

## Rolled edge fabric flowers

This how-to article has two different methods for making rolled edged fabric flowers 1) without wire and 2) with wire built in. This style of floral decoration first came to my notice on a website that sold vintage items and over the years I have seen more, all of them attributed to the 1920s. For those of us that make 20s hats it's nice to have something that will look period. That said, they are a good choice for modern hats and headdresses as well. Another big plus, you can make them with smallish scraps of expensive fancy fabrics leftover from covering hats or making costumes. I now save pieces of silk fabric over 4" square in bins of similar colors.

For the first type, the fabrics you can use are somewhat limited they need to have a lot of bias stretch, a wrong side that you don't mind showing and some body. You can use a sheer that is really limp if you stiffen it with spray starch to give it the body it will need.

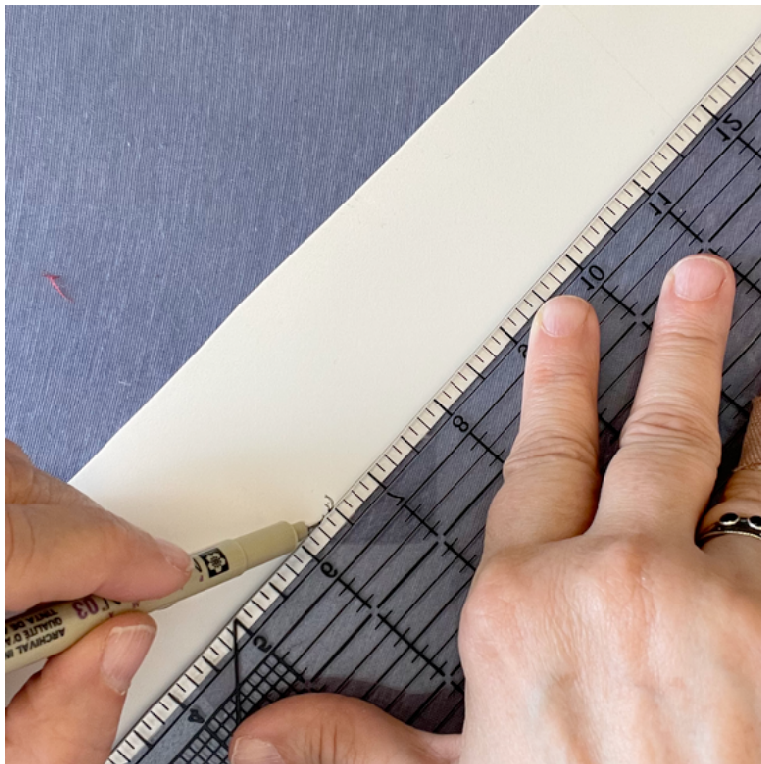
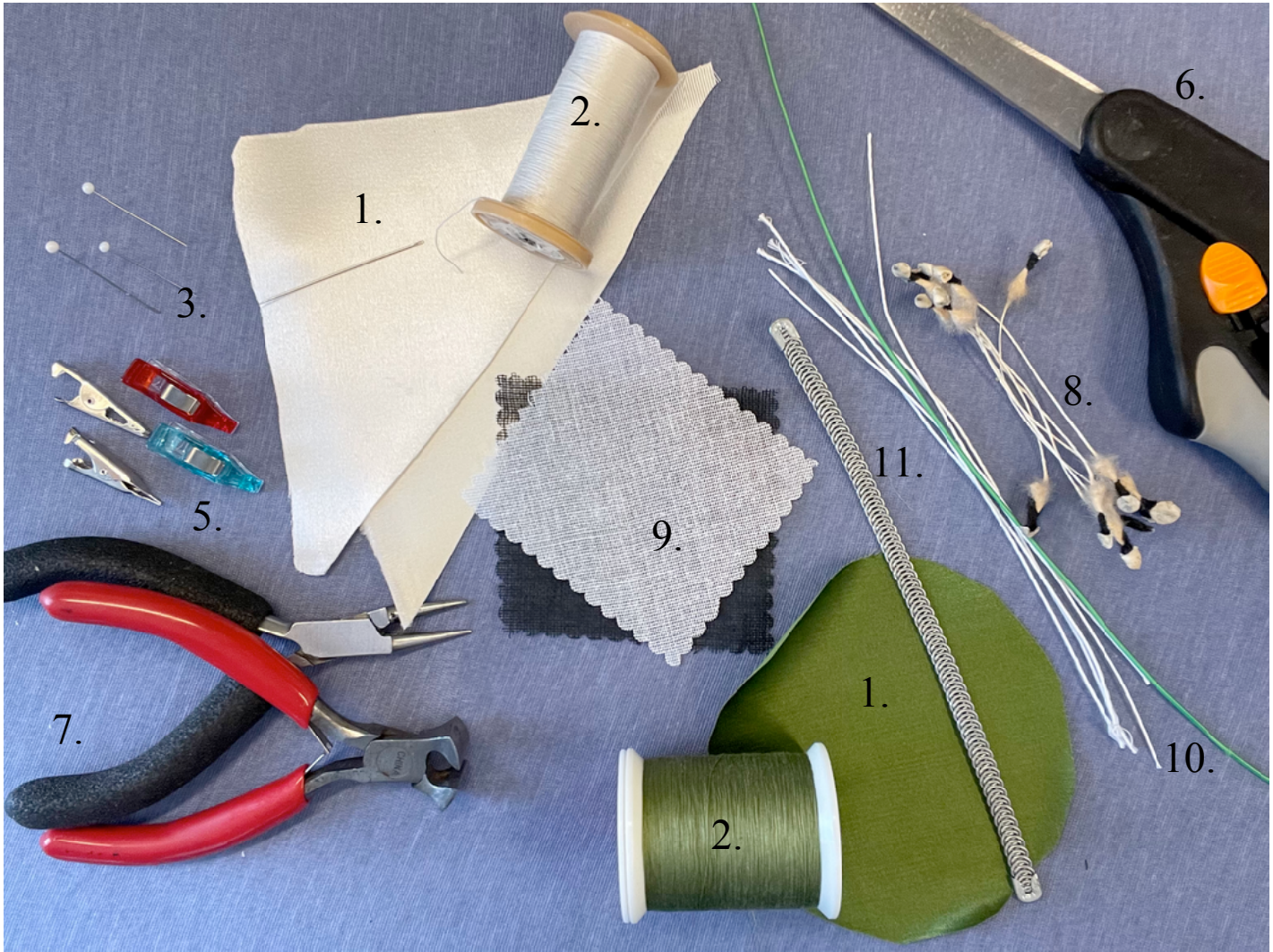
The examples shown here are sheer and opaque;

1. Silk cotton sateen
2. Silk organze
3. Silk Marquissette
4. Silk double sided bridal sateen
5. Silk sheer fabric (starched with spray starch).

For type 2 you can use all of these but, also things with less bias stretch like silk taffeta.



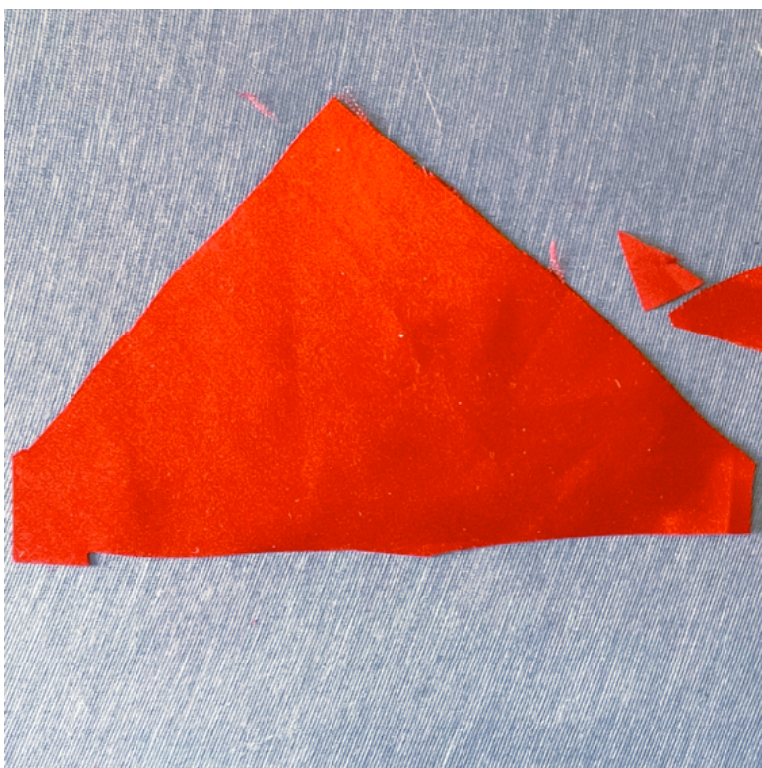
## Tools and materials;



1. Fabric
2. Matching thread
3. Straight pins
4. Sewing needle
5. Clips
6. Fabric and craft scissors
7. Wire cutters and small pliers
8. Stamens (if you flower needs them)
9. Crinoline (if you have multiple parts)
10. Thread covered stem wire, thin and heavy
11. 6 to 7" long 1/4" wide spiral corset bone (or see next figure)
12. White PVA glue (not shown)
13. Florist tape (not shown)
14. 7mm wide silk embroidery ribbon (not shown)
14. (optional) Flat silk embroidery thread (not shown)
15. (optional) 1.5" wide variegated green wired ribbon (not shown)

If you do not have spiral corset bones you can make a tool to roll the edges. Cut a strip 3/16 to 1/4" wide of 1mm to .75 mm thick plastic (cutting board) matt.

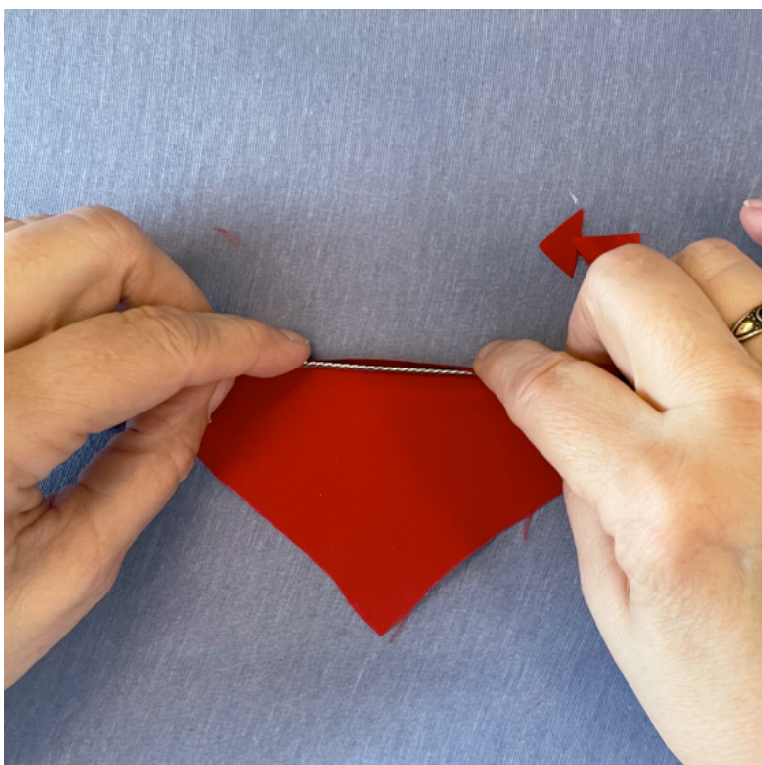
## Type 1; rolled edge flower petals, a 5 petal flat flower



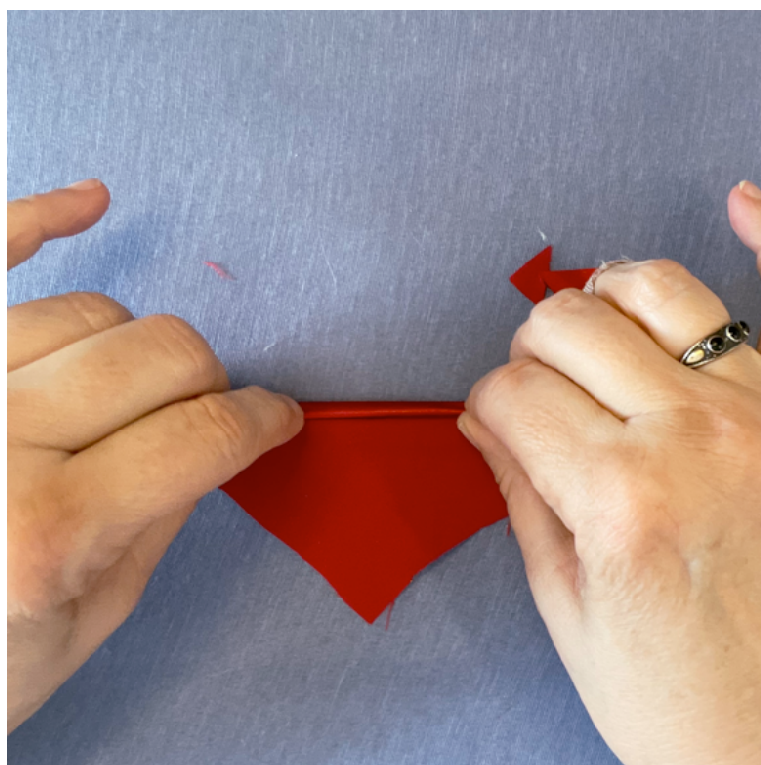
Cut 5 of either size petal pattern. For an ~5.25" flower use the larger pattern for an ~4" flower use the smaller pattern. For this flower I used silk/cotton sateen if you have a one sides fabric like this make sure the right side is down.



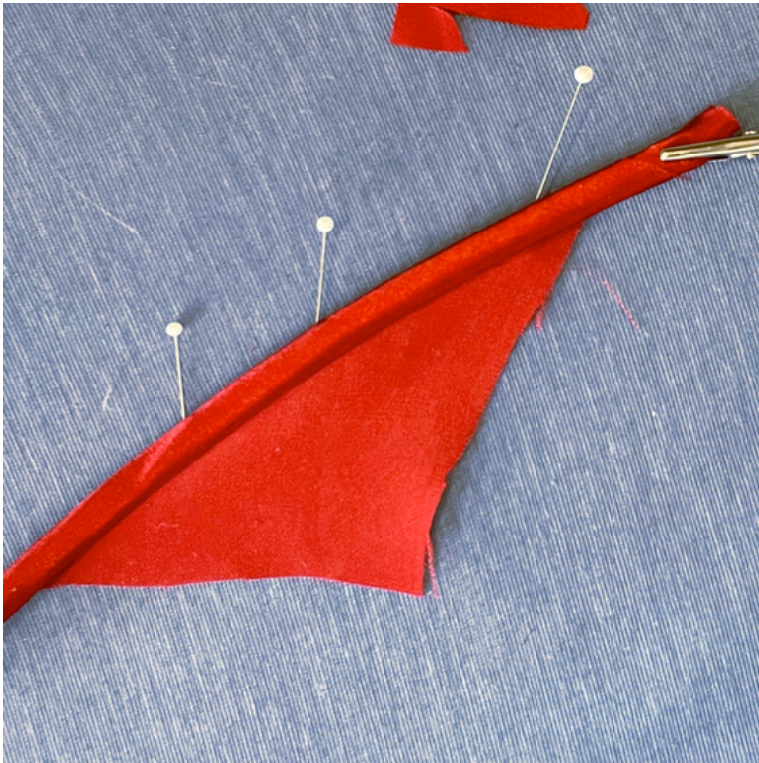
Stretch the long edge (bias) to it's max, over the spiral bone and clip it to hold it in place.



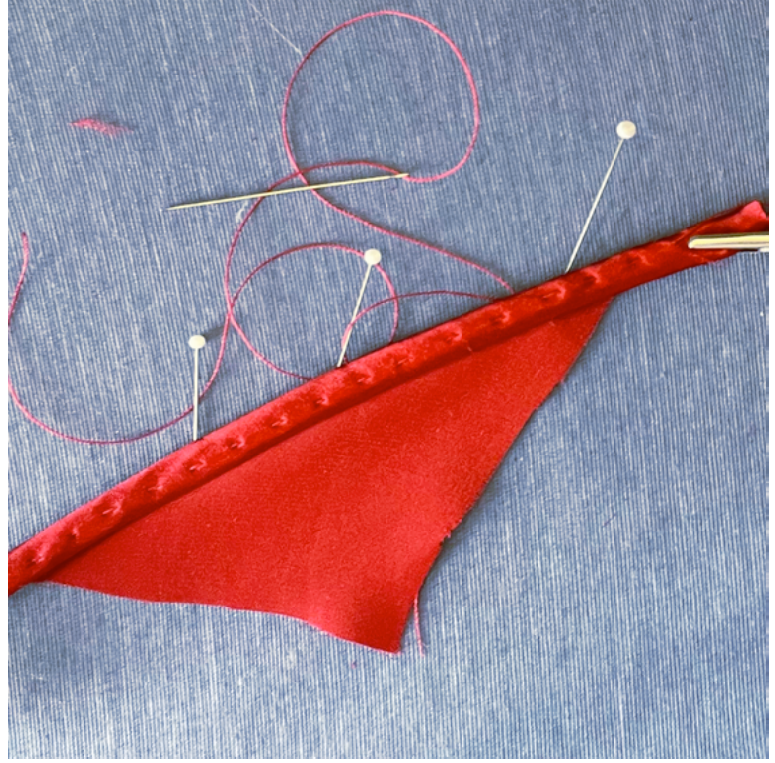
Let the clips hold the ends and you hold the middle to the bone. Start rolling it towards you a full turn.



Roll it a for at least one more full turn.



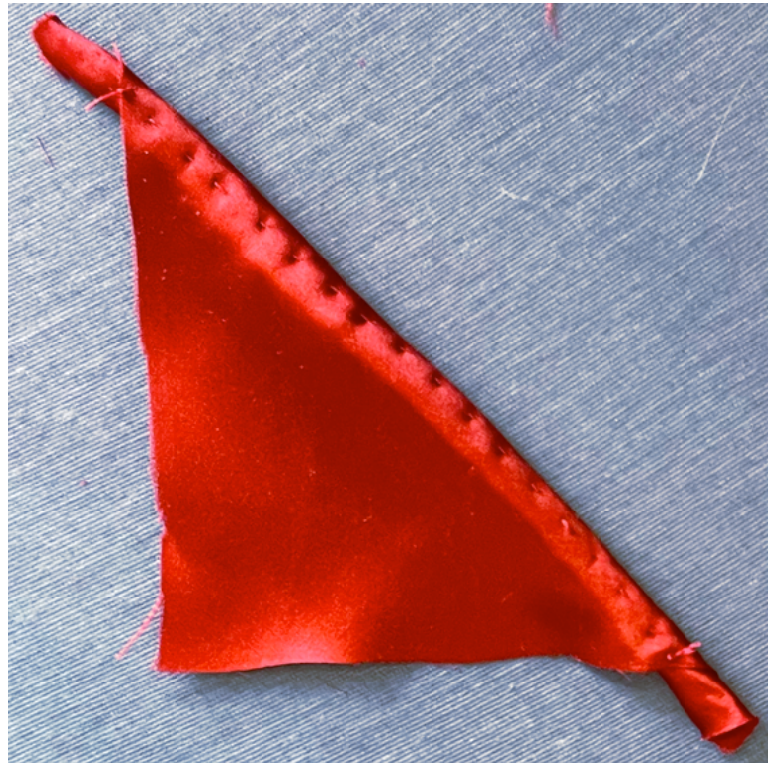
At this point you should have two layers of fabric on both sides of the bone. Pinning from an angle, pin the fabric of the last roll to the one beneath it. Note the pins are not going in to the ironing board cover.



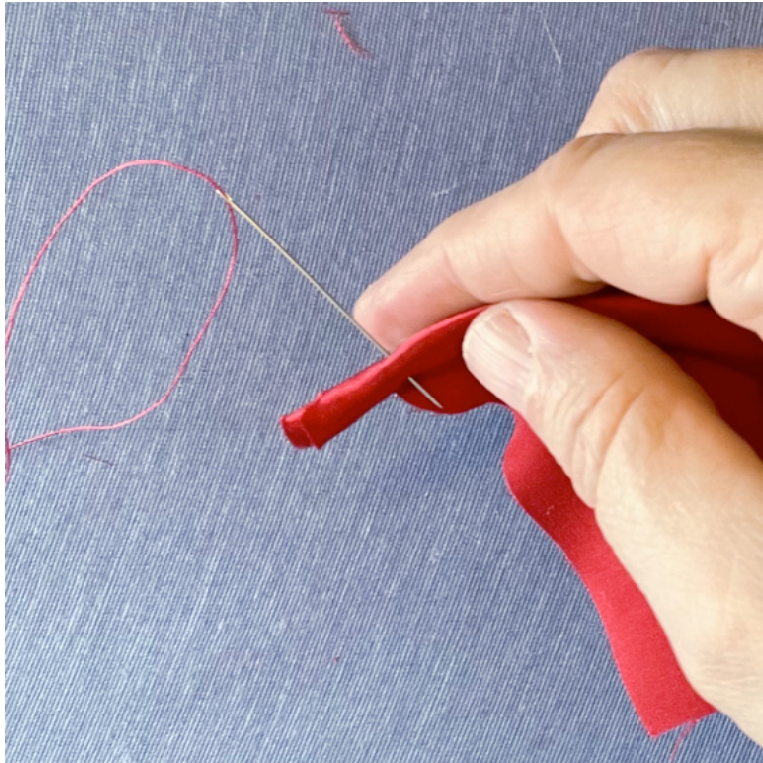
With matching color thread sew a running stitch from end to end catching the fabric below. The flexibility of the bones really helps here and the ridges of the metal let you know when you are past the lowest layer of fabric.



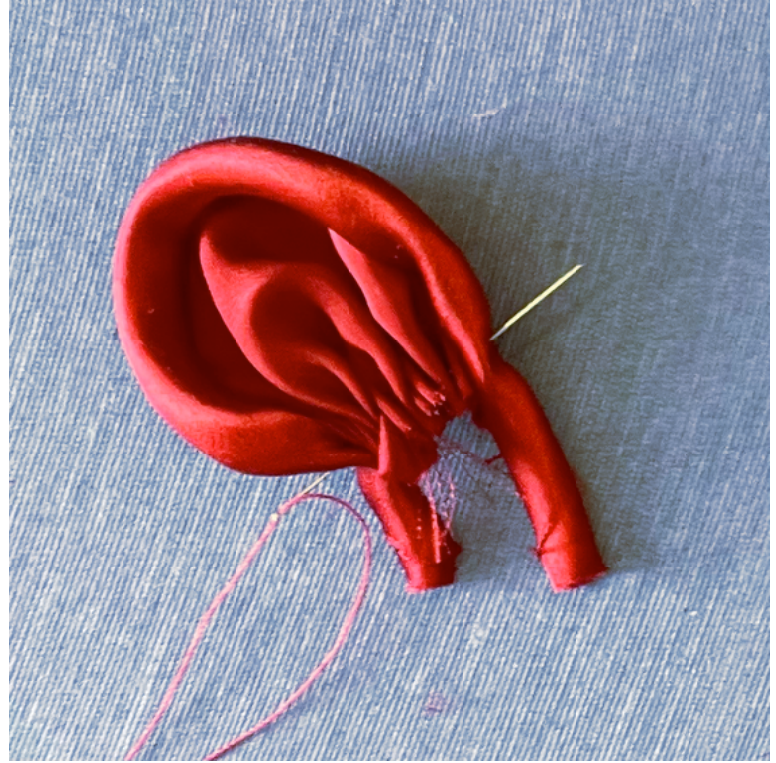
When you reach the other side do not knot off. Unclip one side and let out the bias stretch you added. Adjust your thread to take up the slack.



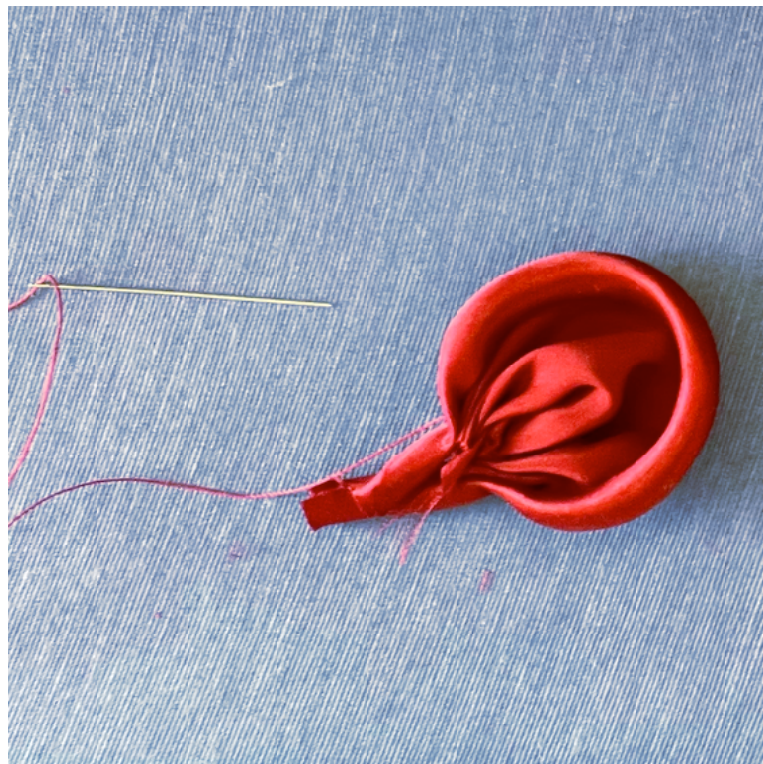
Knot off, cut the thread and take the fabric off the bone.



Start another thread by sewing right thru the roll. The stitching is on the back of the roll right now.

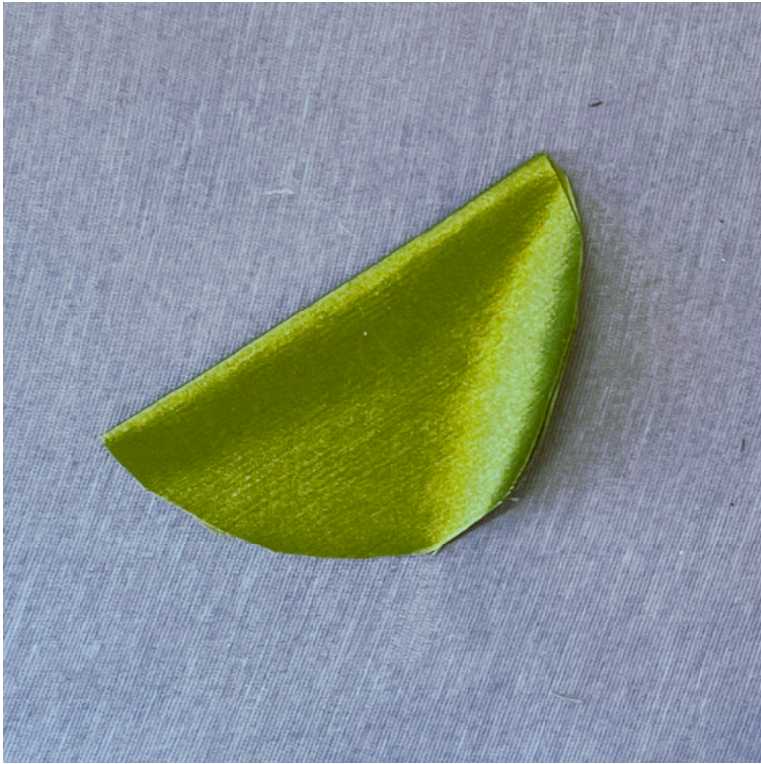


Sew a gathering stitch as shown on the pattern piece and end by sewing thru the other roll in the with the same angle as you started.

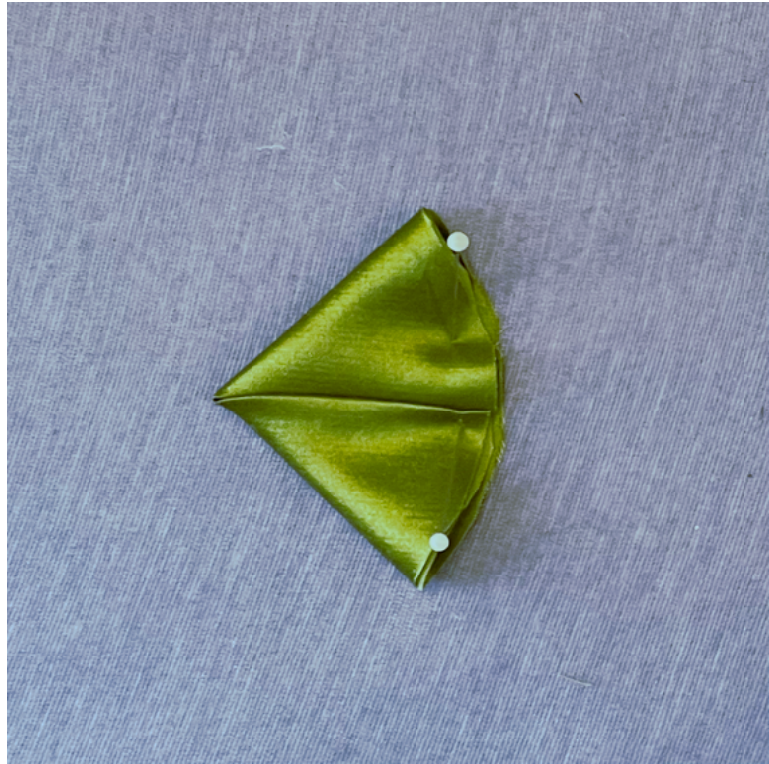


Pull the thread as tightly as you can and knot off. Repeat with the other 4 petals. Trim the base of the petals close to the stitching but be careful not to cut it. Set them aside.

## Flat leaf



Fold the circle of fabric in half along the straight of grain line and press the piece.



Fold each half to the center. Pin to hold the folds.



With matching thread sew a running stitch across the cut edge about 1/4" in from the edge catching all the layers.



Gather the thread until you get a leaf shape, knot off and cut the thread.

## Type 1; rolled edge flower petals, 5 petal flat flower



With matching thread tack stitch the leaves down to a piece of crinoline with their raw edges close to the center of the crinoline. Slightly overlap them and sew them down near the stitching.



Lay out the 5 petals side by side and pin into place. With matching thread tack them to the crinoline. You will want to make all your stitches in folds so they do not show. Also, do not stitch them too close to the edge of the petal.



This is what it will look like from the underside. Trim away the extra crinoline so that you will have extra to tack your flower to the hat but it will not be seen from the right side along the white line.



Tack the flower to your hat with as few stitches as possible to secure it. I used a grouping of matching stones leftover from the dress trim but you could use a fancy or covered button.

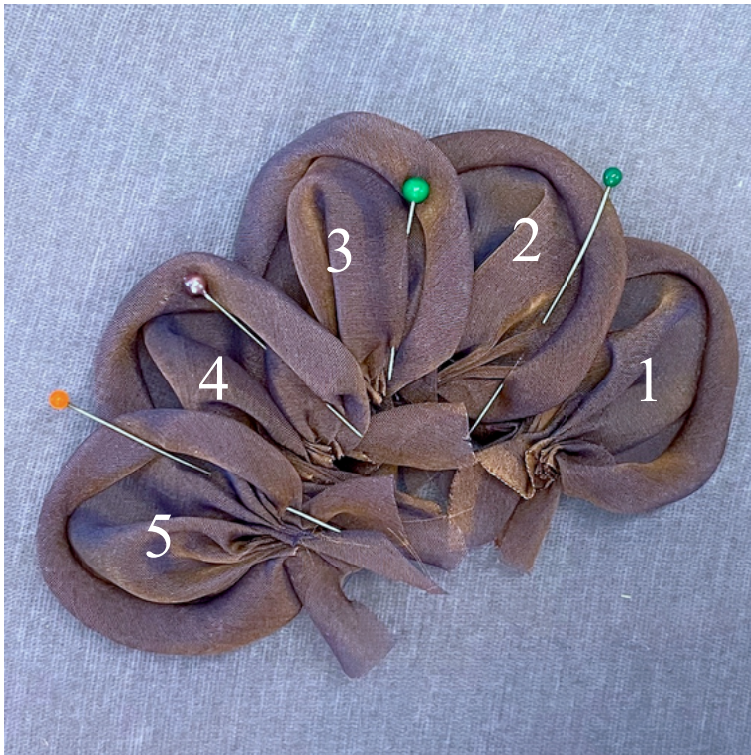
## Type 1; rolled edge flower petals, 5 petal individual flowers and buds



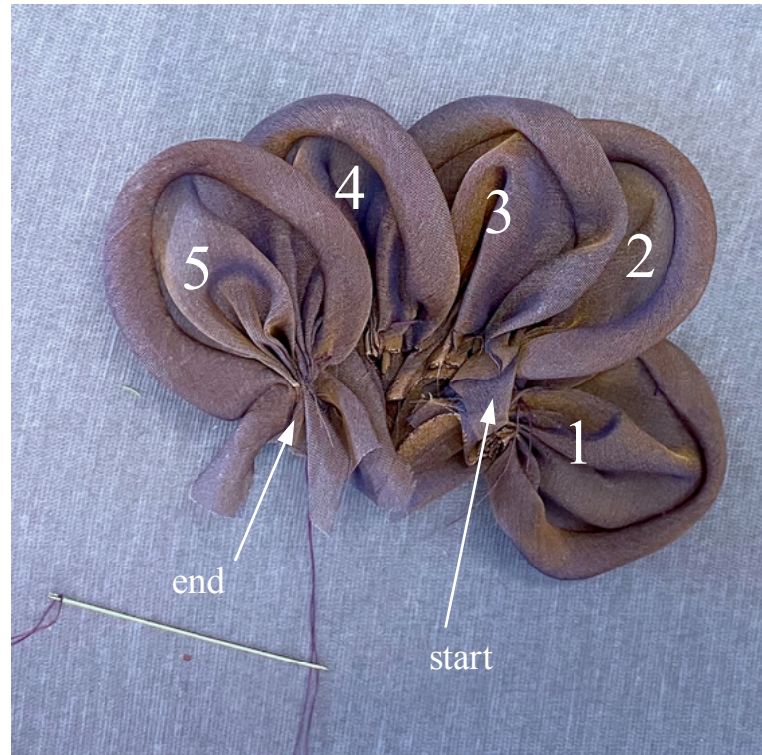
Instead of making a flower and attaching each petal to crinoline you can make the same type of flower and attach them one by one to a hat.



These three flowers were all made with sheer or almost sheer drapie fabrics. So, the fabric needed to be spray starched first. The flowers were made into petals the same way as the red petals from the flat flower.



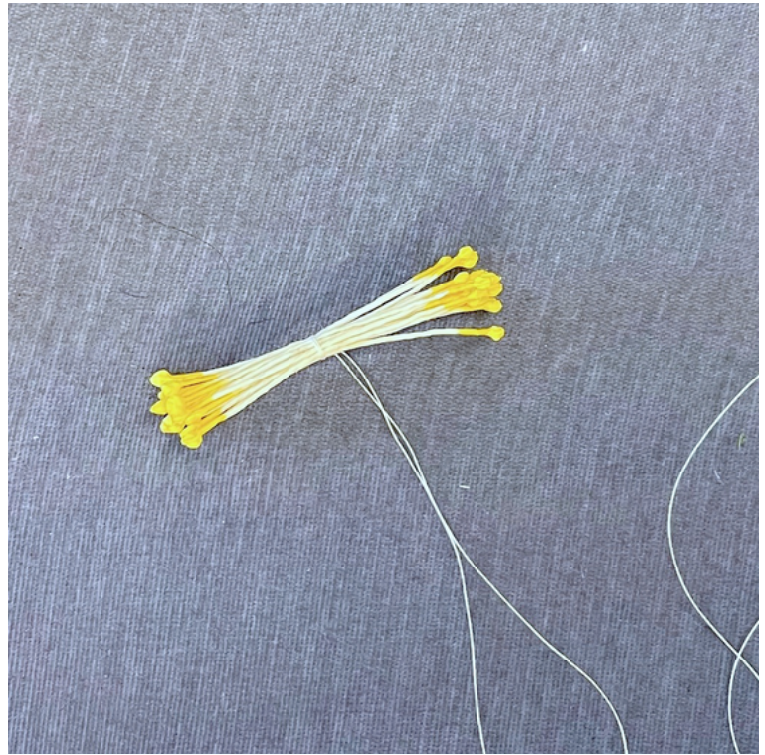
Take 5 of your prepared petals and line them so they overlap about 1/2 at the base. Pin them.



Sew them together with a running stitch starting at the edge of petal 2 and going to just past petal 4.



To prepare the stamen, gather up ~16.



Line them up evenly with both ends matched and with a heavy thread, tie off the center.



Fold the bundle in half and use the rest of the thread to bind the entire folded bundle.



Tack glue the bundle to the base of the middle petal. Then form the petals into a circle around the stamen and continue stitching thru petals 1 and 5.

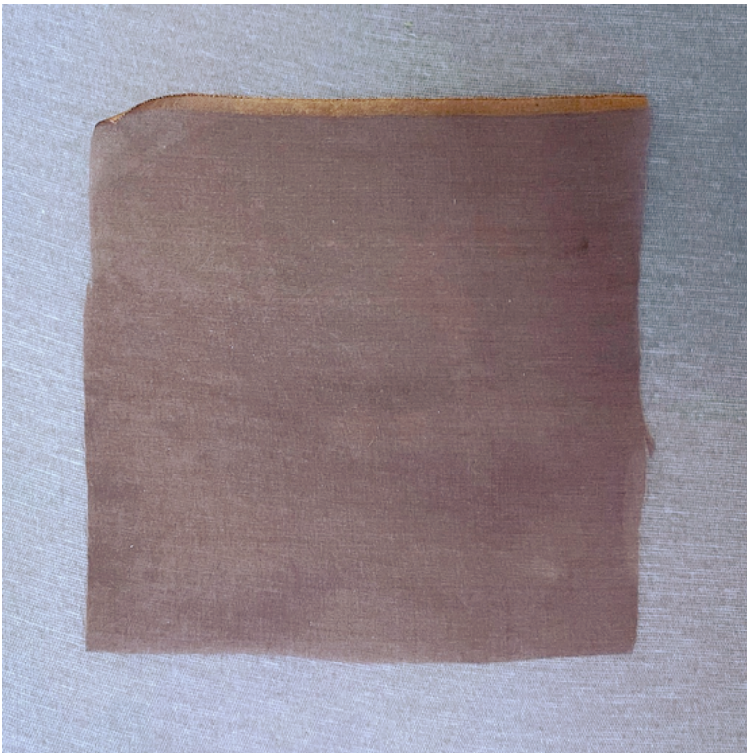


Gather up your running stitches. Tighten it as much as possible and knot off. Don't cut the thread, wrap it around the base a few times then knot off and trim the extra fabric below the stitching.

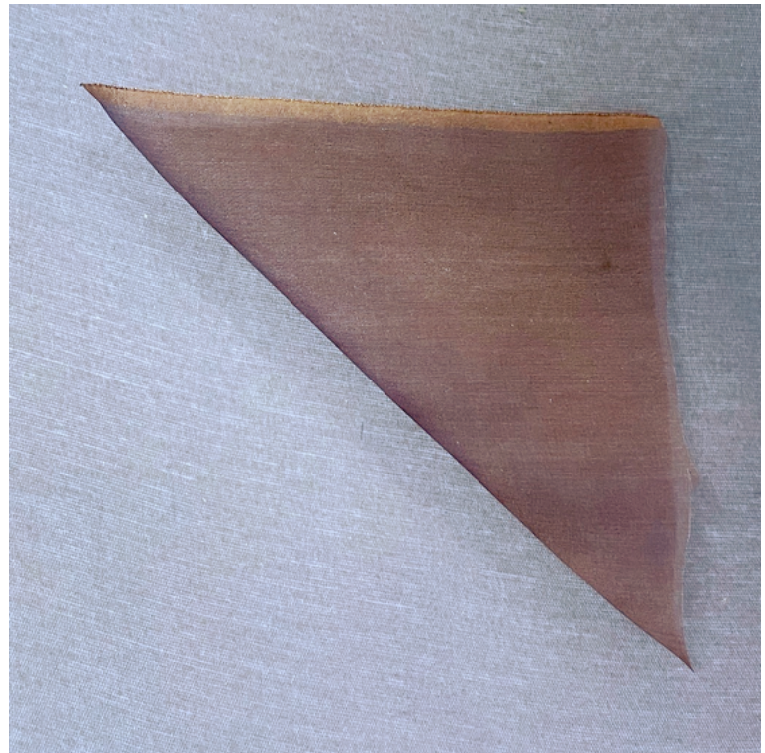


The flower is ready to tack stitch to your hat. You do need to attach the middle and you need to add a small stitch in each petal just under the roll. I have stuck pins so you can see about where stitches have to go.

### **Type 1; rolled edge flower buds**



Start with a square of fabric on the straight of grain, see the pattern.



Fold it in half point to point.



Fold it in half again but not all the way. Pin it to keep it lined up.



With matching thread sew a running stitch across the base of the bud as shown on pattern.



Cut a piece of heavy stem wire. Use you pliers to make a small circle at one end of the wire .



Slip the wire into the middle of the bud and out between the stitching.



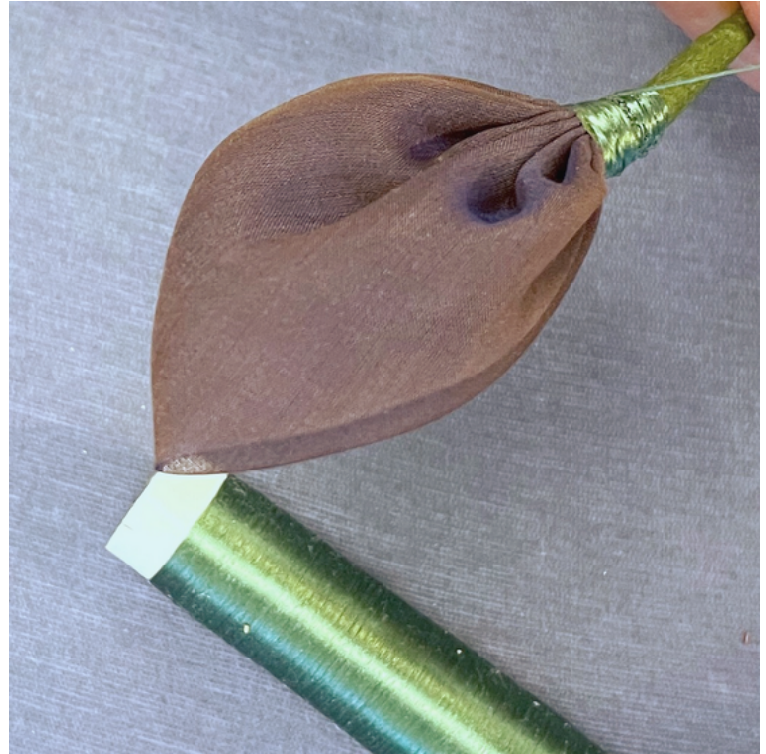
Gather the stitching as much as possible, knot off and use the rest of your thread to wrap the seam allowance below the stitching as tight to the wire as you can. Cover this with Florist tape.



Usually it's a bit easier to wrap florist tape from the base of the stem up to the thicker part of the stem. Florist tape gets tacky with the warmth of your hands and when it is stretched so, stretch it as you wrap.



Optional: To really give these buds a vintage feel, I recommend covering the stem with flat silk embroidery thread.



Add a thin coat of glue near the top of the stem. Make sure the start of your thread is well glued to the florist tape. Just in case the glue discolors the thread wrap that section of the stem a couple times.



Continue wrapping the flat silk down the stem until you reach the end and then glue the last 1/2" of thread.



To give the bud a little more dimension you can stuff it with cotton or some scraps of your fabric.



Stuffed bud from the sides.



The individual flowers were tacked stitched to the hat and the buds (one to match each flower) were bundle by their stems with the ribbon. They were tack stitched, first near the knot in the ribbon then, each bud was tacked into place.

## Type 2; wired rolled edge petals, 3 petal rose bud on a stem



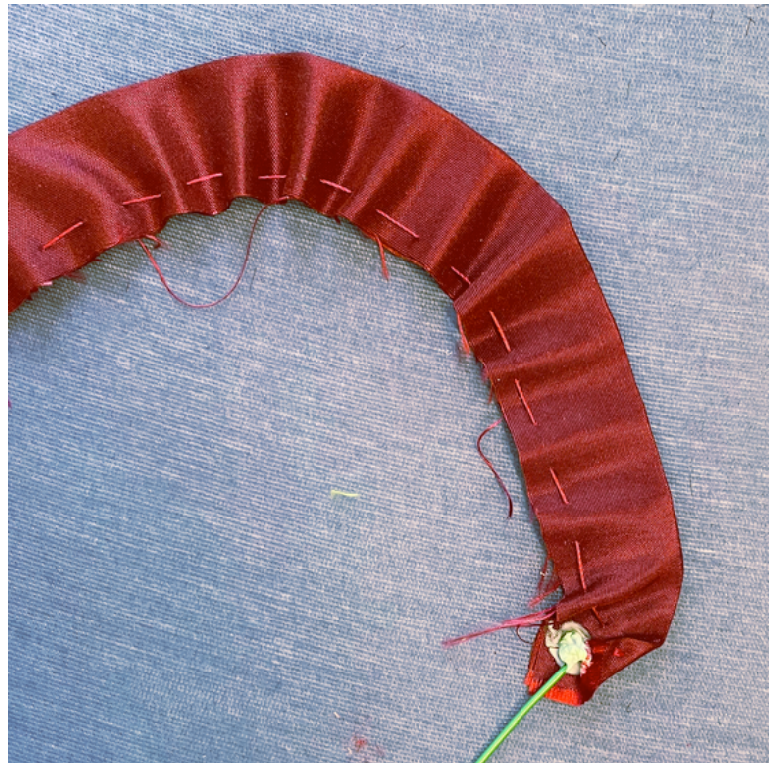
Cut three smaller petals from the pattern and one center strip. Press the rose center fabric piece in half, longways.



With a matching color thread sew a running stitch along the cut edges starting at one fold and stitching to the other as shown on the pattern piece. Do not knot or cut your thread.



Cut a piece of heavy stem wire. Use you pliers to make a small circle at the end of the wire .



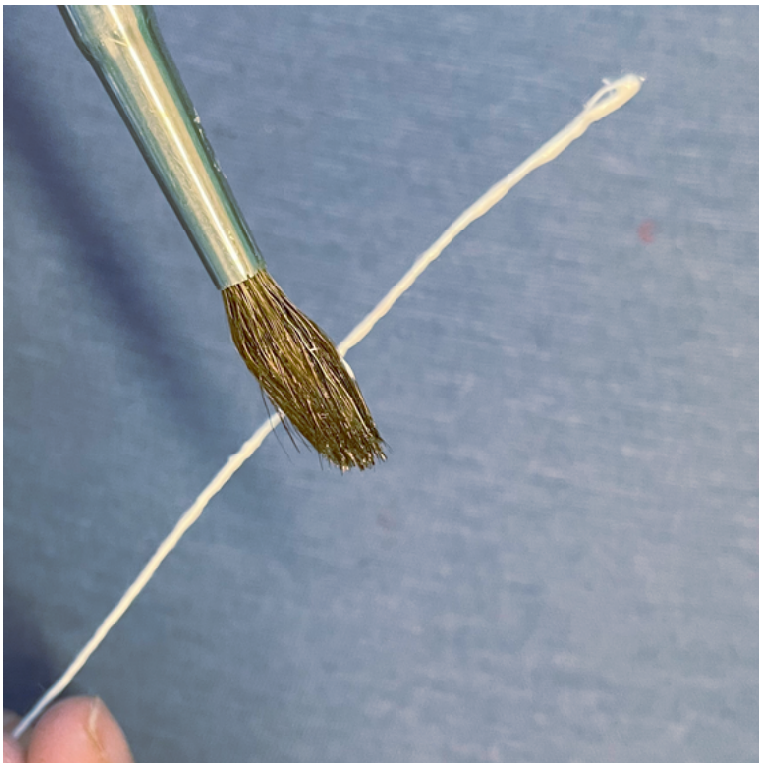
Glue the circle to one end of the gathered fabric.



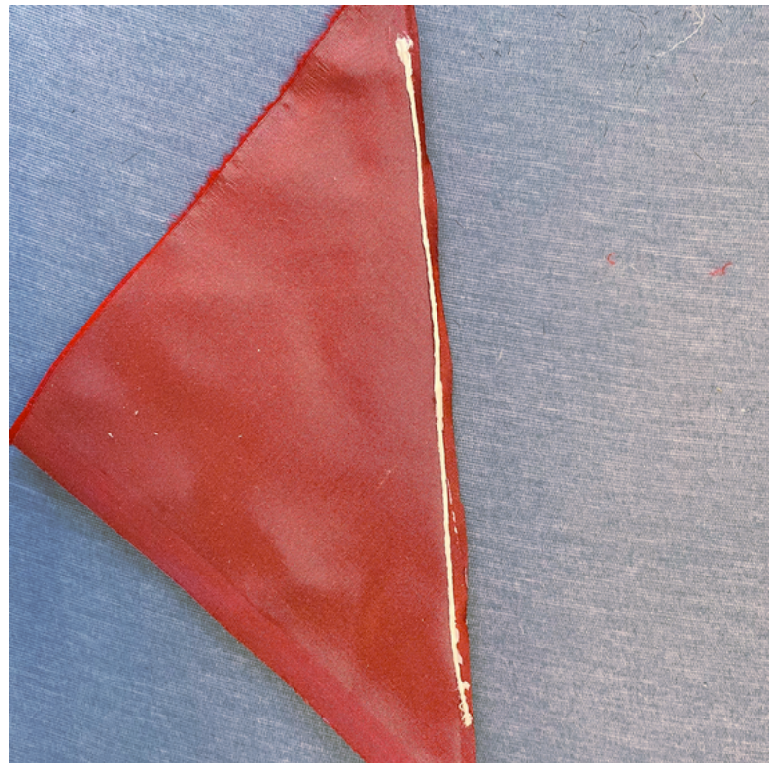
When the glue is dry, start wrapping the fabric around the center, if you find you need to gather it up more, do that.



When you reach the end, knot the thread and use the rest of the thread on your needle to sew back and forth thru the layers to anchor all the rounds and incase the seam allowances.



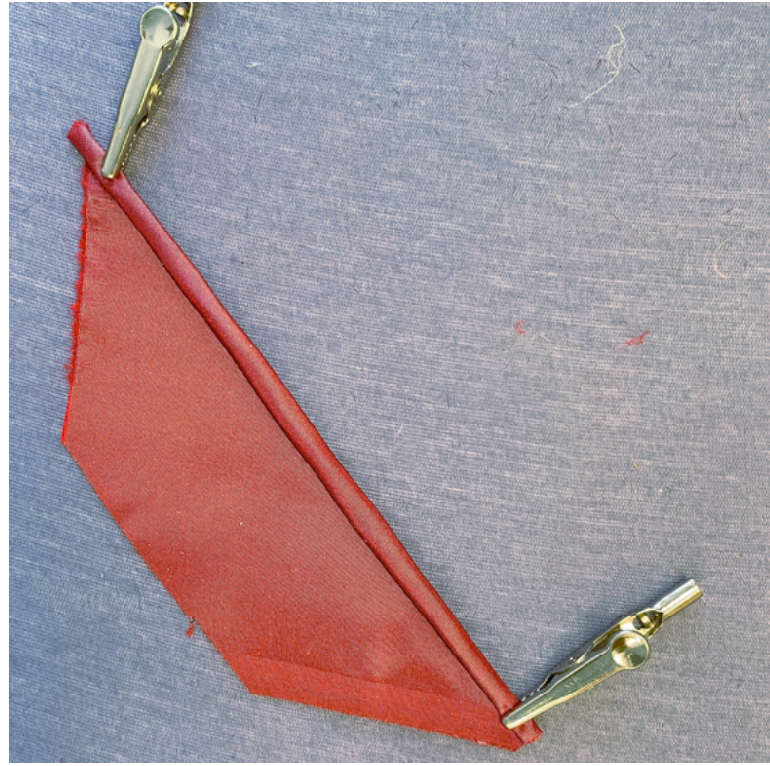
Cut your lightweight stem wire into 3, 6" long pieces. Coat one wire with white glue



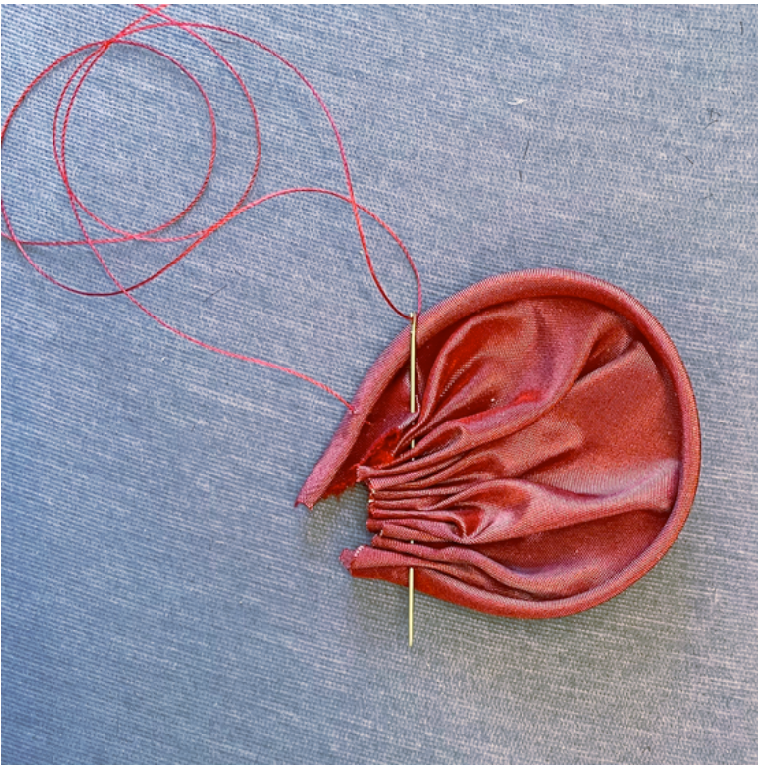
Press the wire onto the longside (bias) of the triangle.



Holding it near the ends roll towards the pointed end. Roll it 2 and a half times.



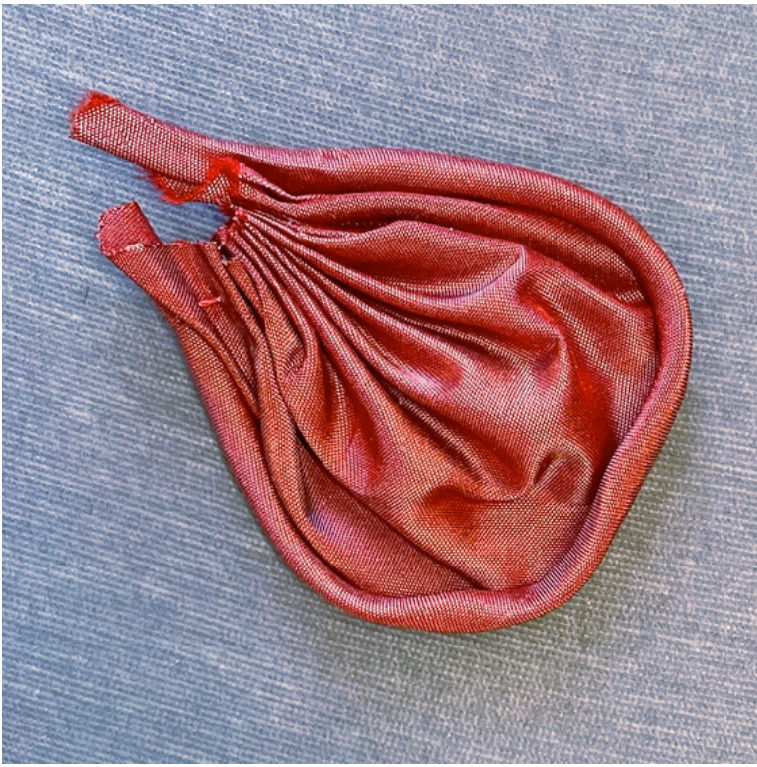
Use some clips to keep it from unrolling. Note: for this flower I cut away the part of the point before gathering it instead of after either way will work.



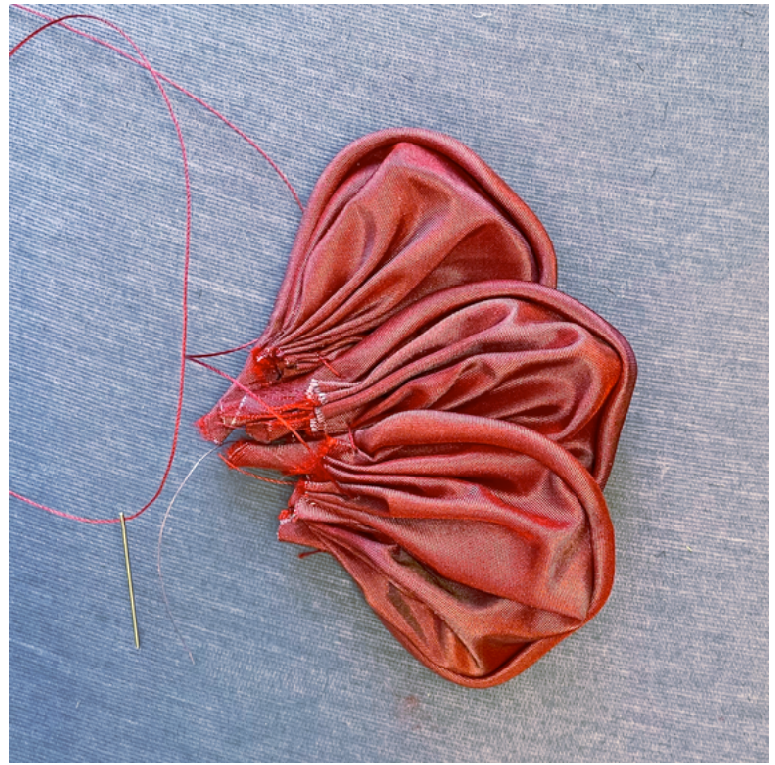
As with the unwired petals start your running stitch by sewing thru the roll and end sewing thru the roll on the other side.



Gather the stitch up until the base is about 3/4 to 1" wide and knot off.



Use the wire to add some shape to the petal.



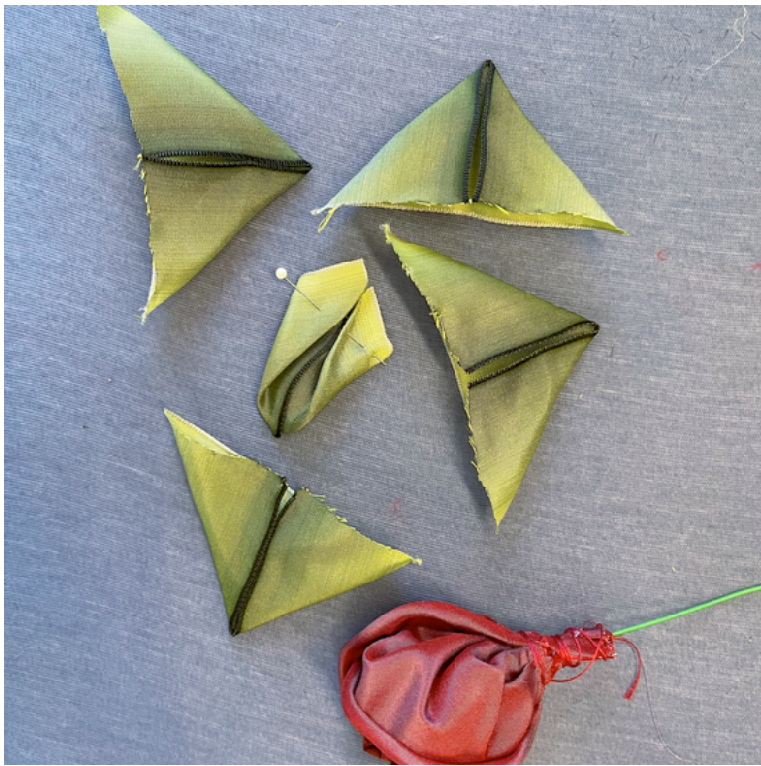
When you have 3 ready, sew a running stitch along the base of the petals about 1/4" in from the cut edge while the petals are 1/2 overlapped, as shown. When you reach the point there there is only one petal thick start sewing thru the first petal to form a circle of petals.



Slip the circle of petals up the stem wire and around the base of the spiral center. Use the rest of your thread to secure the circle of petals to the base of the spiral.



While you could use fabric to make the 5 pointed calyx at the base of the petals using wired ribbon is a bit easier. Cut 5 pieces of ribbon 3" long. Pull the wire from the lighter side.



From the center point on the dark side of each piece fold the ends in to form a triangle.



With matching thread sew a running stitch  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above the edge of the ribbon. The side shown will be the outside of the calyx. When you reach the end, sew thru the first piece where you started the running stitch to form a circle of the pieces.



Slip it into place at the base of the flower and gather as tightly as possible and sew thru the base several times to make sure it will not slip down.



All that is left is to cover the stem wire. I recommend first to cover it with florist tape then with ribbon, 7mm wide silk embroidery ribbon is a good choice.



Wrap the tape around the stem from the base to the thicker part of the stem. Florist tape gets tacky with the warmth of your hands and when it is stretched so, stretch it as you wrap.



Also start from the bottom with the silk ribbon. Glue the first 1/4" and let it dry before you start to wrap. If you need to add small dots of glue when you reach the wide part, do so.



Finished rose shown with a smaller 3 petal bud made with 3" pieces of wired ombre ribbon 1.5" wide. It was made just as the larger fabric flower except the wire on the second edge of the ribbon was removed.

## Type 2; wired rolled edge petals, a large rose not on a stem



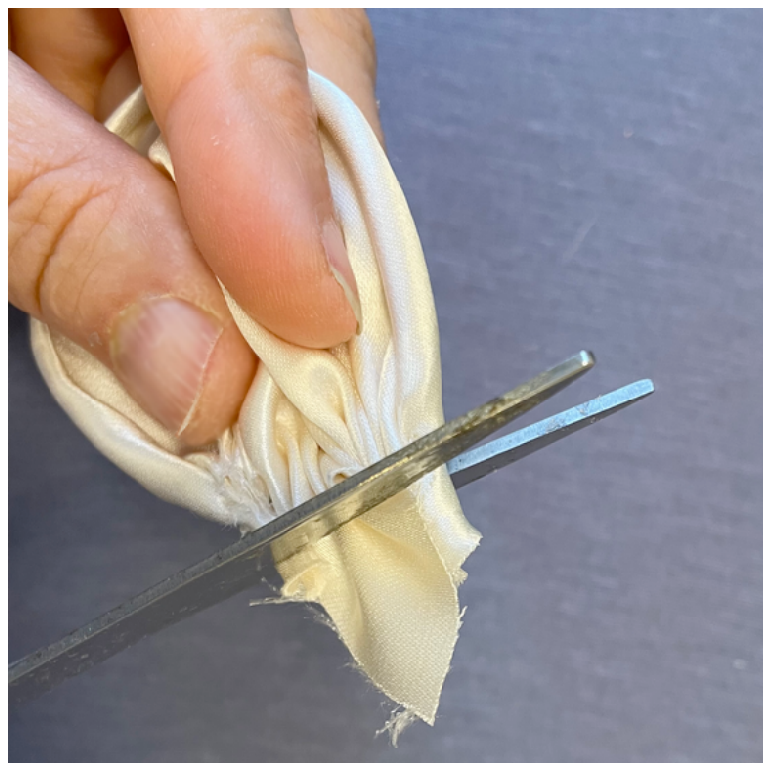
Follow the instructions for making the rose center already given except use a narrow clip to hold the center in place while you wrap.



Make sure to secure all the layers by sewing back and forth across the base from several angles. Trim away the seam allowances about 1/8" below the stitching.



Cut three of the smaller petal triangles and 15 of the larger triangles. Follow the instructions for adding wire, rolling and gathering petals already given for all 18 petals. Leave gathers at the base of the petals at least 1" wide.



Trim the base of each petal about 1/8 to 1/4" from the stitching.



Line up and sew together the 3 small petals as described for the rose bud petals. Gather the running stitch over something like a thick paint brush handle or dowel. Knot off your thread but keep it attached.



Slide the spiral center into the hole and use the rest of your thread to anchor both sections together.



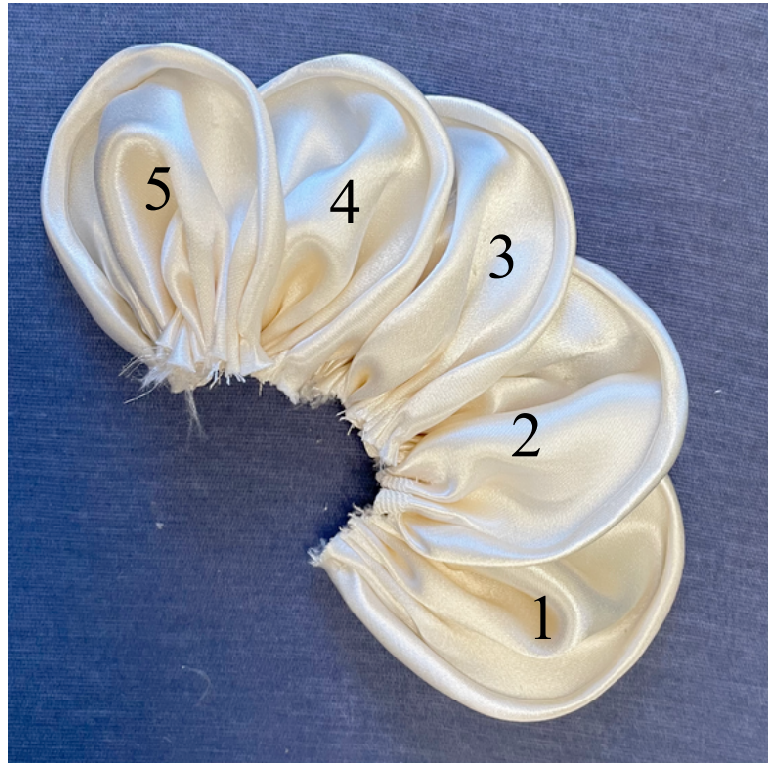
Use the wire to help you shape the petals so that they mostly cover the center spiral.



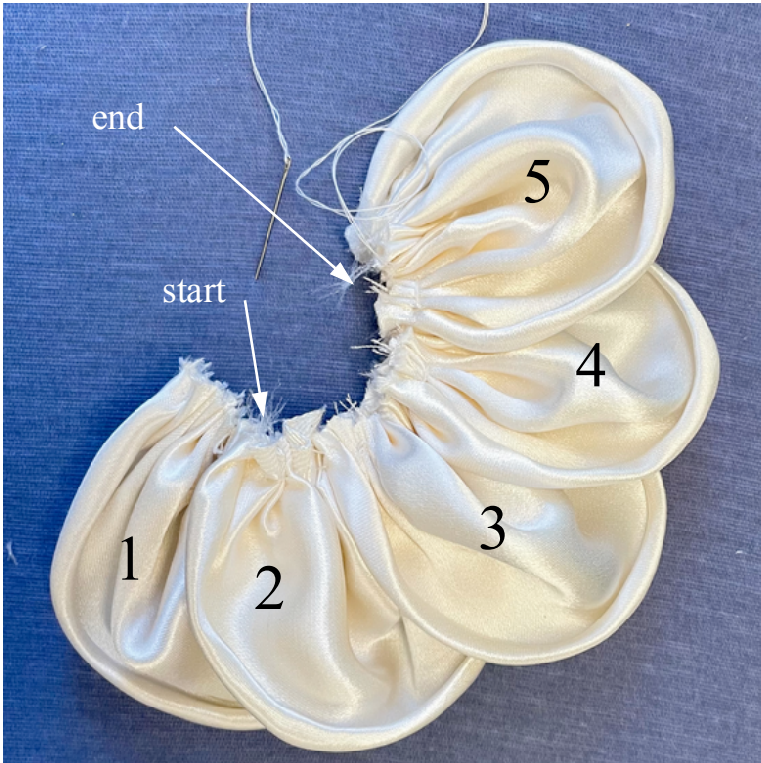
It will look like this from the underside.



Sew the center and 3 petals onto a 4" square of crinoline from the edge to the middle in 3 or 4 places around the base.



Take 5 of your prepared petals and line them so they overlap about 1/2 at the base. Pin them.



Sew them together with a running stitch starting at the edge of petal 2 and going to just past petal 4. Then form the petals into a circle and continue stitching thru petals 1 and 5. Do not gather up your running stitches up just yet.



Slip the circle of petals over the center and down to the crinoline. Tighten up your gathers and use the rest of your thread to tack the petals to both the center and the crinoline.



Use the wire to shape the petals and adjust them if necessary.



Sew the next group of 5 petals together with a running stitch so that they just overlap by the rolled edge.



Check the fit of the petals around the base of the flower and gather it up if necessary. Wrap them around the base of the flower and connect #1 to #5 with a stitch and gather more if necessary.



Make sure that this row of petals is aligned so that the middle of each of the petals in this row is across from the space between the petals in the last row.



Sew this last row of petals together with a running stitch so they do not overlap at all.



Wrap them around the base of the flower and sew #1 to #5 adjusting the gathering if necessary. Make sure the petals on this row are aligned so they are between the ones from the last row. Tack them to the crinoline. Use the wire to bend back the petals so they lay almost flat.



Make 5 flat leaves using the round pattern and the instructions already given.



Pin the leaves to the crinoline evenly spaced between the petals of the last row.



Tack stitch them to the crinoline and trim the extra crinoline.



Finished rose pinned to an early 1930s gown with a corsage pin.