HOW TO MAKE SHELL FLOWERS

Turn four scallop shells into a colourful flower

PRINT OR SAVE

AT A GLANCE

BEST FOR	Teens 12+ and adults
TIME	30-45 minutes, plus drying
DIFFICULTY	Moderate
MAKES	One flower
SHELLS	Four scallop shells

YOU WILL NEED

- 4 clean, dry scallop shells
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Medium-weight fencing wire
- Pliers or wire cutters
- Half an apple or polystyrene ball
- Smooth ceramic tile
- A little baby oil
- Turquoise base spray paint
- Darker second spray colour
- Glossy black craft paint + brush
- Cardboard or drop cloth
- Gloves and safety glasses
- Optional UV-resistant clear coat

SAFETY FIRST

Use spray paint outdoors and follow the label. Hot glue and cut wire can injure hands, so close adult supervision is required.

6 SIMPLE STEPS

1 PREPARE THE MOULD

Push one continuous wire through the centre of half an apple. Leave a short end above and the long stem below.

2 ARRANGE THE SHELLS

Place four shells around the apple with their narrow ends meeting in the centre. Hot-glue the bases together and leave for 5 minutes.

3 SECURE THE STEM

Remove the apple. Trim the inner wire to about 1 cm, surround it with hot glue, then set the flower upside down on a lightly oiled tile for 5 minutes.

4 APPLY THE BASE COAT

Outdoors, spray several light coats over the flower. Let each coat dry. Prime dark shells white first if needed.

5 ADD A SECOND COLOUR

Mist a darker shade around the centre, fading it towards the edges to create a soft ombre effect.

6 FINISH AND SEAL

Paint the raised centre and wire stem glossy black. For outdoor display, add a UV-resistant clear coat once everything is fully dry.

QUICK TIPS

Use several light paint coats to prevent drips. If the stem loosens, add more hot glue. Display outdoor flowers in a sheltered spot.