

## How to make the stamen for crepe paper flowers (the fringe/wrapping technique)

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Whether you are a child or an adult, a beginner or have tried your hand at making crepe paper flowers before, you can learn how to make the centre (the stamen) of crepe paper flowers using what we call the fringe/wrapping technique. It's a simple technique to follow. For crepe paper flowers you will need to use strong crepe paper with a high stretch/crepe percentage. This allows you to shape the petals without them breaking, and at the same time they will hold their shape if handled properly. The crepe paper can only stretch in one direction, so it is important to turn the paper the right way.

### *Hoe werkt het*



**1** Cut a long piece of crepe paper to the given height – for example 14 x 3.5 cm. For the very short fringes, the piece of crepe paper measures 14 x 1 cm. Depending on the finished look, you may stretch the paper completely, or half out or not at all. Fold the piece of crepe paper twice lengthwise; you now have four layers. Cut fringes through all four layers along the length. Cut the fringes with an approx. 1-4 mm gap between each and 0.5-1 cm from the edge.



**2** Now roll up this piece of crepe paper with the fringes tightly. Roll it between your hands to thin out the fringes. You may want to twist or bend the fringes as well.



**3** Unfold the piece of crepe paper and attach it onto one end of a floral stem wire using a hot melt glue gun or Clear Multi Glue Gel. The latter takes longer to dry. Use the fringes on the inside of the flower for the stamen or for the outer petals.





**4** You may decorate the stamen with, for example, sprinkles made from small pieces of cut-up crepe paper. Make sprinkles by cutting a strip of crepe paper. Cut tassels, roll the strip of crepe paper together and cut along the tassels to make sprinkles.



**5** Squeeze a blob of glue onto a board and dab the edges of the stamen into the glue. Dab the stamen into the orange sprinkles, making sure the sprinkles stick onto the stamen.



**6** Handle the stamen gently whilst drying for approx. 10 min.



**7** You may dip the stamen in glitter before rolling it up, attaching it onto a floral stem wire. This is done by dipping the fringes in a blob of Clear Multi Glue Gel and into a tub of glitter (for example gold glitter as shown in this photo). Handle the stamen gently whilst drying for approx. 10 min.



**8** Variant photo showing examples of how different stamen in the middle of the flower can look.