

# corsage coach

Nine simple steps to beautiful corsages that will remain intact through the revelry.

Primarily purchased for proms and other school-related celebrations, demand for corsages tends to be somewhat seasonal. So as you look ahead to those springtime events, it's important to ensure that all your staff is capable of contributing to corsage creation.

Here, for newbies and as a brush-up for seasoned designers, we show nine simple steps for completing corsages that will hold up to close contact and loving embraces. They can also be attached to wrist corsage holders if needed.

To make learning easier, download a printable version from our website, so employees can follow the step-by-step instructions.

**MATERIALS:** spray carnations, spray roses, static, variegated *Pittosporum* and florist's wire from favorite suppliers; ribbon from Berwick Offray; Floratape® Stem Wrap from Bemis Company. To contact these companies, see "Product Source Guide" on Page 73.

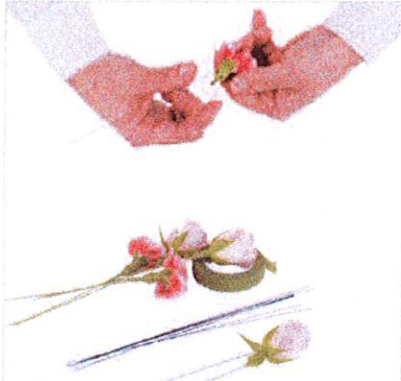
## you will need:

- 6 spray carnations (2 buds, 4 blooms)
- 3 spray or sweetheart roses
- 5-6 sprigs of static
- 10-12 sprigs of variegated *Pittosporum*
- ribbon
- florist's wire
- stem wrap
- wrist corsage holder, optional





**BASIC TRAINING**



For flowers with ample bases, such as the spray roses and carnations, pierce each base with a length of florist's wire. Push the wire through the base of the bloom until the flower is centered along the wire's length. Bend both sides of the wire downward alongside the stem. Tape around the flower base and down the length of the wires with stem wrap.



Bend several lengths of florist's wire into hairpin shapes. Insert both ends of one hairpin into a *Pittosporum* leaf, so that the hairpin straddles the leaf's midrib. Coil one of the hairpin's wires around the leaf stem and the other wire, and tape with stem wrap, forming an elongated stem. Repeat this procedure for the remaining leaves as well as the sprigs of statice.



Select a spray carnation bud, a small spray carnation bloom and the smallest rose. Holding the carnation bud upright, place the small carnation bloom a "step" down and to the right of the bud. Tape the two "stems" together. Add a small rose bloom another "step" down to the left of the carnation bloom, and tape with stem wrap.



Using the same techniques as in the previous step, add another rose and carnation blossom to the corsage, beneath the trio assembled in the previous step.



Tie a multiloop bow, and secure it with a hairpin-shaped wire. Tape the wires to form a "stem," and add the bow to the base of the flower cluster. Tape the bow's "stem" to the group with stem wrap.



Add the final rose to the center of the composition, beneath the bow. Add the remaining three carnations at downward-facing angles, and tape with stem wrap.



Add foliage, such as the variegated *Pittosporum*, as a backdrop. Start at the top of the corsage, placing the first leaf behind the top carnation bud. Then stagger additional leaves to the right and left, to fill out the shape and create a backing.



Add sprigs of wired-and-taped statice throughout the corsage, threading the wire "stems" through the flower cluster and out the backside of the corsage. Bend these wires down to meet the binding point, and tape them into position.



Add two or three more leaves to conceal the mechanics on the backside of the corsage. Gently arch the corsage so it will conform to the curve of the shoulder or wrist. Trim the stems to a length of 1½ to 2 inches. ■