



Floriculture
Designing & Merchandising

3rd Edition

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arrangement could be wired with the **straight-wire method**. If the rose is to be used in a corsage, it would probably be wired using the piercing method. Keep all wire hidden as much as possible. Unsightly wires detract from the beauty of the corsage or arrangement.

FLORAL TAPING

Florist tape is a nonsticky tape that will stick to itself when stretched. It is used mainly in corsage work to cover wires, bind wires to flower stems, and to bind wired and taped flowers together.

Florist tape is available in 1/2-inch and 1-inch widths. The 1/2-inch width is most commonly used, and you may have difficulty finding the 1-inch size.

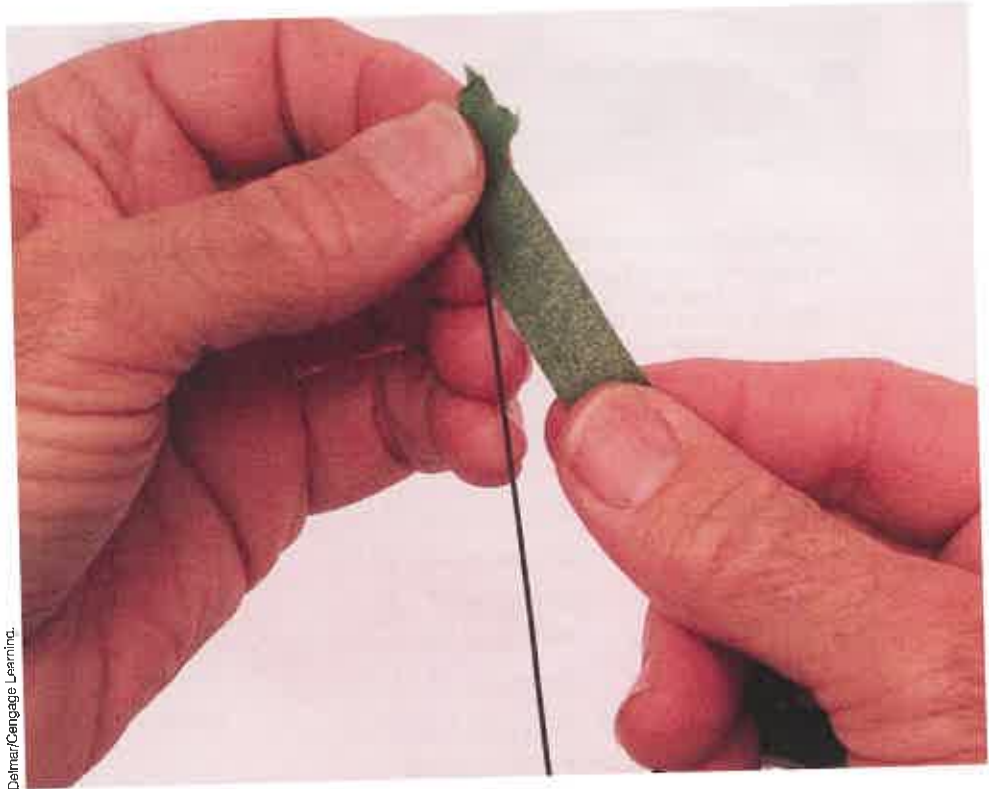
Florist tape is sold under the brand names Floratape and Parafilm. It is available in a variety of colors. Foliage green and moss green are the most frequently used. White is often used for wedding work, and brown is often used to wrap stems of dried flowers. Other colors available include black, lavender, red, yellow, blue, and orange.

Taping flowers and wires with florist tape requires skill, which develops with practice. Use the following steps as a guide. These are given for a right-handed person. Reverse the hands if you are left-handed.

Taping a Wire

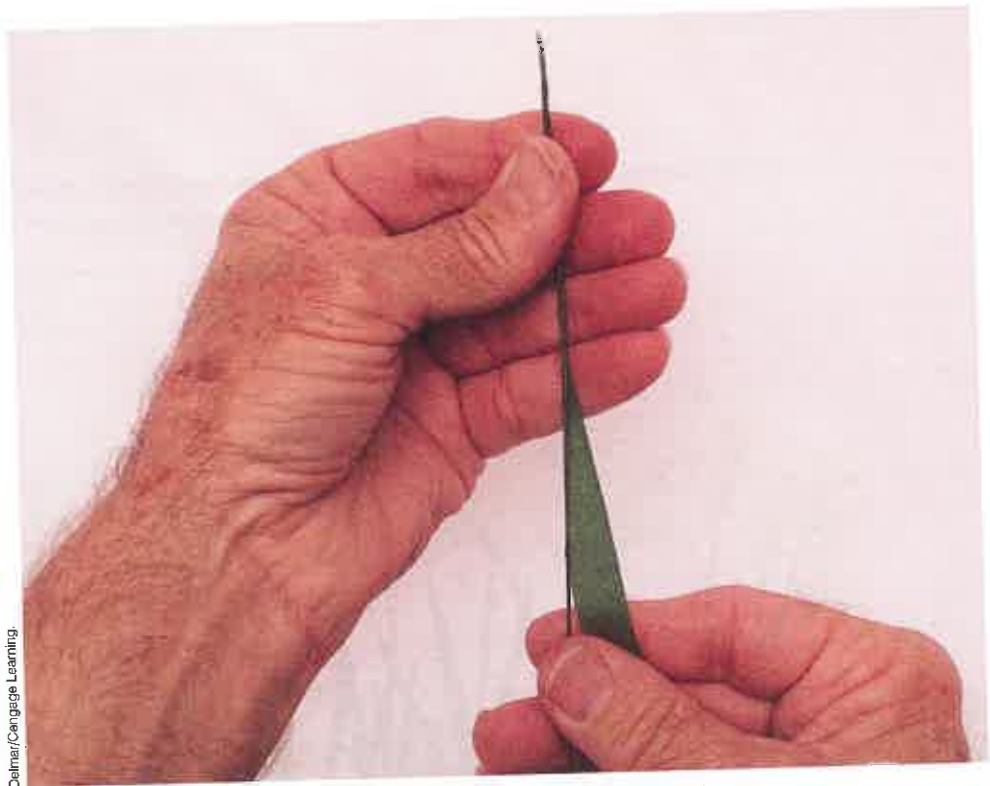
1. Hold an 18- or 20-gauge wire in your left hand near the top.
2. Place a roll of Floratape over your little finger. Guide the tape across the palm of your hand, and hold the tape between the thumb and index finger. If this feels awkward, then unroll about 2 feet of tape, and place the roll on a table. Guide the tape across the palm of your hand, and hold it with your thumb and index finger. Many florists use the bars of a steel pick machine to hold their floral tape.
3. Stretch the end of the tape to activate the stickiness of the tape. Place the end of the tape under the wire; roll a small amount around the wire and pinch it so that the tape sticks to the wire (Figure 7-9).
4. Begin rotating the wire in your left hand between your fingers and thumb.
5. Pull downward with the tape in your right hand while you guide the wire with your fingers. The tape should be held at a sharp angle (20° – 30°) to the wire (Figure 7-10). The angle determines the amount of overlap. If the angle is greater than 30° , the tape of the wire will be thick and heavy. A sharp angle allows the wire to be covered with minimum overlap.
6. Continue rotating the wire and maintaining tension on the tape until you reach the bottom of the wire. Pull sharply on the tape, and it will break away from the wire.

A properly wrapped wire is smooth and lightly taped. If the tape does not adhere to the wire and is loose, increase the tension on the tape. If the tape is bulky in spots, then hold it at a consistently sharp angle.



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Figure 7-9 Attaching florist tape to a wire.



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Figure 7-10 The angle at which florist tape is held determines the amount of overlap.



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Figure 8-2 Satin ribbon.

TYING A BOW

The size of a bow should be in proportion to the size of the design. The ribbons of the corsage, for example, should extend just beyond the petals of the flowers. The bow should accent, not draw attention from, the flowers.

To become skilled at making bows, you will need lots of practice. Make several bows with number 3 ribbon using the following procedure. When you are satisfied with the quality of your bow, repeat the process using number 9 and number 40 ribbon. Because these ribbons are wider, you will need to increase the size of your bow. Depending upon the bow's intended use, you may want to increase the number of loops also.

There are many methods of tying bows. The one presented here is the most popular method used by florists for decorating corsages. To tie a corsage bow, follow these directions.

Ribbon No.	Size
1	1/4"
1 1/2	5/16"
3	5/8"
5	7/8"
9	1 3/8"
16	2"
40	2 3/4"
100	4"
120	4 1/4"

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Figure 8-3 Ribbon sizes and the numbering system.

1. Cut a 6-inch piece and a 1-1/2-yard long piece of single-faced, number 3 satin ribbon. You will also need a 9-inch piece of 26-gauge wrapped wire or a chenille stem.
2. Wrap the end of the ribbon over your thumb forming a loose loop slightly larger than your thumb. The shiny side of the ribbon should face out. Hold the ribbon between the thumb and forefinger (Figure 8-4). Pinch it so that it narrows beneath the thumb.
3. The unused portion of the ribbon will have the dull side showing. Using the thumb and forefinger of your free hand, reach under the thumb and make a half turn in the ribbon so its shiny side shows. Hold the ribbon tightly to prevent slipping.
4. Turn the unused portion of the ribbon under and make a 2-inch loop. Lift the thumb slightly and slip the ribbon between the thumb and forefinger. Pinch the ribbon again. This will form the first loop of the bow (Figure 8-5).
5. The dull side of the ribbon will be showing again. Make a half turn of the ribbon using the procedure in step 3.
6. Form an identical loop on the opposite side of the first loop using the same procedure (Figure 8-6).
7. Add three additional loops to the left and right side of the bow. Each loop should be slightly larger than the previous loop (Figure 8-7). Using scissors, cut the ribbon at an angle so that a 3- to 4-inch streamer remains.
8. Holding the previously cut 6-inch piece of ribbon in the middle, add it to the loops between your thumb and forefinger (Figure 8-8). Pinch the ribbon.
9. Tie the bow with a taped wire. The wire is run through the loop formed over the thumb. Both ends of the wire are pulled to the back of the bow. Pinch the two wires together and twist tightly, as close to the ribbon as possible. The bow must be tied tightly, or the loops will slip and not hold their position.
10. If the bow appears poorly shaped, place the bow in your hand with the thumb in the loop and your fingers beneath the bow as shown in Figure 8-9. Holding the bow tightly, pull the loops with the other hand and separate them until the bow appears as illustrated in Figure 8-10.

INTRODUCTION

Flowers are worn by both men and women on special occasions such as weddings, proms, and holiday celebrations. Flowers worn by women are called **corsages**. A corsage is a cluster of flowers, foliage, and accessories that accents a woman's dress and adds to the theme of the celebration.

Flowers worn by men are called **boutonnieres**. A boutonniere, pinned to the man's lapel, usually consists of a single flower with foliage. There has been a recent trend toward more elaborate boutonnieres consisting of multiple flowers, such as two, or even three, stephanotis blossoms with foliage. The boutonniere adds a touch of color to the man's clothing and is usually coordinated with the theme of the occasion. If it is to be worn to a prom, its flowers should complement the flowers worn or carried by the man's date. For a wedding, the flowers would be selected to echo the overall theme of the event.

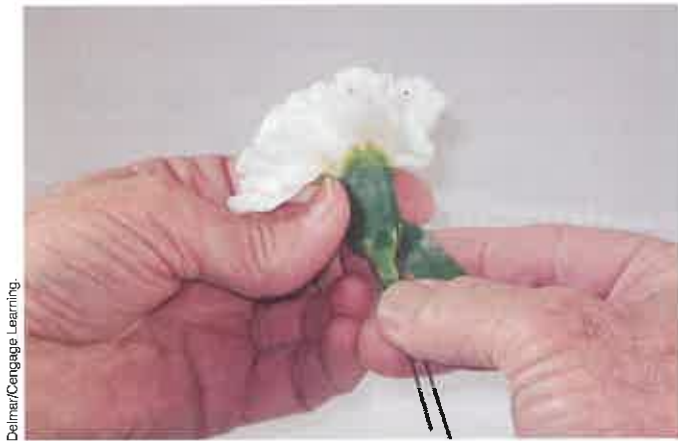
BOUTONNIERES

Select flowers for a boutonniere that have been properly conditioned (see Unit 5) and that hold up well out of water. The most popular flowers for boutonnieres are roses and carnations. Other flowers often used are stephanotis, pompon chrysanthemums, lilies of the valley, and alstromeria lilies.

Boutonnieres may be designed in a number of ways, one of which is illustrated in this text.

Constructing a Single-Bloom Carnation Boutonniere

- Step 1.** Select materials:
 - one standard carnation
 - one small piece of leatherleaf fern
 - one strand of 24- or 26-gauge wire
 - florist tape
 - boutonniere pin and bag
- Step 2.** Cut the stem of the carnation just below the calyx, and wire the carnation using one-half of a 24- or 26-gauge wire. Use the piercing method (refer to Unit 7).
- Step 3.** Tape the stem using green floral tape. Begin taping the carnation above the wire high on the calyx of the carnation (Figure 9-1).
- Step 4.** Select a tip of leatherleaf fern in proportion to the size of the carnation so that just the tips of the fern extend beyond the carnation. The fern may be wired using the wraparound method; however, many florists skip this step when using leatherleaf fern. Strip the foliage from the bottom inch of the stem.
- Step 5.** Place the fern behind the carnation so that the tips of the fern are exposed. Use floral tape to bind the foliage and flower together (Figure 9-2). Use only enough tape to cover the stem smoothly. You do not want the stem to become bulky.
- Step 6.** Cut the stem to approximately 2 inches in length. Wrap any exposed wire. The stem may be left straight, curved, or bent to form a small hook at the base (Figure 9-3).



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Figure 9-1 Tape the wired carnation.



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Figure 9-2 Tape a sprig of foliage to the back of the carnation.



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Figure 9-3 Stem treatment for boutonnieres.



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Figure 9-4 Place the completed boutonniere in a bag.



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Figure 9-5 Different styles of boutonnieres.

Step 7. Mist the flower with water and place in a boutonniere bag. Close the bag with a boutonniere pin that later can be used to pin the boutonniere (Figure 9-4). Refrigerate.

Once you have mastered this basic boutonniere construction, you can vary it using different flowers and multiple blooms (Figure 9-5). Use the criteria in Figure 9-6 to evaluate the boutonnieres.