

McQUEENS Floral *masterclass*

Luis Da Silva, from A-list London florist McQueens, presents this easy-to-follow guide to creating your own wow-factor wedding flowers





HAND-TIED BOUQUET

Using 'Amnesia' and 'Pacific Blue' roses, clematis, jasmine and freesias

STEP 1

Take every bloom and strip all stems of excess foliage and thorns.

STEP 2

One by one, gather the stems together in a spiral arrangement, placing each stem in at a 45-degree angle. Ensure your larger, more dominant flowers are distributed evenly throughout the bouquet, and fill any gaps with some foliage.

STEP 3

Secure the stems in place with some wired tape, which you can buy from your local garden centre. Cover the tape by wrapping the stems with ribbon. Start at the top and wind downwards tightly in a diagonal fashion, securing at the bottom with a pin. For a lovely decorative finish, complete with an arrangement of glass-headed pins. Either stick them into the stems at random, or in a straight vertical line where the ribbon meets.



TABLE GROUPING

Using 'Ambiance' and 'Piano' roses, hydrangeas, jasmine, guelder rose, clematis and lilac

STEP 1

Once you have selected your flowers, choose a variety of containers and vases in different sizes, heights and materials to complement your blooms. If you're on a budget, consider using mismatched vases that you can find at car boot sales or in your family's attic. Milk bottles and jam jars also make fabulous shabby-chic containers – ask all your friends to start collecting them and you'll soon have enough for your day.

STEP 2

Begin by stripping the stems of all your chosen blooms, making sure that you remove all of the excess foliage and thorns. Then cut all the stems to the same length. To recreate the above look, gather together small posies of the same flower variety and secure loosely with wire around the middle of the stems. For the larger posies (seen at the back), break up the design by placing foliage in-between the dominant blooms.

STEP 3

Fill each container with water and place your small posies carefully within. Then take each arrangement and display along the length of your reception tables, grouping similar heights in a line. For an extra-special finishing touch, scatter sprigs of jasmine in-between each display. The bloom's incredible fragrance will fill the room with a sweet and exotic scent, as well as adding the perfect decorative element to your tables. ▶



1



2



3



BUTTONHOLE

Using 'Amnesia' rose, lily grass and jasmine

STEP 1

Cut a stem of lily grass in half along its length, creating two thin strips. Make a loop with the lily grass and secure with wire at the bottom. Conceal the wire on both the leaves and the lily grass by binding them with florist's tape.

STEP 2

Clean the stem of your main flower, removing all leaves and thorns, then cut it back to 10cm below the flower head. Keeping the stem long will ensure your buttonhole lasts for hours out of water. If using a rose, pin the sepal (part of a flower that surrounds and protects the bloom in bud) to the rose head, using wire, to prevent the flower from opening as the day progresses.

STEP 3

Strengthen the leaves by 'stitching' a 26-gauge wire through the back of the leaf, bend the wire back on itself and secure it by twisting it around the stalk. Finally, group all the blooms and foliage into position, then secure by winding tape around the stems. **W**

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