

# Flower Wedding Jewelry

## How to prepare and press your flowers for best results

Make sure your flowers are fresh and well hydrated.

While having the actual bridal bouquet is a great idea, we always suggest asking the florist to reserve some of the wedding bouquet flowers for you in water separately, in case the bouquet is not in the best of shape when you get your hands on it!

Throughout these directions, we use hydrangea in our photos, as they are very commonly used in wedding flowers; they last, press well and keep their color. Of course you may use other flowers, petals and leaves.

### What you will need:

- Flower Press from The Petal Connection
- Flowers, petals and leaves to press
- Completed *Flowers needed for my planned order* Form so you know what sizes and quantities you need
- Scissors or kitchen shears
- Sufficient flat work area
- About an hour of your time, when you're not feeling rushed. We do not suggest changing a location once you start, or getting interrupted.



**Undo the velcro ties** on the Flower Press and **remove the cover**. Set the cover aside – you won't need it until the very end. Be careful – the sheets of absorbent paper inside the press (the pages) are loose and not bound together.

Notice the **color tabs** that have been placed throughout the pages of the press. These indicate the points at which you need to place the flowers – both to ensure that enough blank sheets are between them to absorb moisture, and to mark the pages where



where are flowers so that we can find them when we receive the press back from you.



Carefully lift all the pages and fold them over to the left. Looking at the left side of your pages, turn back the first section with the first color tab on top. This would be like turning to page, say, 95 of a 100 page book. You now have the area where the first batch of flowers will be laid for pressing, which will end up at the very bottom of the press when you are done. Make sure all four Velcro straps are visible and not twisted underneath.

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Now you are ready to prepare the individual flowers. Remove a small batch of blossoms – about 10 – 12 from their stems. You can do this with your fingers, or with scissors.

Carefully trim off as much of the stem that's sticking up as you can without the petals falling apart. Small scissors work best.



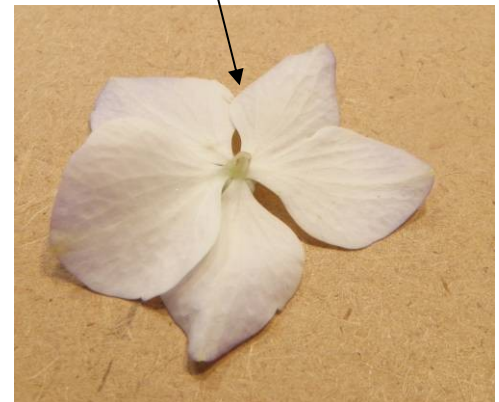
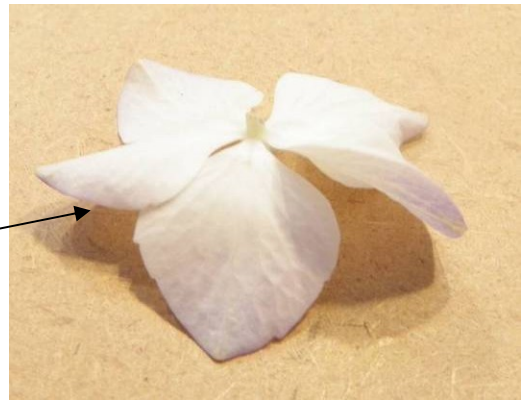
You will notice that each blossom seems to have a mind of its own, and it curls and curves this way and that...

It's important you show it who is the boss, and give it a firm idea of what you want it to do.

You can use one of two ways:



Gently, but decisively, press down on the center of blossom with your fingertip, and force it to lie down the way you want it to press. You may even hear a soft crunch as you do this. Or, you can gently squeeze through the center of the blossom between your thumb and index finger. Voila, flatter flower!



Give your chosen flowers one last inspection – discard any damaged ones that show crease marks, folds, brown spots, or other imperfections like this. Any small imperfection now will be magnified when the flower is pressed!



Now you are ready to place the prepared flowers on the page.

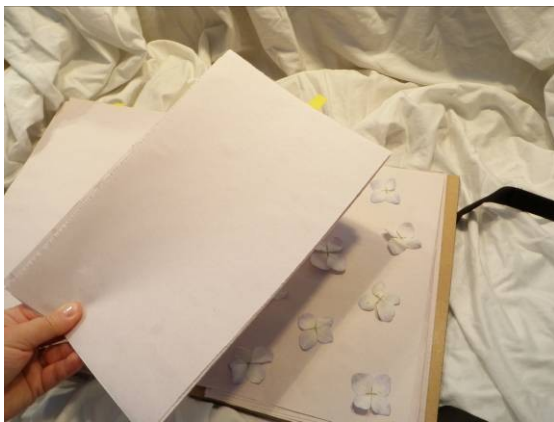
Leave at least as much room around each of the flowers as the size of the flower itself.

Do not line up the flowers in straight rows in any direction, as this may result in a crease across the whole sheet and they will not press evenly.

Place them as randomly as possible. Do not overcrowd them, because as the moisture releases during the pressing process, this may cause mold and browning.

When you are satisfied with your placement, look to the left side of your book, and lift the next section, up to the next color tab.

“Flip” this section over, as if you’re flipping back in the book, and gently lay the pages on top of your first flower covered page.



Be careful to lay it directly on top, do not “scoot” or slide it around. You do not want to disturb the flowers you so carefully arranged in any way!

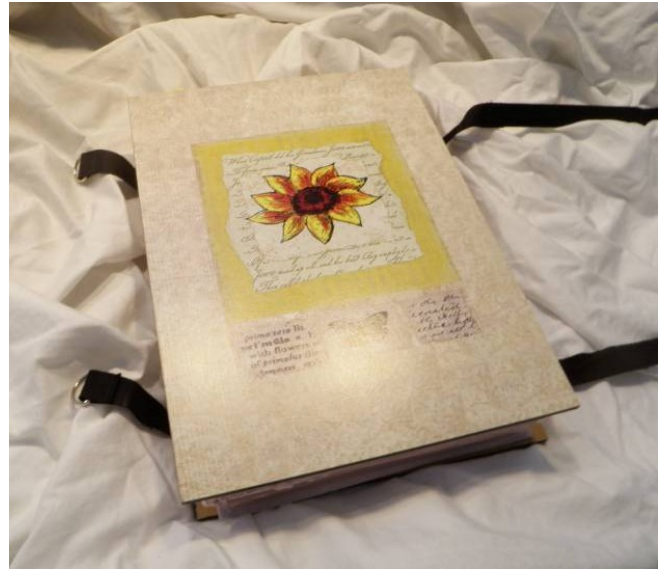
Now you are ready to prepare the next batch of flowers, and arrange them on this blank page. Leave the cardboard pieces inside the stack, where they are placed.

Keeping in mind the sizes and types of flowers you will be ordering for your jewelry pieces, as totaled up in your previously completed ***Flowers needed for my planned order*** form, keep repeating the above steps until the Flower Press is full and you have no more pages to add from the stack of blank pages on the left.



Place the cover on top of your pressing pages' stack. You may need a second set of hands for this part.

While pressing straight down on the cover, insert the ends of the Velcro straps (right) through the buckles of the other ends (left).



Tighten the straps as tight as you are able to.



Place the whole Flower Press under a heavy object such as a full box, large pot filled with cans, or the edge of a small sofa. Make sure that weight is equally distributed. Do not disturb for about a week or so.



**Resist the urge to peek inside the Flower Press at any time after you close it! The flowers will be ruined if you do so.**

After a week, ship the Flower Press back to us with your order.  
**Absolutely no peeking! The flowers are not dry yet!**

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