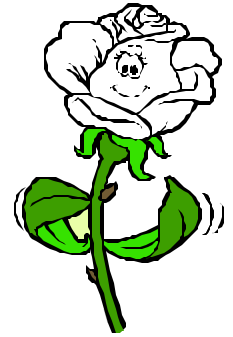
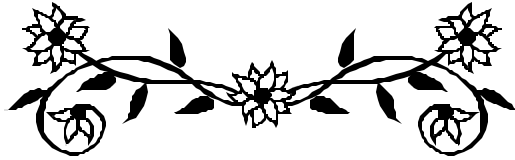


Let's Make a Flower Press



Hillermann's
Kids' Club

Pressing flowers is an very old art. Flowers and plants with thin petals, such as violets, pansies and ferns press the best. Flowers with thick petals that hold lots of water are harder to press and don't turn out as pretty. Hydrangeas (best as individual petals), lavender, roses, salvia, artemisia and bleeding hearts also press well. But always remember it is best to pick the flowers early in the morning, after the dew has dried off of them.

What you need:

- Flower blossoms or petals
- Two pieces of corrugated cardboard
- Two pieces of flat cardboard
- Pretty wrapping paper
- Tape
- Newspaper
- Ribbon or string

What to do:

1. Take the two pieces of flat cardboard, and cover them with the pretty wrapping paper. Attach the wrapping paper with tape.
2. Use two same size pieces of corrugated cardboard. The crinkles in the cardboard allow air to slowly circulate around the drying flowers.
3. Build the layers of your press! Put one piece of the wrapped cardboard on the table, the prettiest side down. Then lay a piece of corrugated cardboard on top of it, then some thick layers of newspapers (cut the same size as the cardboard pieces). Lay your flowers on top. Then cover with more newspaper, a second sheet of corrugated cardboard and finally a top layer of wrapped cardboard, the prettiest side up.
4. Tightly tie two pieces of ribbon around the press and keep it in a warm, airy place for several weeks. When the flowers are dry, you can use them to make cards, bookmarks, picture frames or other crafts.

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