

# Chocolate cosmos

I was introduced to chocolate cosmos by floristry. Their long stems allow them to float above an arrangement. They are known to have a chocolate scent; we cannot capture this in paper, although we can recreate their whimsical nature and deep burgundy red colouring. There are more complicated ways to make the centres. However, I usually like to use several chocolate cosmos in an arrangement, so, for the sake of efficiency, these centres are fairly straightforward, coloured with black and burgundy markers to reproduce the depth and colouring of these wonderful flowers.

## YOU'LL NEED

- ✿ Scissors
- ✿ Ruler
- ✿ Tacky glue
- ✿ Curling tool
- ✿ Wire cutter
- ✿ Pastel foam applicator or brush

### CENTRE

180g Italian crepe paper in Goldenrod/Yellow (#576)  
 Marker in maroon or burgundy, such as Copic Marker in Peony, and black  
 22- or 24-gauge stem wire

### PETALS

180g Italian crepe paper in Burgundy/Bordeaux Red (#588)  
 Pastel in red, such as PanPastel in Permanent Red  
 Marker in maroon or burgundy, such as Copic Marker in Peony

### CALYX

Double-sided crepe paper in green, such as Leaf/Moss  
 Floral tape or crepe tape in white  
 Spray paint in green and burgundy or maroon, such as Design Master Colortool or Oasis Floral Spray in Basil or Olive, and Burgundy or Maroon  
 Alternatively: floral tape or crepe tape in green



**1 CENTRE** Prepare the centre pollen by cutting across the grain of 180g Italian crepe paper in Goldenrod/Yellow for a strip 1in (2.5cm) tall grain-wise. Stretch the strip. Cut a piece off 6in (15.3cm) long. Use a maroon or burgundy marker to draw a fine line along the same edge. In addition, paint short lines about  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) long from the coloured edge along the grain. Turn the strip over and use a black marker to draw a fine line on one of the long edges. Cut fine fringes on the long coloured edge, one-third of the way down from the edge.

**2** To reduce bulk, cut the base diagonally across. With the burgundy/maroon details facing up, apply tacky glue to the wider end of the strip to adhere a 22- or 24-gauge stem wire. After the glue dries, dot the rest of the strip base with glue and then roll the stem wire along the strip.

**3** To secure the strip, take a piece of floral tape or crepe tape in either white or green and wrap around the base of the fringed centre and just past the stamen base. Do not cover the fringes. Using your fingers, gently spread the fringe into a half-sphere.

**4 PETALS** Cut across the grain of 180g Italian crepe paper in Burgundy for a strip  $\frac{3}{4}$ in (19mm) tall grain-wise. Stretch the strip. Cut eight petals using template A. For each petal, smooth out the crepe by using your thumbnail to press the paper grain smooth as you slide it along the grain. To create dimension in the petal, use a burgundy or maroon marker to colour the bottom third of the petal, as well as along the top edge. If necessary, use a colourless blender to blend the colour into the petal. Then, using a pastel foam applicator, apply red pastel to the entire petal, two-thirds of the way from the petal base. Repeat with the remaining seven petals. Curl the top edge of the petal with your curling tool. Apply glue to the bottom third of the petal, then pinch and twist to give the petal a concave shape and a narrow petal base. Repeat with the remaining seven petals.

**5** Dot the petal bases and attach each of the pinched/twisted bases to the fringed centre, ensuring that the petal bases sit below the fringe. The eight petals should be distributed evenly on one layer. Secure the petal bases with floral or crepe tape dotted with glue in either white or green and wrap the tape just past the stamen base.

**6 CALYX** Cut a piece of double-sided crepe paper in green such as Leaf/Moss, 1in (2.5cm) tall grain-wise and  $\frac{3}{4}$ in (19mm) wide. Cut eight long triangle sepals using template CA as an example. I usually fold it in half and cut four sepals, which double into eight once I open it up. Alternatively, place template CA on top of the piece of crepe paper and cut. Curl the sepals slightly if you wish. Apply glue to the base and wrap the calyx around the bottom of the petals.

**7 STEM** As the stem wire is so fine, finish wrapping the stem wire from the calyx to the end by using a narrow strip of crepe tape, in green or white. I tend to make a bunch of chocolate cosmos at one time, pairing up a few of them and leaving others as single. When I attach two chocolate cosmos together, I use crepe tape in the same colour and attach the flowers near the midway point of their stems.

**8** If you used white floral or crepe tape, spray the top of the white stem with Design Master Colortool first in Basil or Olive to achieve a smooth transition from the green calyx to the stem, and then in Burgundy with some overlap with the Basil and Olive, to mimic a natural transition. Open up the petals and bend the stems to give the flower character.

**Even if I plan to add chocolate cosmos to an arrangement, I tend to add them last as a finishing touch after evaluating the entire arrangement. In fact, I mainly use this flower in two ways: to add visual lightness to an arrangement by having it dance above the other flowers; and to ground the arrangement with a darker colour. They also bring burgundy or red into an arrangement subtly.**

**ARRANGEMENT TIP**

