

Quilled Daffodils

By Mary Lane

Quilling or paper filigree is an ancient art. Its origins can certainly be traced back as far as the 15th Century when nuns curled paper around a bird's quill. Poorer religious orders who could not afford metal filigree would use gilded paper to make decorated candle sconces, cases for holy remains and religious pictures.

During Victorian times quilling became a popular decoration for boxes, tea caddies, the edges of mirrors and furniture such as screens. It was almost as fashionable as embroidery and lovely examples still survive, some of which are on show at the Victoria and Albert museum.

Today quilling is enjoying a revival and with a wider variety of materials and fresh interest from a great many people, it is being used in a whole variety of new ways, not only for decoration of boxes and other articles, but also for such items as greetings cards, pictures, jewellery and mobiles.

Quilling may look fiddly and difficult but once you have accomplished the basic skills it is a very rewarding craft and one that need not be too expensive.

Materials Required:

3mm quilling strips:

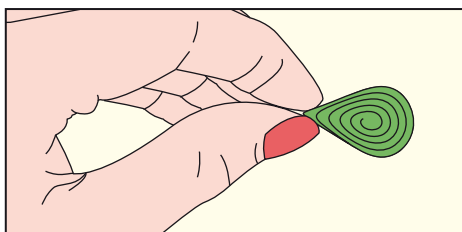
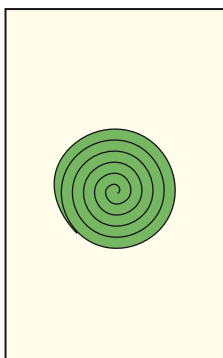
- 1 Deep yellow,
- 1 Bright yellow,
- 2 Spring green,
- 1 Medium green,
- 1 Fawn,
- 1 Orange.

Card mount - SF04P.

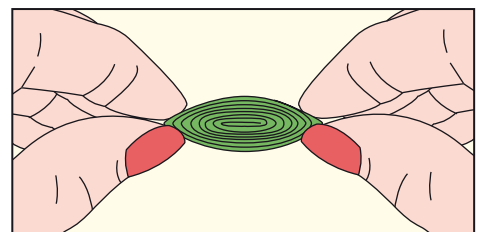
P.V.A. Craft adhesive.

Basic Shapes Needed For Design:

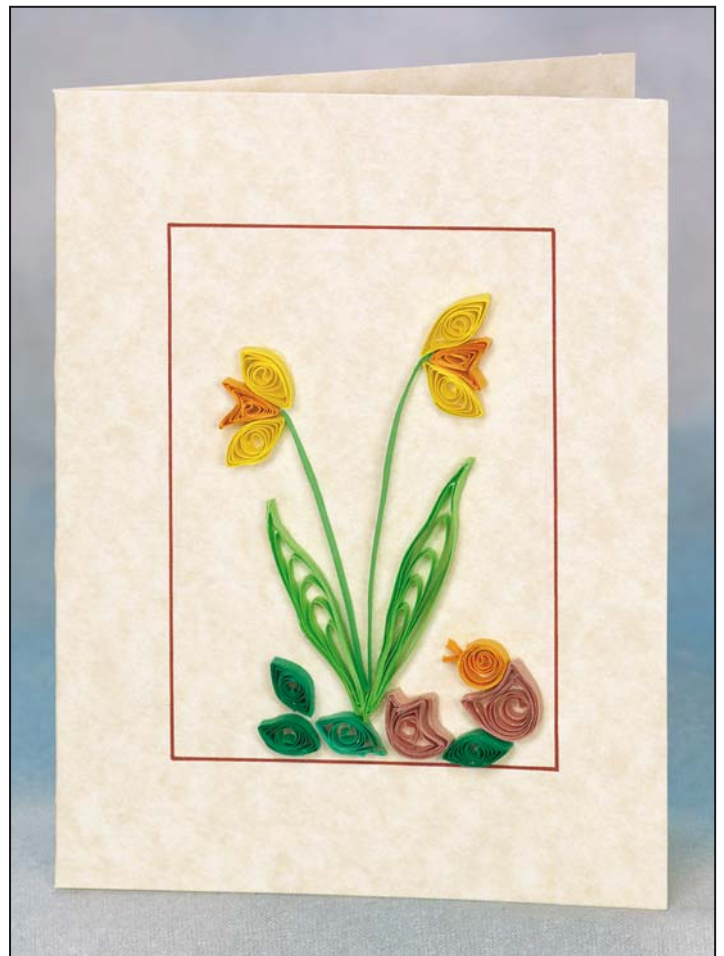
This shape is a 'Loose Coil' and from this you can make various other shapes which when put together, make up your design.



Pinch a loose coil one end between finger and thumb to make a 'tear drop' shape.



Pinch a loose coil between thumb and finger at both ends to make an 'eye' shape.



Basic Method:

Tear off a length of paper (papers should always be torn as this makes glued edges less noticeable) and insert one end into the slot of the quilling tool. Hold the tool between thumb and forefinger and start to roll the paper around the tool. If no tool is used, bend one end over slightly and then roll between thumb and forefinger.

When the paper has all been wound around the tool, let the paper fall off onto your hand or table, allow it to loosen to the desired size, then apply a dab of glue to the end of the paper and stick to previous loop. This is called a loose coil.

Making The Components:

Daffodils:

To make the daffodil, tear the bright yellow paper into quarters and make four eye shapes. Tear half of the deep yellow strip into quarters and make two teardrops (A). From these tear drops make two arrowheads by pinching two points as shown (B).

Leaves:

Make two wheatear leaves using one strip of spring green for each leaf. Form a loop approx. 1cm long and glue the start of the strip to the loop (C). Make a slightly larger loop around this loop and glue to the previous loop (D). Continue making loops, each a little larger than the last, until you have 6 loops. Glue closed (E), tear off any excess paper. Pinch at each end to form a long eye shape (F). Bend tips to give wheatear shape (G).

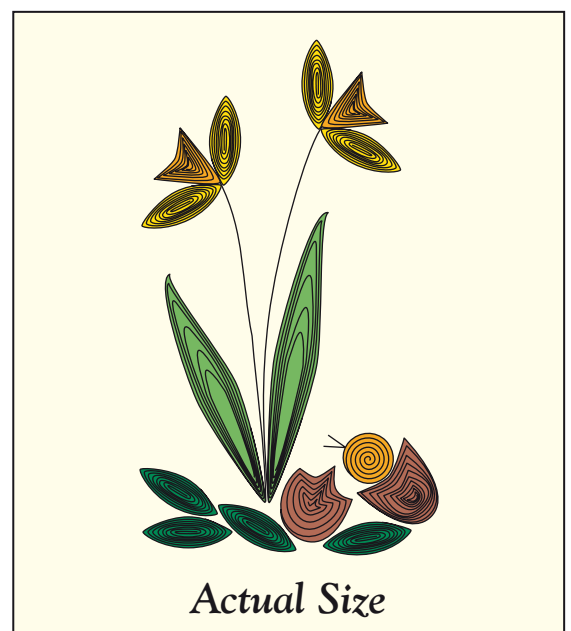
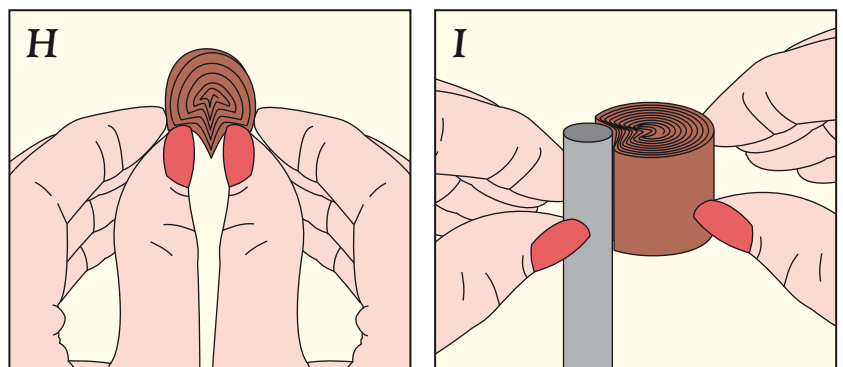
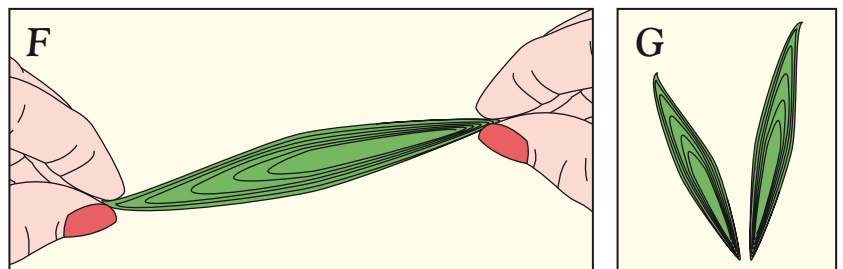
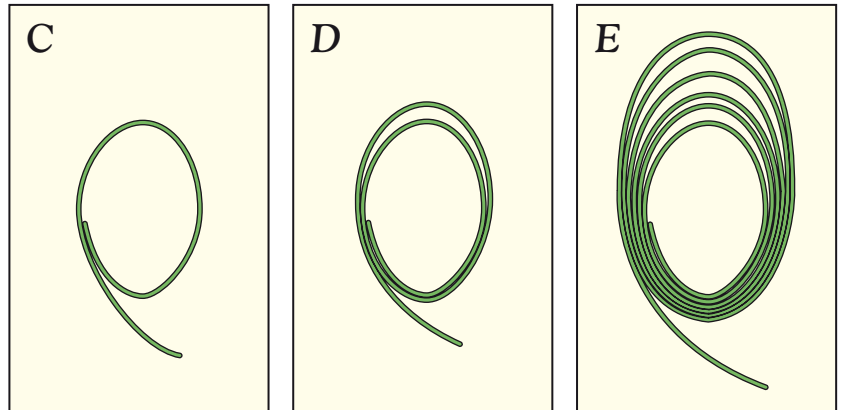
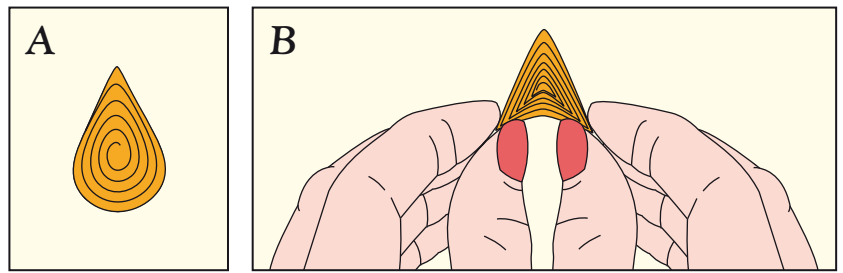
Eggshell And Chick:

Tear the fawn strip in half and make a loose coil with one half and a teardrop from the other. Make the teardrop into a broken egg by pinching two more points each side of the already pointed end (H). Make the loose coil into a crescent shape by pressing it around the handle of the quilling tool (I). Using a quarter strip of deep yellow, make a loose coil for the chicks head. Tear the medium green strip into quarters and make four eye shapes for the small leaves.

Finishing The Card:

Arrange the daffodil heads on the card and glue into position. Make the daffodil stem using the bright green 3mm paper left over from the wheatear leaves. Glue carefully along one edge of the paper and position on the card making sure the tops go to the back centre of the flower heads. Glue the wheatear leaves into place. Glue the egg halves, chicks head and leaves into place using the diagram as a guide. Fold a little of the orange paper to make a chicks beak, glue it into place touching the chicks head. Your card is finished!

Tip: To glue along the edge of a strip of quilling paper, smear some glue onto a scrap of paper then draw the strip through it. This spreads just a little along the strip neatly.





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