these available -



Place your flowers and foliage cut down to a suitable length ... cutting the stems at an angle to give a point to direct in the foam ... to complete your floral foam design -

To keep your flowers and foliage fresh you should spray all over the top every couple of days using cool water - do not place your sphere (on a plate/saucer) in a draught or near a radiator, as that will dry the floral foam and your plant material might perish prematurely -

You might like to arrange two or three of these decorated spheres in a group together, or in a line on your dining table - ensuring they are each placed on a plate/saucer so that furniture is not spoilt - this type of design can also be done for Christmas, using bright baubles and other decorations of your choice -