CANDY ARRANGEMENTS WITH SILK FLOWERS

When making silk and candy arrangements it may be helpful for you to know some basics of floral arranging.

**Basic floral arrangement forms**

Floral arrangements generally follow a basic shape or geometric form. The basic forms can be followed exactly, or they may be varied to suit your personal preferences. The most common forms are as follows:

*Horizontal arrangement* is usually low and follows a long horizontal line.
*Vertical arrangement* is a tall, slender linear design.
*Oval arrangement* contains floral materials that outline and fill in either a horizontal or vertical oval shape.
*Round arrangement* contains floral materials that outline and fill in the shape of a sphere. These arrangements are often used as centerpieces, because they look the same from all sides.
*Triangular arrangement* contains floral materials that form a triangle. The shape of the triangle may vary from high and narrow to low and wide.
*Crescent arrangement* contains floral materials that curve into a soft crescent shape.
*S-curve arrangement* contains floral materials that form a graceful S shape.
*Fan arrangement* contains floral materials that radiate from a central point to form a semicircle.

**Floral design**

The basic elements of design are following:
*Line* describes the directional movement in an arrangement. The line of an arrangement may be straight or curved.
*Form* describes the basic shape of an arrangement.
*Texture* helps create the mood of a design. Smooth surfaces can look elegant; rough textures, more rustic.
*Color.* Single colors can be used for the entire arrangement. Different shades of a color can be used to achieve contrast. Neighboring colors on the color wheel harmonize, because they contain the same underlying color (for example, red-orange, red, and red-violet all contain the color red). Opposite colors on the color wheel can be combined to achieve strong contrast.
Visual Weight

When the visual weight of the flowers is distributed evenly, an arrangement is visually balanced. Visually, each flower in an arrangement has a certain amount of weight. To achieve a balanced design, consider the information below as you place the flowers in an arrangement.

Size. Large flowers have more visual weight than small flowers. However, several small flowers can be grouped together to achieve the visual weight of one large flower. Color. A light-colored flower has less visual weight than a dark-colored flower of the same size. It may take two or more light-colored flowers to give the visual weight of one dark flower. Similarity of line, size, texture, and color makes the visual weight of one floral material equal to that of another.

Steps for making a basic floral arrangement

1. Select the floral materials and determine the quantity.

2. Select a basic form, for example triangle, for the arrangement. Insert foam into the container and cover it with moss or any other decorative material. Put the line material (it may be foliage, flowers, or twigs) into the foam to establish the height and the width of the selected form.

3. Put the dominant flowers into the arrangement. Dominant materials are the largest materials in an arrangement.

4. Put the secondary flowers into the arrangement, spacing them evenly and staying within the shape of the desired form. Secondary materials are smaller than the dominant materials and are used to finish shaping the form of the design.

5. Put in filler materials (usually small flowers or foliage) to fill in any bare areas of the desired form.
6. Add an element of interest, if desired, allowing the material to extend outside the basic form.

**CHRYSANTHEMUMS CANDY BOUQUET**
(A Triangular or One-Sided Arrangement)

**Materials used:** three silk chrysanthemums, a red decorative bucket, floral foam, floral picks with wire or a hand held pick machine with picks, assorted fruit flavored hard candies, Lindt dark chocolate truffles, fun size KitKat candy bars, silk greenery, a bunch of plastic grapes or an artificial pear, green cellophane, red floral foil, green, blue, and red curling ribbons, green floral tape, stem wire (16 gauge) and/or bamboo skewers, floral adhesive clay or hot glue, and tools.

**Step 1.** Prepare a container. It can be any type of container: a bowl, a flowerpot, a small decorative bucket, a decorative box, or a basket. I used a red galvanized bucket. I chose a red container for this arrangement because it goes well with the red candy flowers in the arrangement.

**Step 2.** Using your container as a guide, cut the floral foam to the proper size so it fits snugly into the container. The foam extends about 1” above the rim of the container so it will be easier to insert silk greenery and candy flowers outward and downward.

When you use small and/or light containers, you need to add weight to the bottom of the container. You can put some stones, some modeling clay, or sand in a ziplock bag in the bottom of the container, or you can secure a metal floral pin frog, which is pretty heavy, to the bottom of the container, using hot glue or floral adhesive clay.

To prevent the foam from popping out of the container, you can also tape the foam down to the container with a piece of clear packing tape.
Note: For the arrangements where we insert a lot of candy sticks and silk floral stems into a little piece of foam, you may want to use higher density foam such as closed cell polyethylene foam because it holds the stems so well even if you rearrange the flowers a lot.

You can read about this foam at the site: http://www.foamorder.com/closedcell.html?gclid=CNjG14Ttt44CFSGQIgodwksFzg
You buy small bricks of this foam (as Quiver foam pads) in Sporting Goods stores for a couple of dollars.

You can look for a packaging company in your area in the Yellow Pages book or on the Internet. They usually carry this type of foam. For example, Foam Plastic Specialties Inc. in Arizona; see their site http://www.foamplasticspec.com.

Step 3. Cover the foam with pieces of cellophane.

a) Cut green cellophane into pieces. Do not worry about how straight you cut your pieces. When you attach them to the picks, creating a cone shape, any unevenness won’t be noticeable.

b) Attach the cello pieces to wooden floral picks or steel picks (using the Pick machine). Fluff the cellophane out.

See more about adding cellophane or tissue paper pieces to your candy
arrangement in the section **Basics of Candy Arranging** at the beginning of the book.

c) Insert the pieces of green cellophane around the outside edge of the foam.
Step 4. This is a triangular arrangement. Decide what height and width your arrangement will be, and put in silk greenery stems to establish these dimensions.

Note: If some flower stems are loose in the foam, you can apply hot glue or floral sticky clay to the end of the stick and then insert it in the foam.

Step 5. Insert the three silk chrysanthemums in the bouquet within the three-sided design.

Note: Instead of chrysanthemums you can use silk sunflowers.
Step 6. Let’s make KitKat candy flowers.

a) Prepare mini KitKat candy bars, bamboo skewers, green floral tape, clear packing tape, and a glue gun with glue sticks (use a low temp glue gun).

First, tape bamboo skewers with green floral tape. Then, put some hot glue on the bamboo skewer and attach it to the back of the candy bar. If you want to hide the stick, glue it under the wrapper flap on the back of the candy piece. Then glue the loose flap to the candy wrapper.
All candy bars should face the same way.
Note: If you need to add length to a candy flower stick, just lay a piece of bamboo skewer/thick stem wire against it and wrap them together with floral tape.

b) Add a piece of red cellophane or red foil to the candy flower stem.

Take a piece of red cellophane/foil and carefully poke the candy flower stick through the center of a cellophane piece. Or fold the cellophane square in half and fold it in half again across the first fold and cut the tip off of the corner. You will end up with a small hole in the center of your unfolded cellophane piece.

Pull the cellophane/foil into a cone shape and secure it to the stick with a piece of green floral tape. Fluff the cellophane out.

Make as many “KitKat flowers” as you would like for your arrangement.
c) Insert the KitKat candy flowers into the arrangement maintaining the triangular shape.
Step 7. Take the bunch of plastic grapes. Attach a piece of thick stem wire to the grapes stem using hot glue and then wrap green floral tape around both of them. Insert the grapes in the bottom front of your arrangement.
Stem 8. Make some other candy flowers.

a) Take some candies of different flavors (they may be hard candies or chocolates) that have red, yellow, and green wrappers. I used hard candies from a “Very Berry” assortment candy bag that I bought at Walgreens. Prepare stem wire (16 or 18 ga) or bamboo skewers, green floral tape, and tools.

b) Make several candy flowers with three pieces of candy on each stem.

c) Attach a piece of green cellophane to the candy flower stem using floral tape. Put the green curling ribbon where the floral tape is.
d) Insert the candy flowers in the arrangement spacing them evenly within the triangular arrangement. Cut the sticks to the desired length with wire cutters.
Step 9. Make some candy flowers with candies that have blue or purple wrappers (opposite of red and yellow on the color wheel). These candy flowers will make our arrangement even brighter and more interesting.

a) Prepare candies or chocolates (I used Lindt dark chocolate truffles), bamboo skewers, green floral tape, blue curling ribbon, and tools.

b) Wire and tape the candies/chocolates, attach a piece of green cellophane, and tie blue curling ribbons where the floral tape is.

c) Insert these candy flowers into the arrangement within the triangular design.
Step 10. (Optional). You can add red curling ribbon to the arrangement.

Note: Look at your arrangement from all sides; if you see bare spaces, just insert pieces of green cellophane there.
Back View

Enjoy your beautiful candy arrangement!

Note: You can make many different bouquets based upon these. Use any silk flowers and candy you like or your recipient would like to get. If you want to create a smaller bouquet, use smaller silk flowers, then the height and width of the arrangement will be smaller as well.

**LILIES AND GOLD**

(A Horizontal Candy-and-Flower Arrangement)
This is a horizontal arrangement. It is usually low and follows a long horizontal line. The line may contain a slight arc. You can use this arrangement as a centerpiece for a rectangular dining table.

**Materials used:** a plastic bowl, Styrofoam for silk arranging or other foam, glass marbles, silk fuzzy grass, foliage, small flowers, white lilies, Raffaello candies, Peanut Cream Filled Chocolate Bon Bons, stem wire (16 ga), bamboo skewers, green floral tape, gold curling ribbon, hot glue, clear packing tape, and tools.

**Step 1.** Take a bowl. It may be a glass bowl, a beautiful ceramic bowl, etc. The bowl should be shallow. The bowl I used in this arrangement is 2.5” high and 5.5” in diameter.

Cut the Styrofoam or other foam so it can be placed into a center of the bowl with some space around all sides. The foam extends a little bit above the bowl so you can easily position your “candy flowers” near the rim. Secure the foam to the bottom of the bowl using hot glue or floral adhesive clay.

**Step 2.** Fill the surrounding area with glass marbles, potpourri, candy (mint Life Savers, for instance), or any other desired material.
Step 3.
a) Insert the line materials into the bowl to establish the height and the width of the selected form. I used silk fuzzy grass stems as my line materials.

b) Insert green leaves along the edge of the foam. I cut separate leaves off of a foliage spray and extended their lengths by placing stem wire (18 or 20 ga) against the leaf stem, securing them together using green floral tape.
Step 4. Insert the dominant flowers into the arrangement, spacing them evenly and staying within the shape of the horizontal form. I used 8 white lilies as the dominant flowers in this arrangement.

Step 5. The next step is to insert secondary flowers into the arrangement, spacing them evenly within the horizontal form. Let’s use candy flowers as our secondary flowers.

1) Make the first type of candy flowers.

a) Prepare Raffaello candies, stem wire (16 ga or 18 ga), scotch tape or packing tape, and tools.
b) Bend stem wire into a “V” shape and attach the bottom of the “V” to a Raffaello candy using clear packing tape. Another method is to put a zigzag bend in the wire to stabilize the candy where you attach it to the stem wire. Make as many Raffaello candy flowers, as you would like.

c) Insert “Raffaello flowers” evenly throughout the arrangement bending the stems as necessary. I used 6 individual Raffaello candies and one Raffaello three-pack in the center of the arrangement.
2) Make the second type of candy flowers.

a) Prepare Peanut Cream Filled Chocolate Bon Bons (I bought them in Wal-Mart), stem wire (16) and bamboo skewers or lollipop sticks, green floral tape, gold curling ribbon (optional), and tools.

Note: Instead of stem wire, you may want to use bamboo skewers or lollipop sticks because they provide more support for these big Bon Bons chocolates, especially for long-stemmed “Bon Bons flowers” used on either side of the arrangement.
b) Wire and tape Bon Bons and tie gold curling ribbon beneath the candy base. Make as many “Bon Bons flowers” as you would like. I made 10 “Bon Bons flowers.”

c) Insert “Bon Bons flowers” evenly throughout the arrangement.

Step 6. The last step is to insert filler materials to fill in any bare areas throughout the arrangement.

a) Prepare silk small flowers and foliage.
b) Insert prepared materials into your arrangement, spacing them evenly throughout the arrangement.

The height of the finished arrangement (including the bowl) is 8” and the width is 23”.

Enjoy your wonderful candy-and-flower arrangement!

**Note:** You can create different variations of this arrangement. For example, you can use lilies of different colors (pink, red, yellow, etc.) and different candies/chocolates combinations.
SPRING JOY
(A crescent Candy-and-Flower Arrangement)

This is a crescent arrangement. These arrangements contain floral materials that curve into a soft crescent shape.

**Materials used:** gold colored plastic bowl (6” in diameter), floral foam, silk greenery, 3 silk pink roses, decorative green plastic grass, floral pins, floral adhesive clay, pink and blue phlox flowers, lisianthus flowers, Brach’s® crème filled caramel rolls, Raffaello® candies, green floral tape, stem wire (16 ga), curling ribbons, pearl strands, and tools.

**Step 1.** Prepare a gold or silver colored bowl for the arrangement. For example, you can buy the plastic bowl you see in the picture from the website [http://www.afloral.com/Floral-Supplies/Design-Bowls-and-Trays/Gold-Design-Bowl-6](http://www.afloral.com/Floral-Supplies/Design-Bowls-and-Trays/Gold-Design-Bowl-6)

**Step 2.**
a) Prepare floral foam (for example, silk arranging). Using your container as a guide cut the foam to the proper size so it fits snugly in the bowl. You can secure the foam to the bottom of the bowl attaching an anchor pin to the bottom of the container first using hot glue or sticky floral clay, and then press the foam onto the prongs of the anchor pin.
b) Or you can use white polystyrene insulation foam (sheets of which you can buy in Lowe’s or other home improvement stores pretty cheap; use a hot knife to cut this type of foam), or closed cell foam that holds the stems very well (you can read about this foam at the site: http://www.foamorder.com/closedcell.html?gclid=CNjG14Ttt44CFSGQIgodwksFzg, you can buy small bricks of this foam (as Quiver foam pads) in Sporting Goods stores for a couple of dollars).

To prevent the foam from popping out of the container, you can tape the foam down to the container with a piece of clear packing tape or scotch tape.
c) Cover the foam with decorative plastic grass or pink or green furry yarn, securing it with floral pins as necessary.

Step 3. Insert silk flowers and greenery into the foam, shaping them to give the design its crescent form.
I used silk foliage and purple lisianthus flowers.
Note: If the silk flowers and greenery are a little bit loose in the foam, apply hot glue or floral sticky clay to the end of the flower/leave stem before inserting it into the foam.

Step 4. Insert dominant flowers into the arrangement within the crescent form. I used pink roses (2 big ones and one rosebud) as dominant flowers in this arrangement.

Step 5. Insert secondary flowers into the arrangement, spacing them evenly and staying within the crescent form. I used pink and blue phlox flowers as secondary flowers.

Note: If the silk flower/leave stems are not long enough, you can elongate them by placing pieces of thick stem wire against the floral stems, and wrapping them together with floral tape.
Step 6. Insert filler materials to fill in any bare areas of your arrangement. We will make and use candy flowers as filler materials.
a) Prepare candies/chocolates, stem wire (16 gauge), green floral tape, clear packing tape, and tools.
I used Brach’s crème filled caramel rolls and Raffaello candies in this arrangement. You can choose whatever candies you like.

b) Wire and tape Brach’s candies. Make as many candy flowers, as you would like.

b) Wire and tape Brach’s candies. Make as many candy flowers, as you would like.

c) Insert Brach’s candy flowers in the arrangement in front and in back so the arrangement looks good from all sides, staying within the shape of the crescent form. Cut the candy flower stems to the desired length with wire cutters. Bend the stems as necessary to achieve the desired look.
d) Bend stem wire into a “V” shape and attach the bottom of the “V” to a Raffaello candy using a little bit of hot glue and clear packing tape. If you want to hide the stem wire, glue it under the wrapper flap on the back of the candy piece. Make as many Raffaello candy flowers, as you would like.
e) Insert Raffaello candy flowers into the arrangement within the shape of the design bending stems if necessary.
Step 7.

a) You may want to add additional elements of interest, for example, curling ribbons, feathers, pearl strands, etc.

b) In this case, I added some curling ribbons and pearl strands.

Wire and tape pearl strings before putting them in the bouquet. Place the stem wire alongside the white part of the strand, and then stem tape in place. Instead of green stem wire you can use white in this case.
Well done! You have added one more beautiful candy arrangement to your repertoire of candy arrangements!

SUMMER SUNSHINE
(Lindt Mini Desserts Base Candy Arrangement)

Materials used: “Lindt Mini Desserts” box (you can buy them at Wal-Mart for about $8), Lindt Milk and White Chocolates, red and gold curling ribbons, floral foam, gold ribbon, 5 big silk chrysanthemums, silk lilies, small silk flowers and leaves, silk feather grass stems, stem wire (16 ga), hot glue, and tools.

Step 1. This arrangement is made on a “Lindt Mini Desserts” box.
**Step 2.** Take floral foam (for example, a white block of Styrofoam for silk arranging), cut it slightly smaller than the size of the top of the Lindt box. Glue the Styrofoam to the box of chocolates using hot glue. You can also secure the foam to the box with clear packing tape. The foam should be recessed about 3/8” from the edges of the box.

![Styrofoam block](image)

**Step 3.** We need to select a form of our arrangement (round, oval, etc.). Let’s make a round arrangement. Round arrangements contain floral materials that outline and fill in the shape of a sphere. These arrangements are often used as centerpieces, because they look the same from all sides. Insert the line material in the foam (dark red feather grass stems in this case).
Step 4. Choose a ribbon (I think satin is great for this arrangement), its color should go well with the colors of the chocolate box (it may be creamy, peachy, or golden color). Wrap the edges of the foam with the ribbon leaving ¼” from the top of the foam exposed, so you can stick flowers and greenery into it later).

Step 5. The next step is to insert small green leaves (you can buy these leaves in a “Wedding Accessories” department in any craft store or order them on the Internet) and small white and yellow silk flowers around the top edge of the foam.
Note: When inserting small flowers (that you get as a result of dividing the stalks of small flowers into separate flower stems), it can be difficult to push them into the foam; in this case make a hole in the foam in advance with a thick stem wire.

Step 6. Insert the dominant flowers (the largest materials in the arrangement) into the arrangement, spacing them evenly all around, bending the flower stems as necessary and staying within the shape of the desired form. I used 5 chrysanthemums as the dominant flowers in this arrangement.
Note: If the silk flowers are a little bit loose in the foam, you can apply hot glue or floral sticky clay to the end of the flower stem and then insert them into the foam.

Step 7. Insert the secondary flowers (lilies in this case) into the arrangement, spacing them evenly and staying within the round form.
Step 8. The next step is to insert the filler materials, to fill in any bare areas of the desired form. Let’s use two types of filler materials for this arrangement: chocolate flowers and silk flowers.

a) Take Lindt milk and white chocolates. Tape and wire these chocolates and tie red and golden curling ribbons beneath the chocolate base. To prevent the curling ribbon from sliding down on the stick, attach the curling ribbon to the stick using a mini glue dot. Make as many chocolate flowers as you would like.

b) Insert the chocolate flowers into the arrangement (all around) within the round form.

c) Optional. Prepare some silk small flowers and/or greenery.
d) Insert the silk filler materials evenly into the arrangement to fill in any bare areas.
Your wonderful centerpiece is ready! Congratulations!

**Note:** You can build a beautiful candy and flower arrangement on any box of chocolate or candy, for example, a candy arrangement on a Raffaello sweets box.

If you want to quickly and easily learn how to make candy bouquets like a pro, see my complete “illustrated” step-by-step guide “How to make beautiful candy bouquets for fun and profit” and "Candy bouquet designs"

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