

How to:

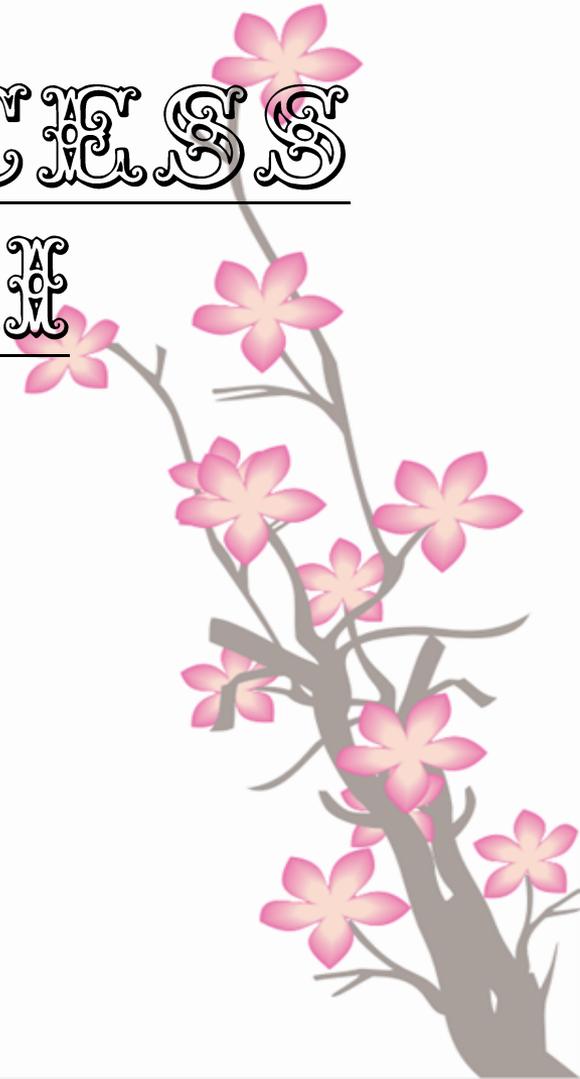
PEARL PRINCESSES

KANZA SHEE

Step by Step Guide

Photos: Arleen

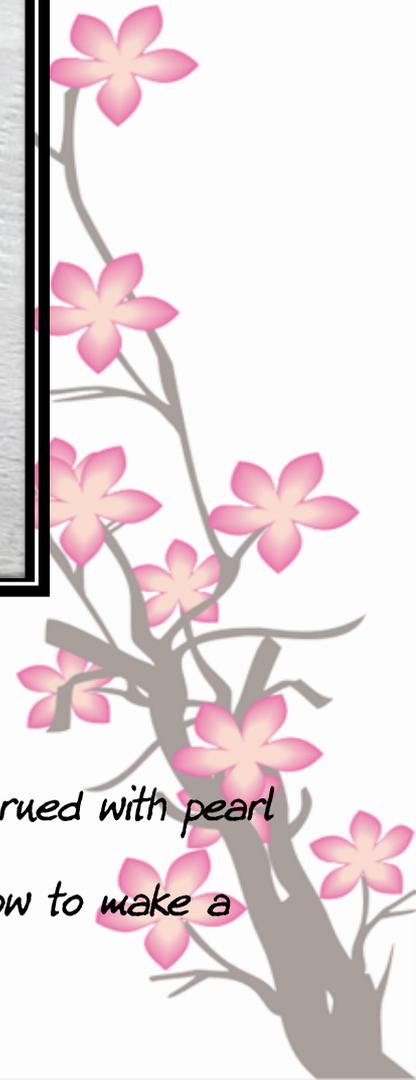
Background: Christian Clip Art





Pearl Princess

This little tsumami kanzashi-styled hairpin is made of thin crepe silk and adorned with pearl cabochons. It was a present for my friend and I used it as an example how to make a tsumami kanzashi hairpin.



Textile

I use silk - usually natural or synthetic natural blends. This particular piece is a part of old kimono lining. I didn't dye it in any way, deciding that the pale-pink will be best for this particular piece. I starched and ironed it. Here you see how the piece looked before, and after I've done all the work with it.

HINT: I use an old cloth to iron the silk, since it is best ironed damp and it sometimes leaves dye marks.



The Base

Making the base is REALLY simple.

You will need:

A cardboard or very thin 1mm felt circle. T

HINT: the size of the squares you will be using can be a hint of how big the circles have to be (for example: 2cm squares = 2 cm circles).

A bit of florist wire (let's say 10-12cm)

Round pliers

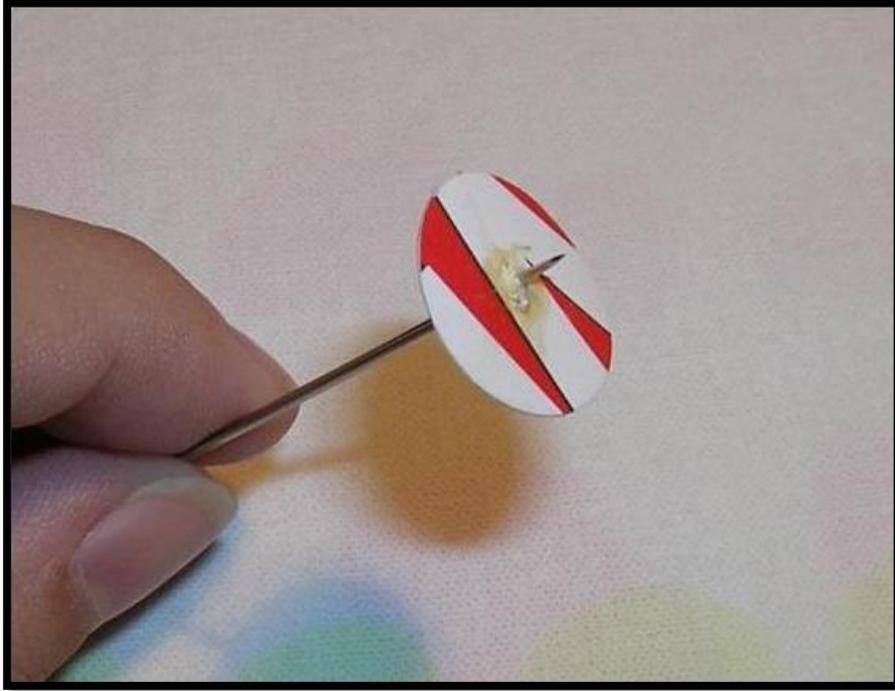
A sewing needle

A bit of foam or a thick piece of felt

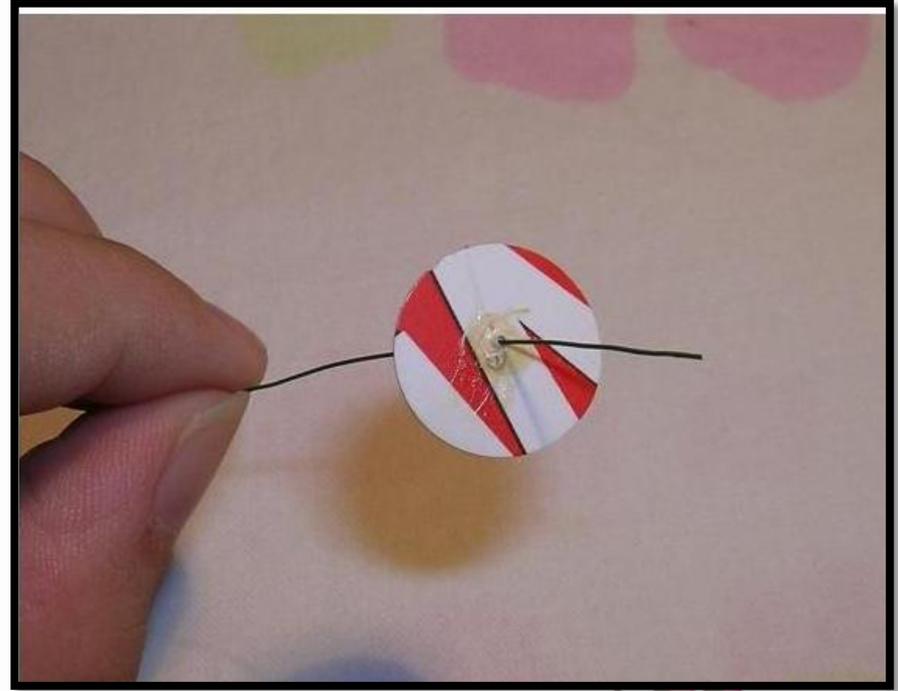
Glue



The Base



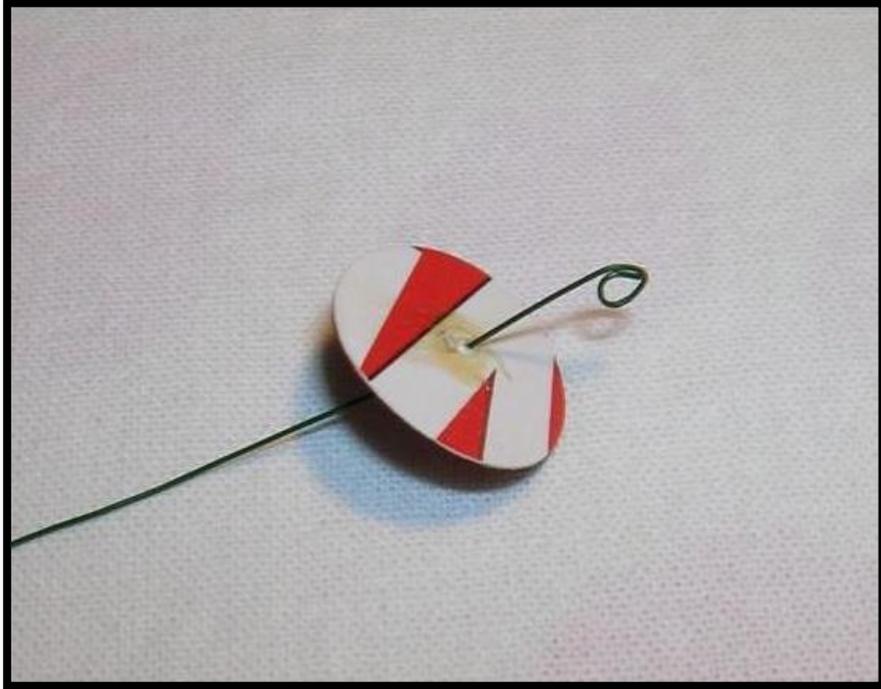
Run the needle through the centre of the circle. Mind that the hole shouldn't be too big. Just enough to...



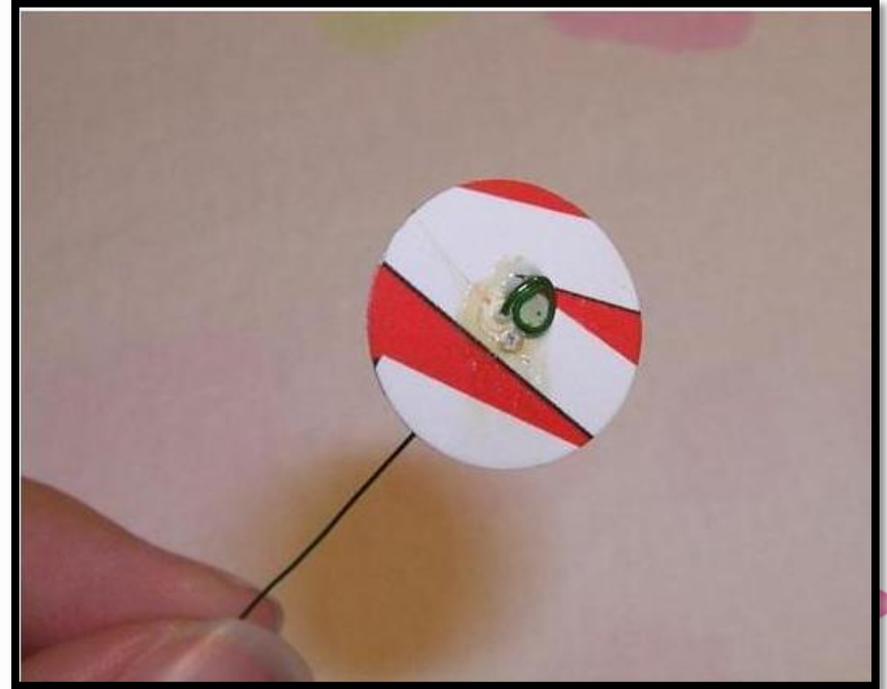
Run the wire through the hole.



The Base - Continued



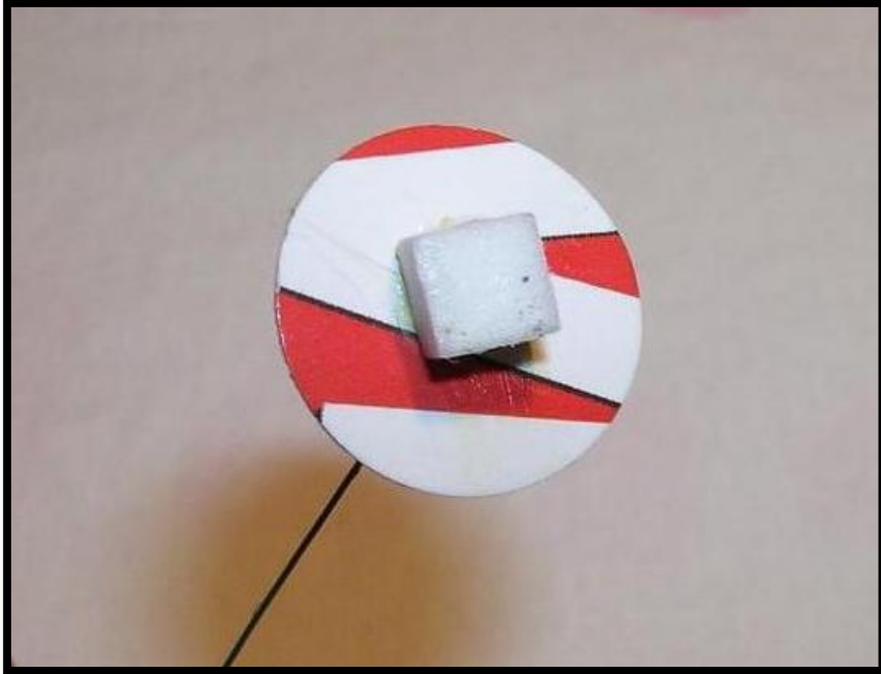
Now with the round pliers make a loop from the wire



Not bend the wire so it stays flat on the circle. You may put a dab of hot glue to secure, the loop stays that way.



The Base - Finished Product



Glue a piece of foam or cardboard or felt on top. Leave to dry and it's ready!



This is an example made out of felt. I pressed the felt so it's 1mm thick and used a small piece of 2.5 mm felt as the centre.

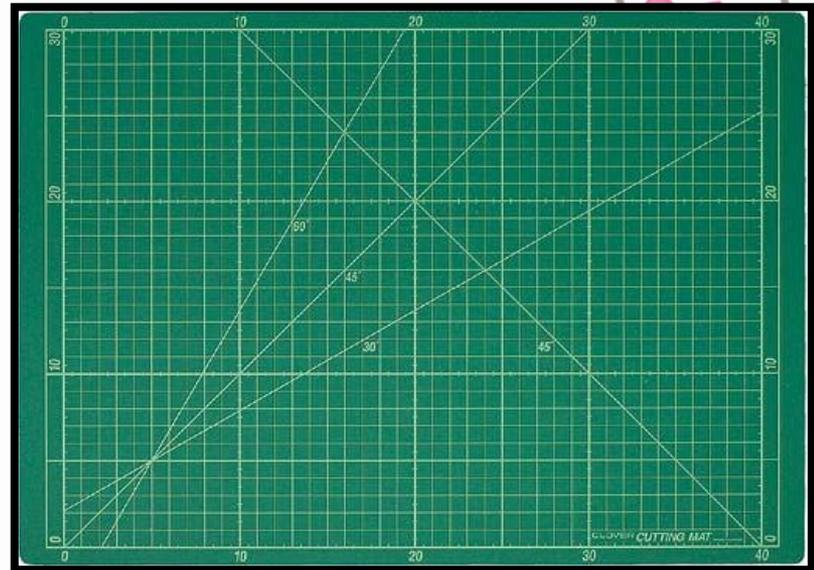
The wire is there, the photo is simply very dark.

Preparing the Squares

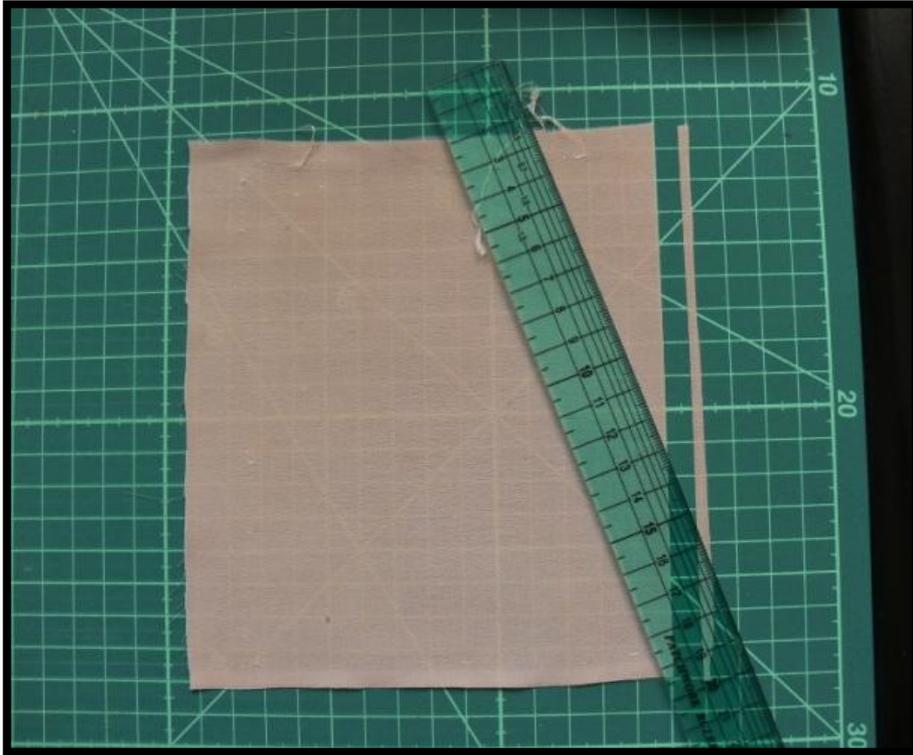
This step is very easy if you are using a cutting mat and a special round blade for it, but it still requires precision - unevenly cut squares will most likely make uneven petals, and those will surely ruin the effect. I usually make my flowers with 2 cm squares, so there is little place for errors.

HINT: If you are willing to take up kanzashi as a hobby do buy a cutting mat and a round blade. I've tried to cut the squares with scissors, but they never were the same size and shape. . .

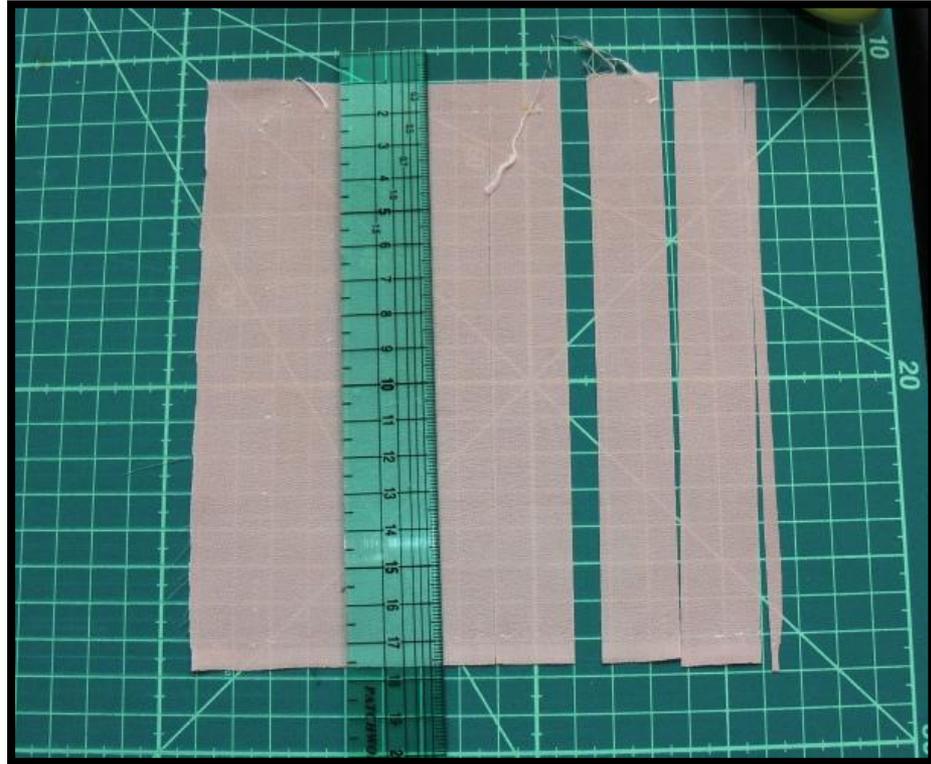
I use a cutting mat and a blade just like those:



Cutting - Step 1



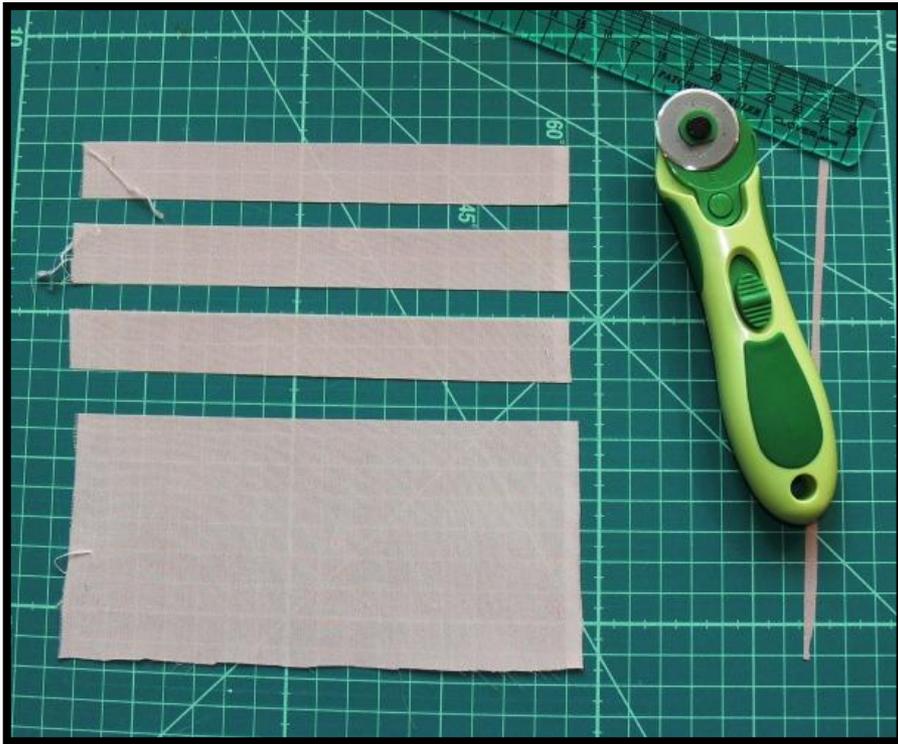
Place the ironed textile on the mat and align one of the ends along with a straight line. Cut along it...



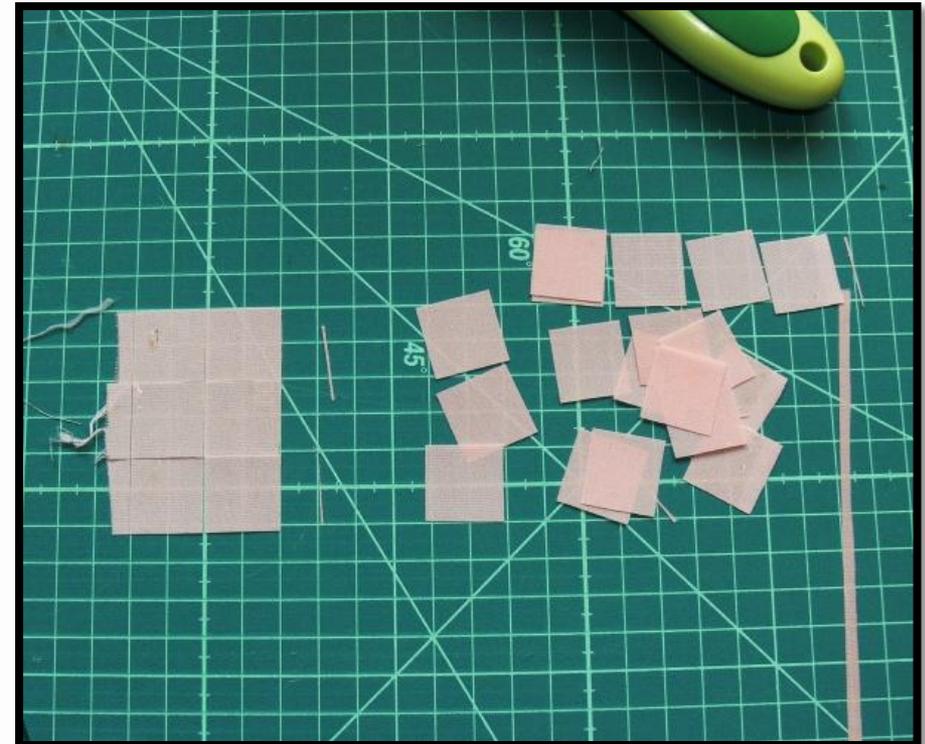
Now cut stripes of textile - I cut it like this in the beginning, from right to left and vertically.



Cutting - Step 2



Now place the stripes vertically and cut them again. I again cut them from right to left.



And voila! Pretty little silk squares ready to be folded to become kanzashi petals.

HINT: I use a transparent ruler. I also cut the silk along the lines of the mat, which should be clearly visible through the thin silk.



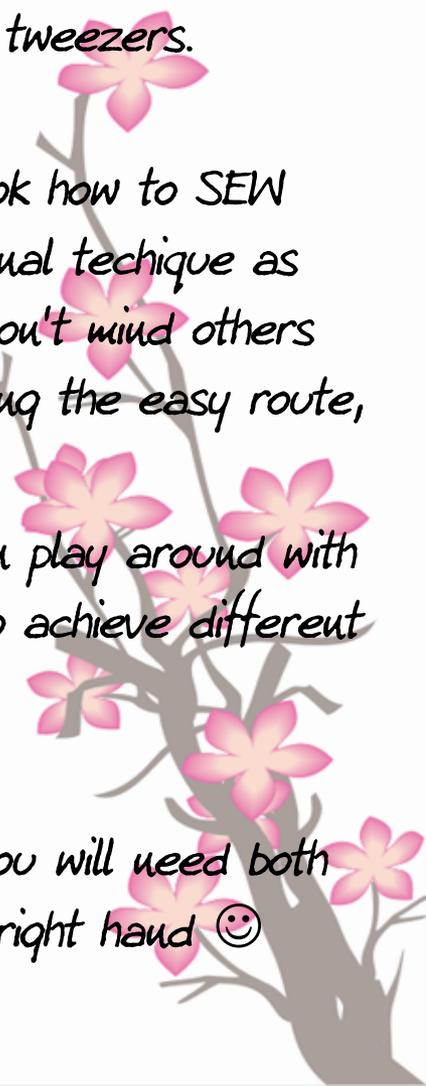
Folding the Petals

This is the essence of *tsumami kanzashi* - folding the petals on tweezers.

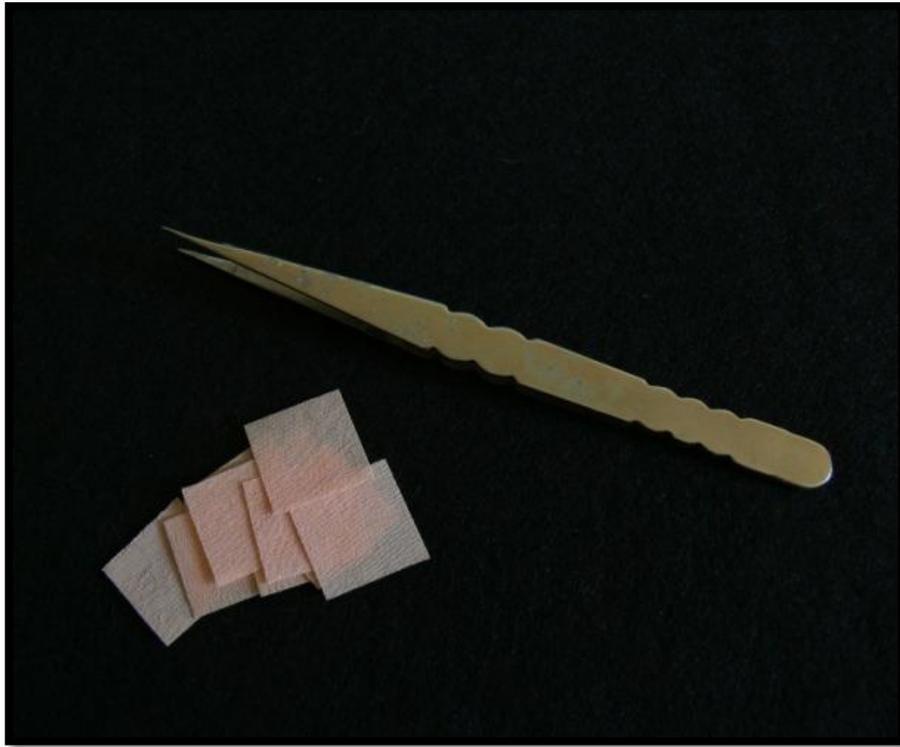
I don't sew my petals. I know there are tutorials and even a book how to SEW *tsumami kanzashi* petals, but I try to keep as much from the original technique as possible, and it does not include sewing. Don't get me wrong - I don't mind others doing it like that, if it suits them, but I simply feel that sewing is taking the easy route, which is not in the spirit of the original art.

Plus - trust me. Folded petals look way better than sewn ones, you can play around with their shapes, number of petals and positioning, which will allow you to achieve different effects.

By the way - it may look like I'm using my left hand. Don't be fooled. You will need both hands and all ten fingers. I just had to hold the camera in my right hand 😊



Folding Petals - Tools and Materials

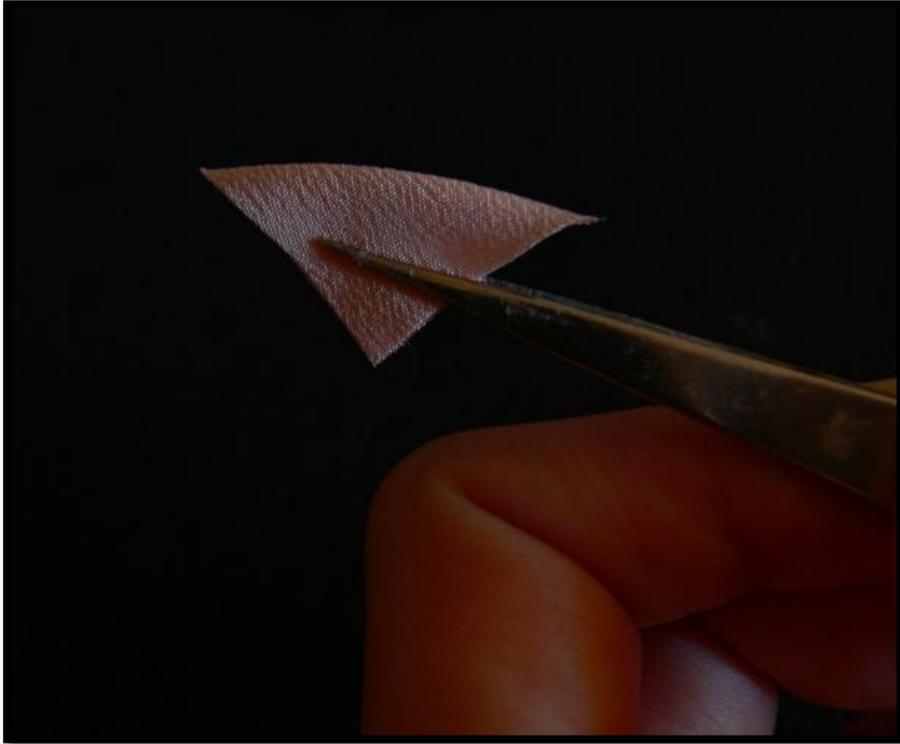


I use the simplest tweezers with pointed tips. I like them fairly small.

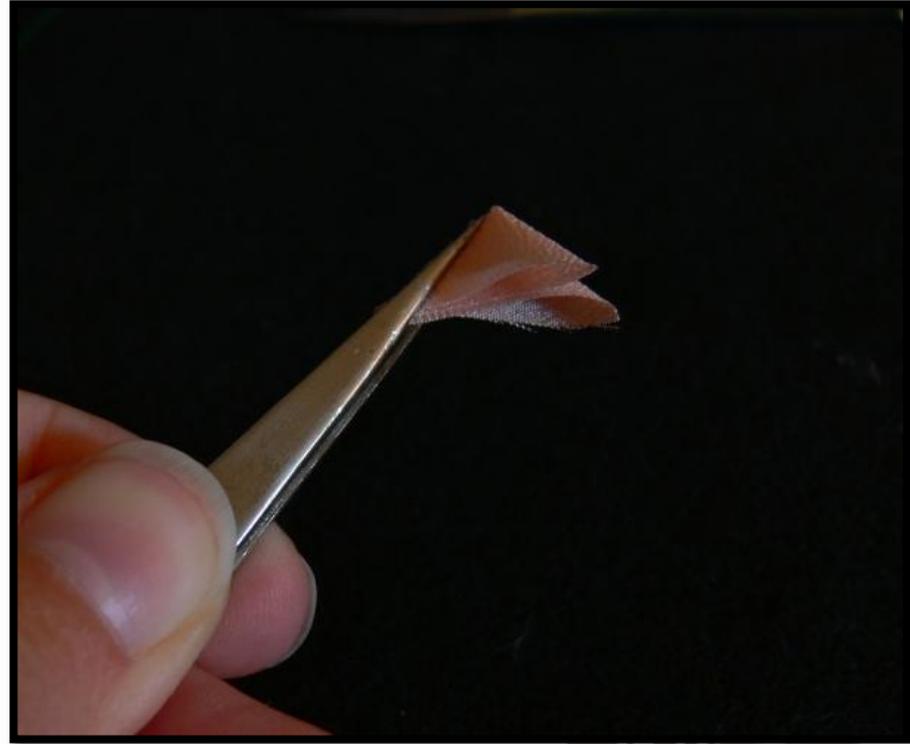


You will also need scissors. I have a special kind, usually used by tailors for cutting loose threads. A flat piece of plastic or wood will be handy too. Don't use anything special though - it will get dirty. Look at mine for proof!

The Round Petal



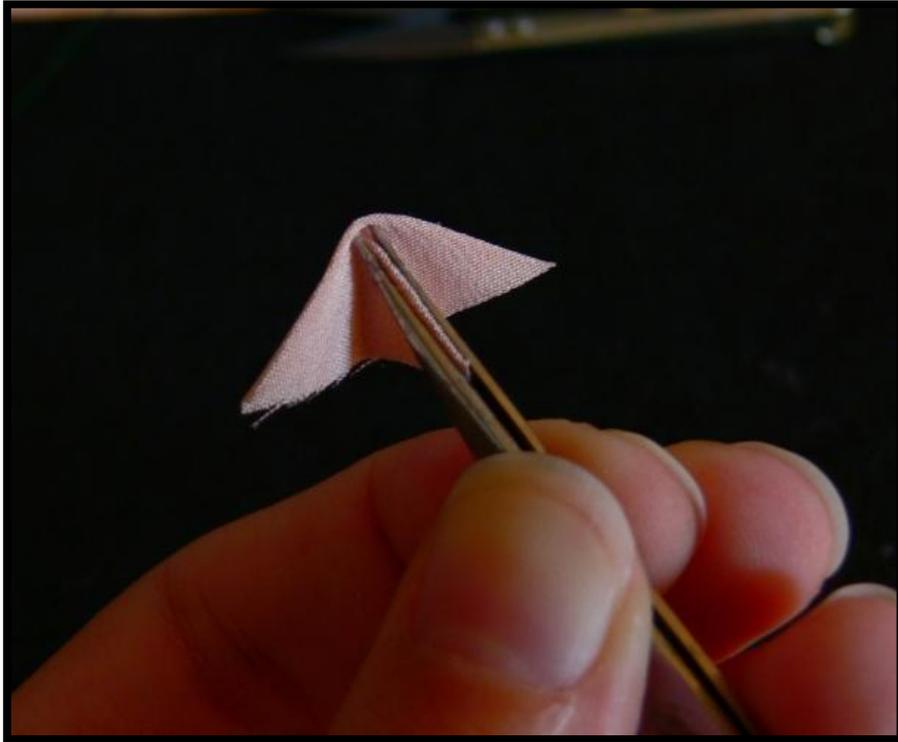
Take the square and fold it in half along the diagonal to form a triangle.



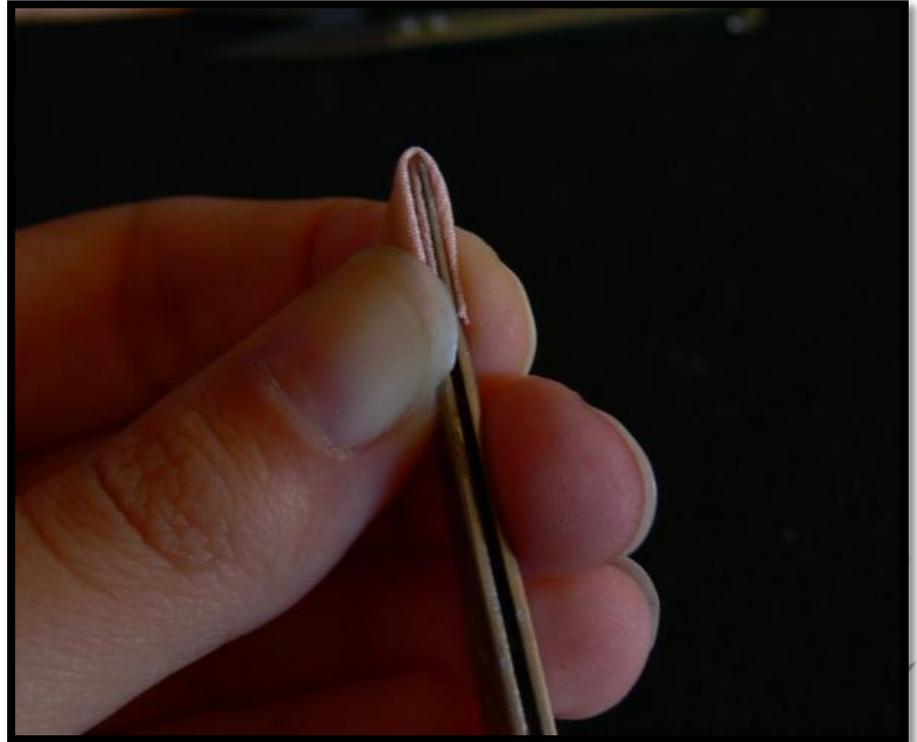
Fold it again in half, and hold the triangle with tweezers by its 'closed' end, like in the photo.



Round Petal - continued



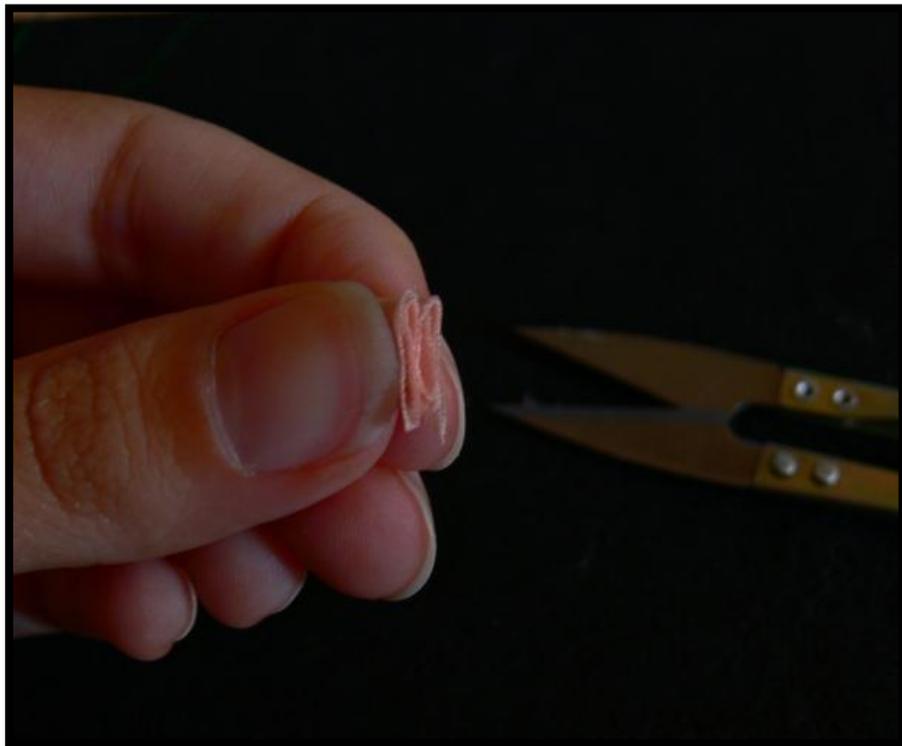
Turn the tweezers, so they face up, holding the petal. Now - notice the pointed edges of the petal and how the textile folds on the tips of the tweezers.



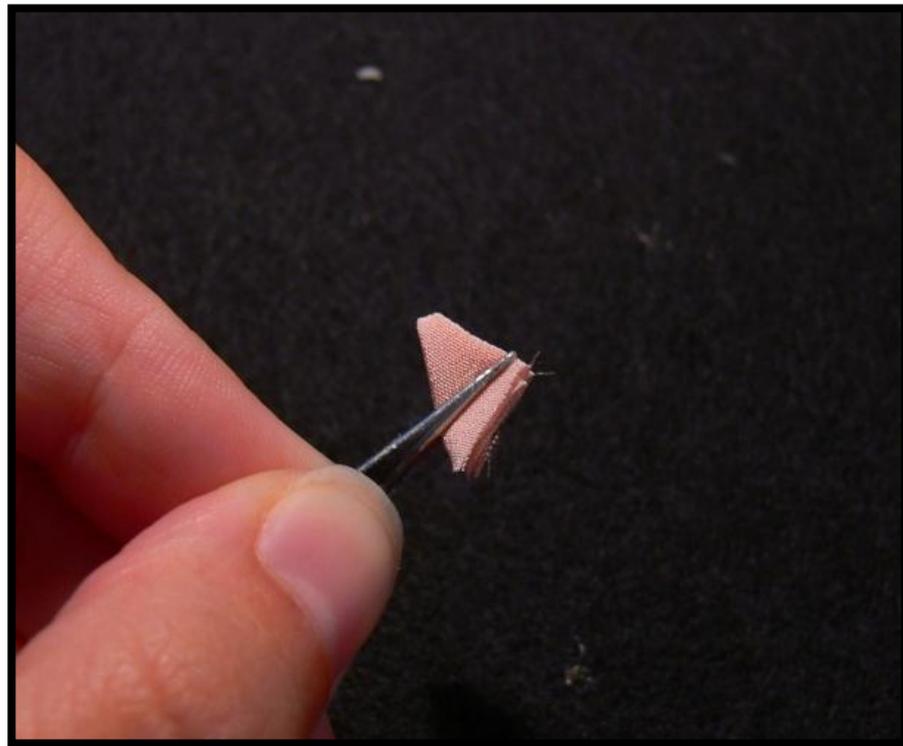
Now, with your fingers fold the textile over the tweezers. The picture will tell you lots more than words 😊



Round Petal - Continued



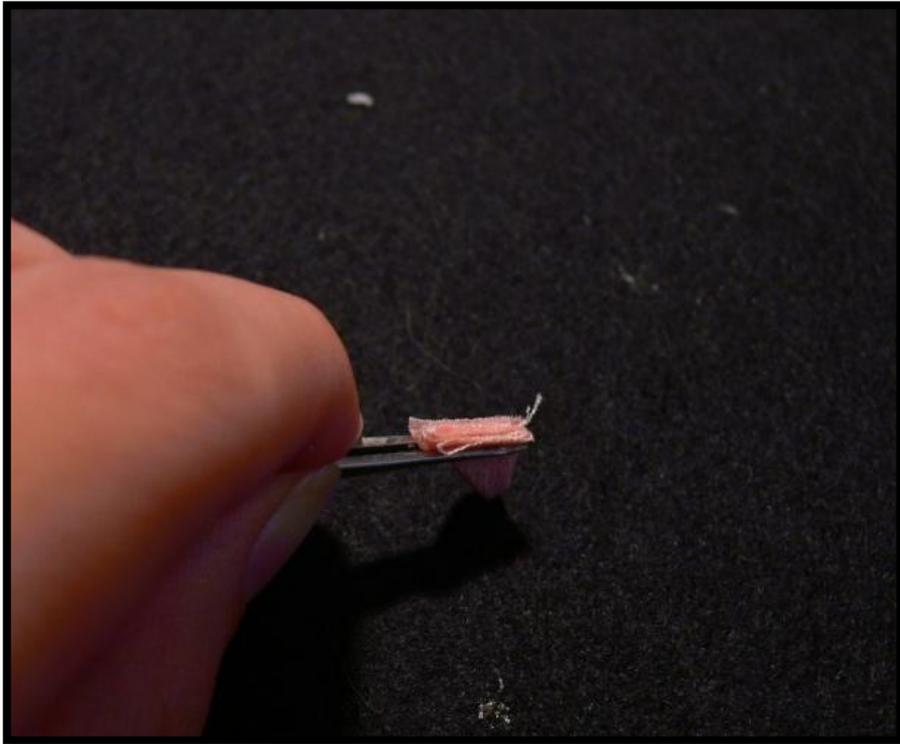
Slide the petal off the tweezers. 'Slide' is the key word. I can't show it on a photo, but the best hint I can give you is to loosen your grip of the petal a bit and with your other hand gently pull the tweezers out.



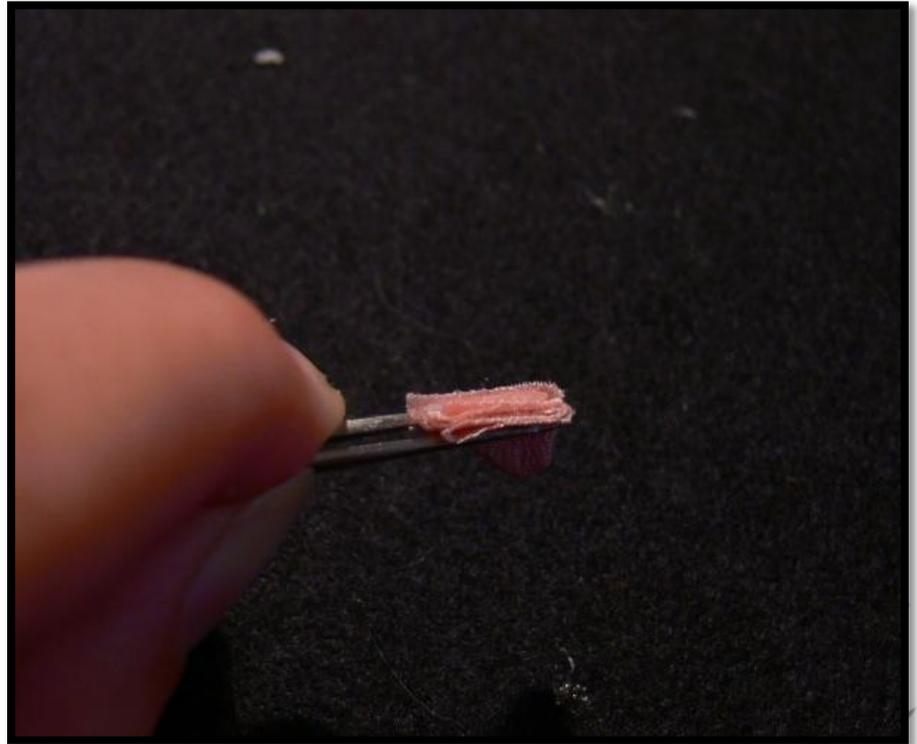
Now the tricky part, which gave me most problems at first. Still holding the petal with your fingers catch it again with the tweezers like this. And really like this - you will see why in a moment.



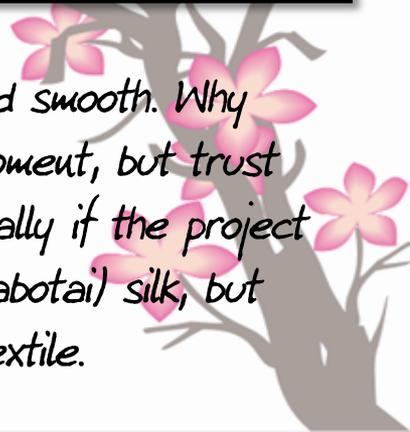
Round petal... again continued...



Check out the rough edge. It's uneven, you can see threads. Gently cut them away with scissors - watch not to cut away too much. Just threads and excess material.



Look! Nice and even and smooth. Why bother? I'll explain in a moment, but trust me it is important. Especially if the project does not use habutae (habotai) silk, but some heavier textile.



The Round Petal - The Hint Part



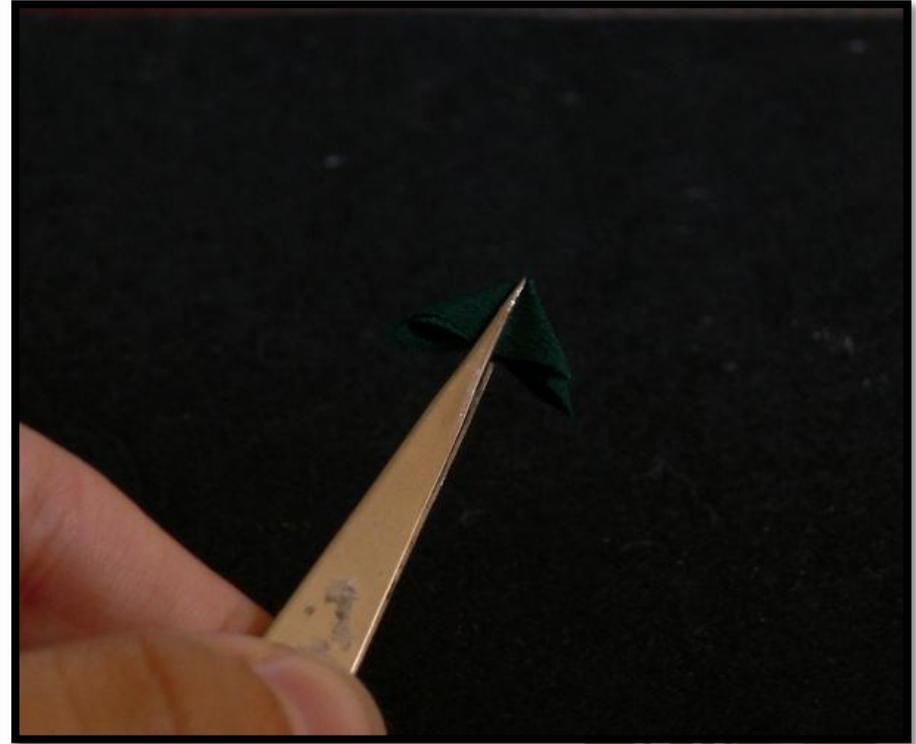
Now this is something we are trying to avoid. The petal on the left is folded only. The petal on the right is glued on the tip.

I avoid gluing and sewing textiles round petals for a few reasons - you can't adjust the shape and sometimes the glue is visible even after adding the central embellishment.

I have to admit that I sometimes do it with the pointed petal though, but in the case of the pointed petal it doesn't change anything really.



Pointed Petal



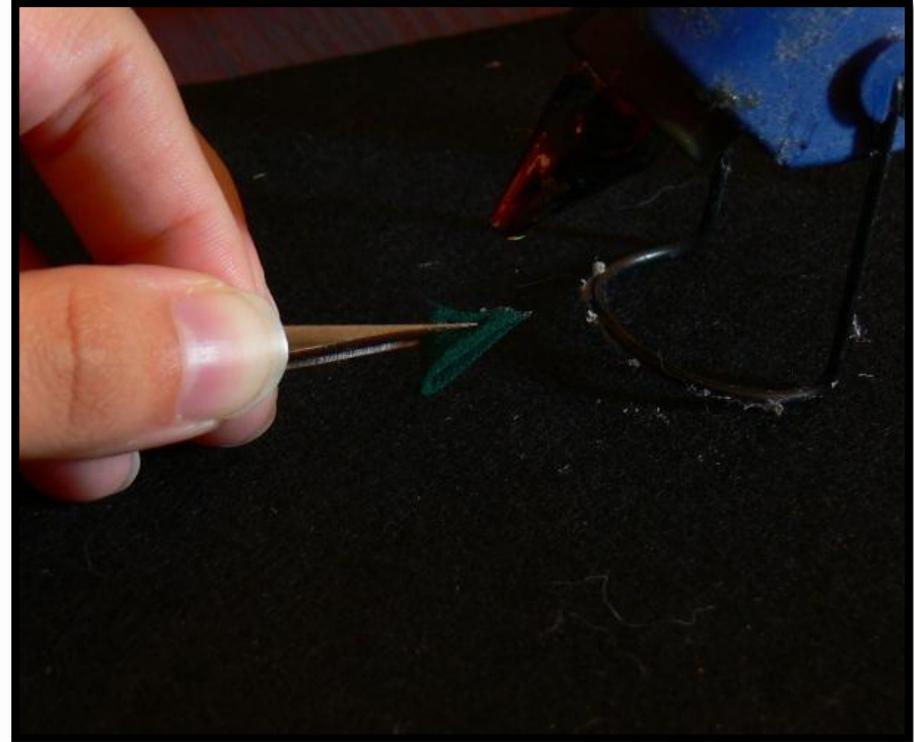
We start as usually with a square. Fold it in half. Done that already - easy 😊

Here the tweezers help if you grab the textile like in the pictures in the centre part.

Fold it again in half.



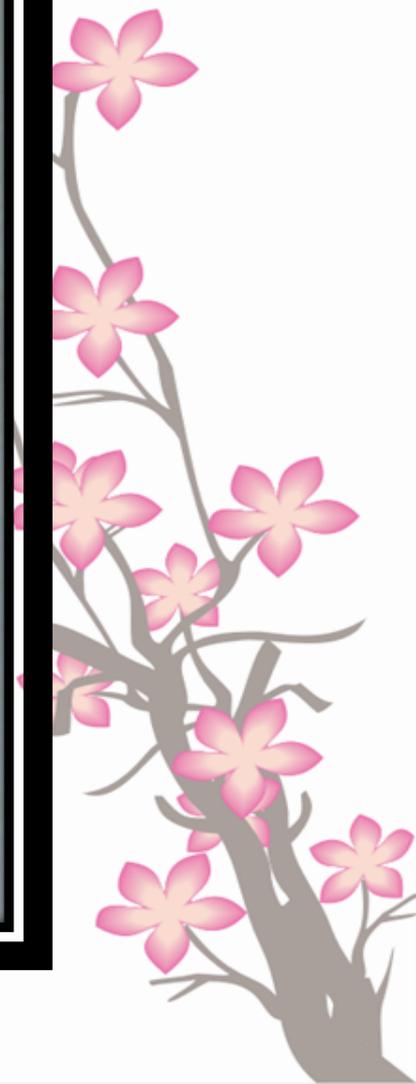
Pointed Petal - End Product and Hint



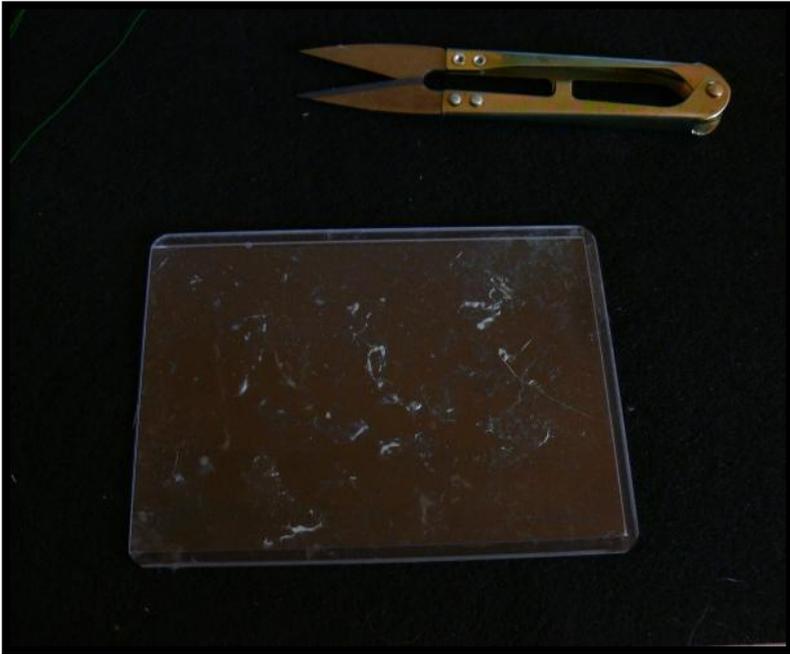
Now, again like in case of the round petal fold the textile in half. In this case though you fold it always in half, which forms a pointed petal instead of the round one.

Now a little cheating I mentioned before ;) In case of the pointed petal you can put a little dab of glue right on the tip. You won't be adjusting it's shape much, so if you feel on the safe side with gluing, just put a dab on the rough edge and the tip. Not too much though!

Flowers



Assembling the Flowers



Remember the flat piece of wood or plastic I recommended finding? Now is the moment to grab it.

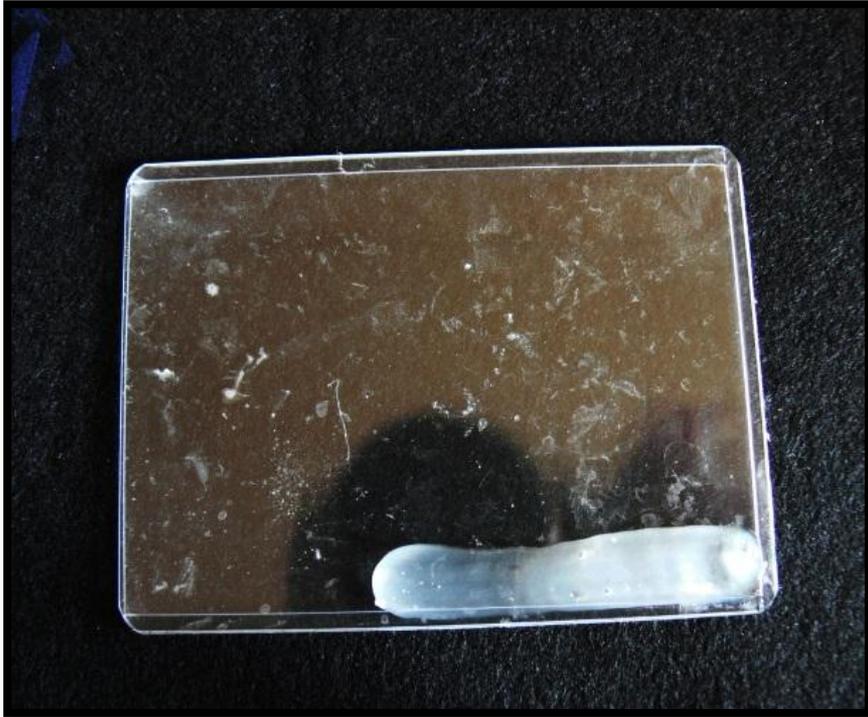
Of course the photo shows the scissors. But I was too lazy to grab another photo 😊



And here is the star of the evening the rice glue, also called rice paste.

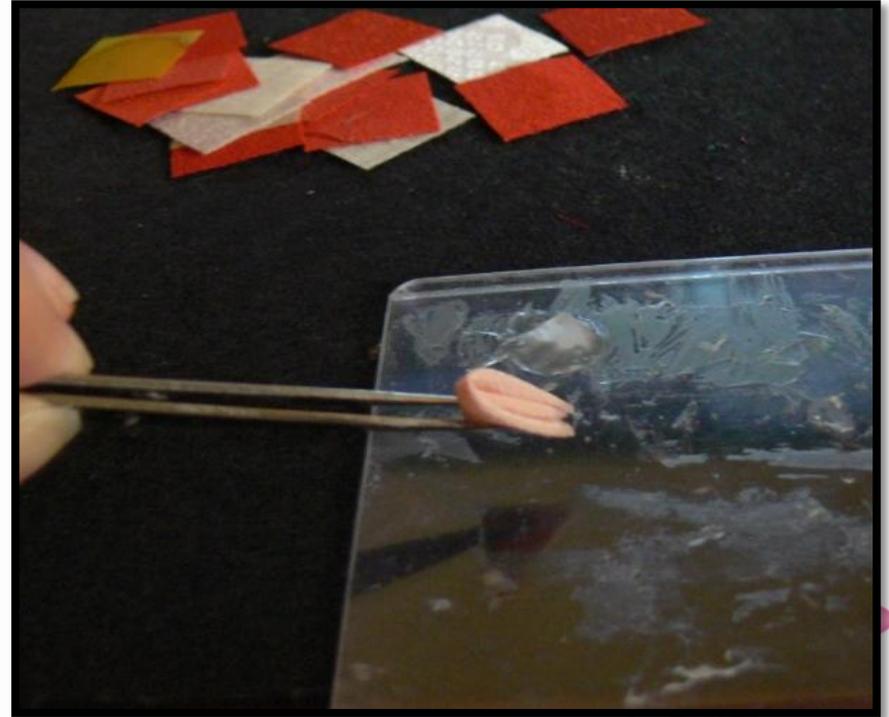
You should get some. I buy the rice paste, but you may try and make some, though it is rather messy...

The Petals



Place some rice glue on the plastic.

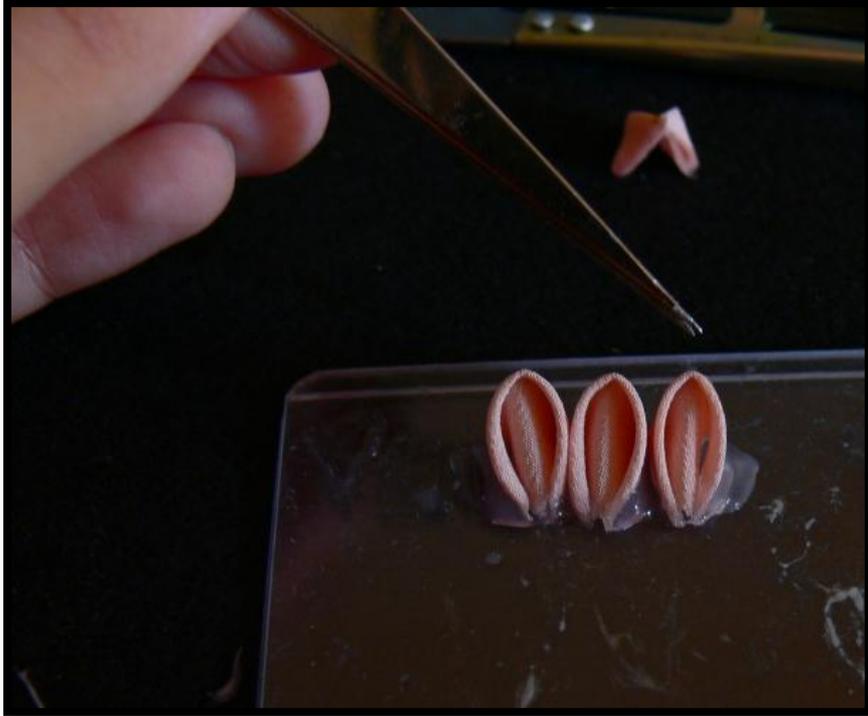
The glue should be around 2mm thick to work, but don't make it too thick - above 3mm - unless you are dealing with bigger petals than 2 cm



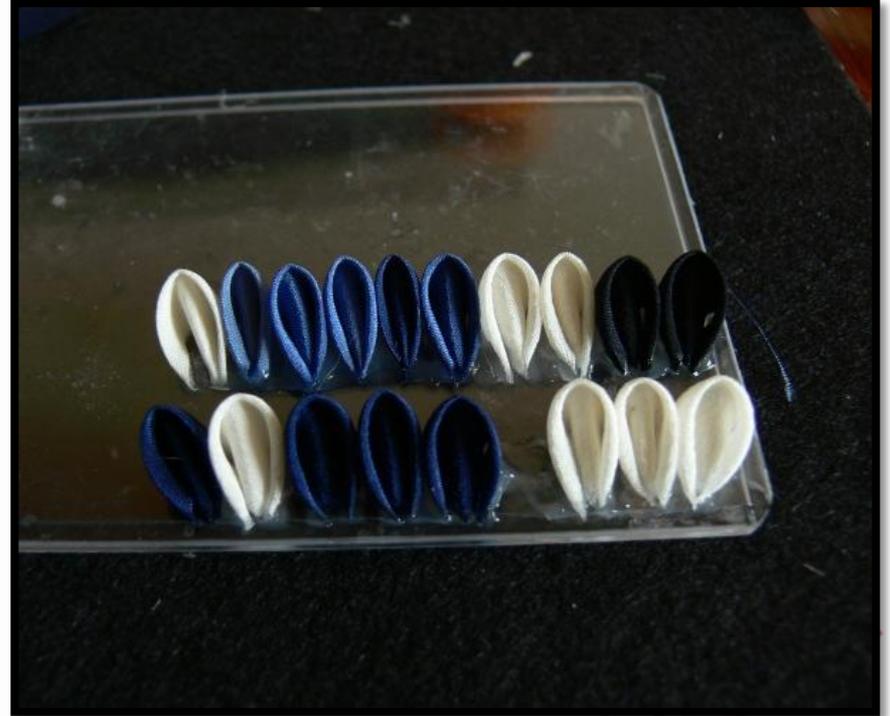
Now grab the folded petal and place it in the glue.

HINT: Place each petal in the glue right after folding it, while still holding it with the tweezers.

The Petals - Continued

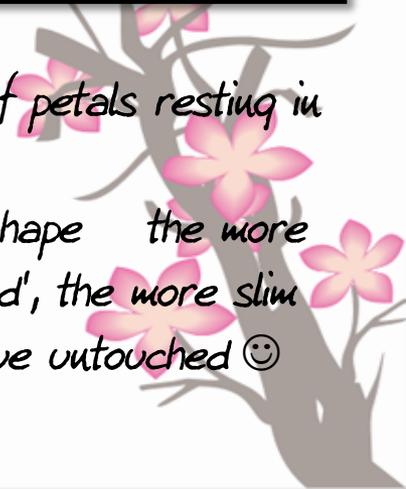


Place the petals in the glue. To make them more rounded poke them with the tweezers a little bit in place the tweezers show.



Here is another example of petals resting in the glue.

Notice the difference in shape the more rounded ones were 'poked', the more slim ones were left in the glue untouched 😊



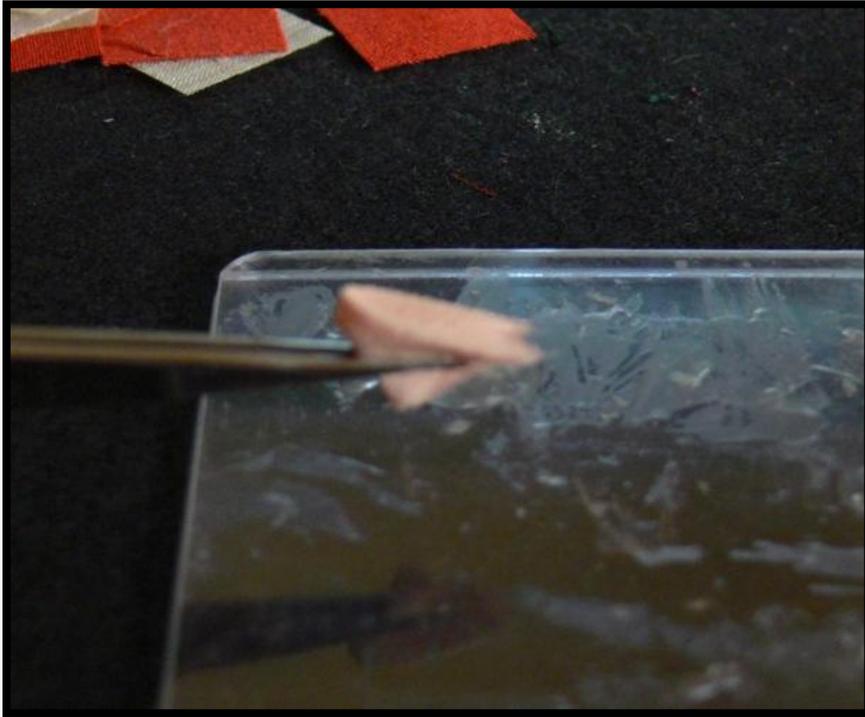
And now - SNACK TIME!

Seriously!

At this moment I had tea and a snack, since I had to wait 20-30 minutes for the glue to become sticky (otherwise the petals would not hold to the base).



Forming the Flower



Okay. After the glue has become sticky I took one petal at a time with my tweezers , like this...

BTW, I'm sorry for the quality of the photo, but my hands trembeled . My camera is quite heavy



Place each petal on the base. Notice that for now the petals don't cover the whole base.

Don't worry - we'll fix that in a second.



Adjusting the petals and finishing touches.

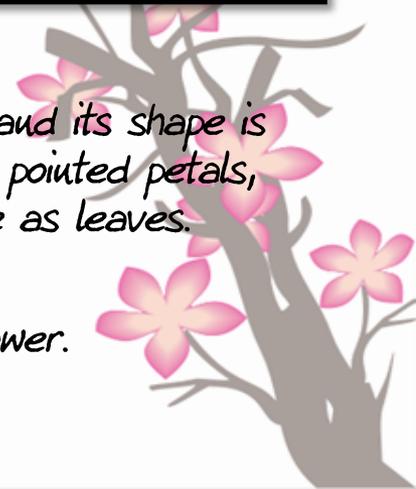


To achieve this effect I poke the petals with my finger. Gently, not to glue them off the base.

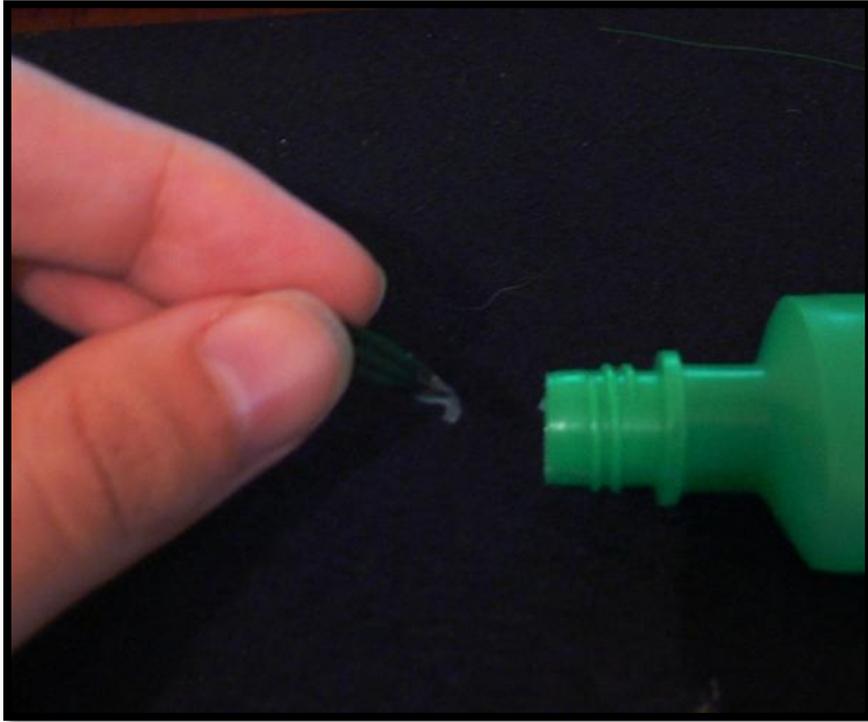
I also work on them with my tweezers. I left the glue to dry for around 6 to 12 hours.

AFTER the glue had dried and its shape is fixed I decided to glue the pointed petals, which in this case serve as leaves.

Two for each flower.

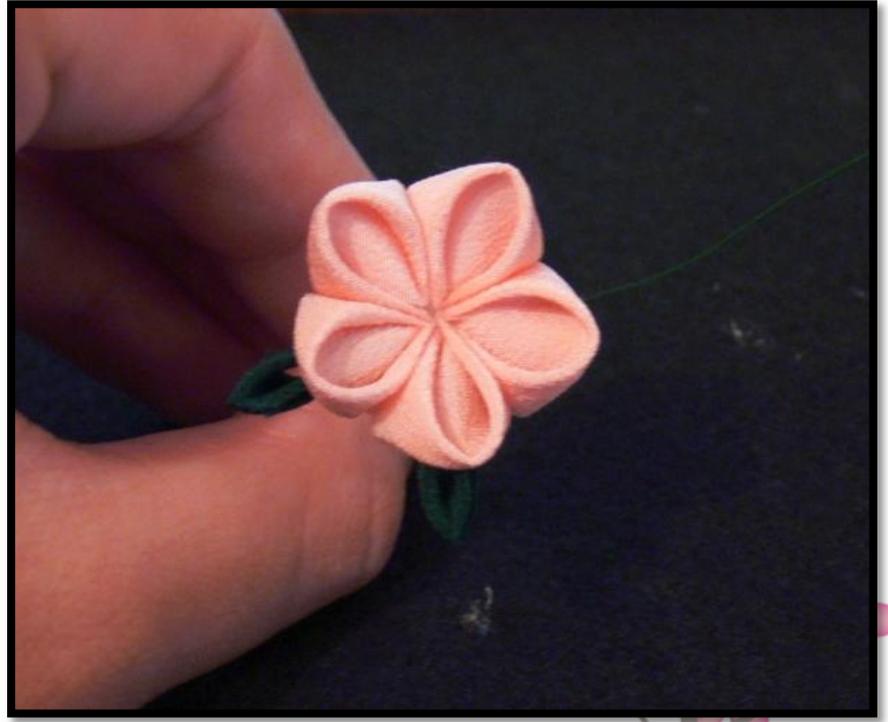


Finishing Touches - Continued



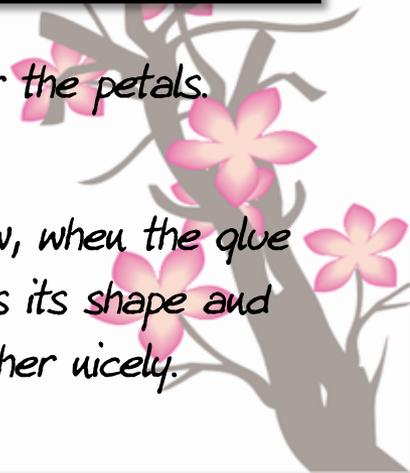
Now all I needed to do was to dip the tip of the petal in the rice paste.

Of course, I dipped the end that was supposed to be hidden.



I stuck the petals under the petals.

It was important to do it now, when the glue has set, so the flower holds its shape and everything stays together nicely.

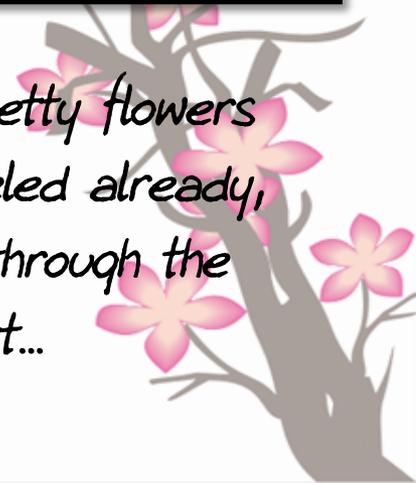


Flowers - Finishing Touches



For this flower I chose a white 5mm pearl cabochon.

And here are three pretty flowers here they are assembled already, but I'll guide you now through the assembling process next...



Shidare



Hikizuri Blues



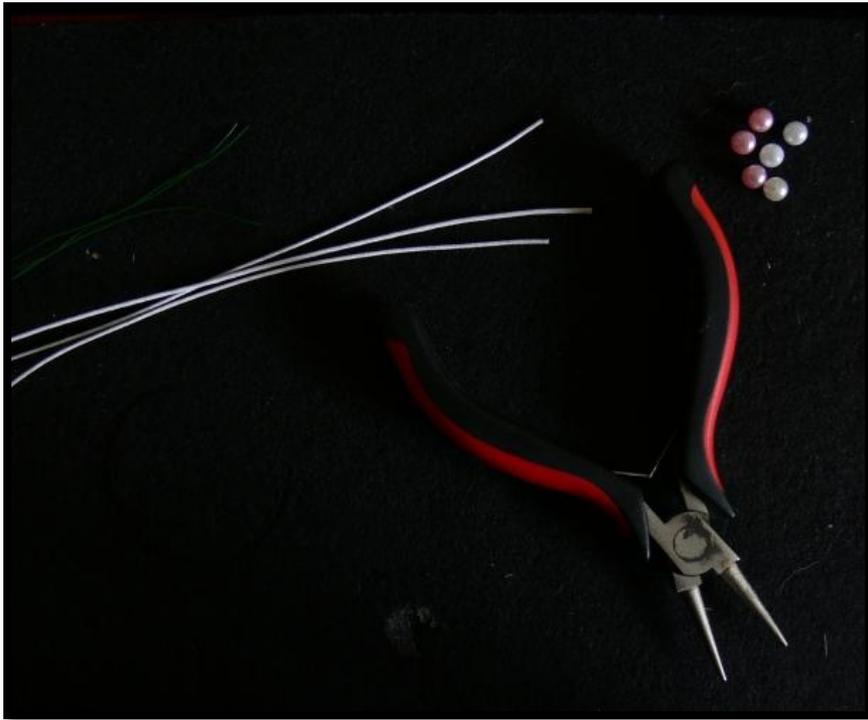
Ume Queen

Shidare are falls that you see on kanzashi - long falls made of petals and wizuhihi cord and sometimes pearls.

I'll show you how I make mine, though they are far from perfect.



Shidare - Materials

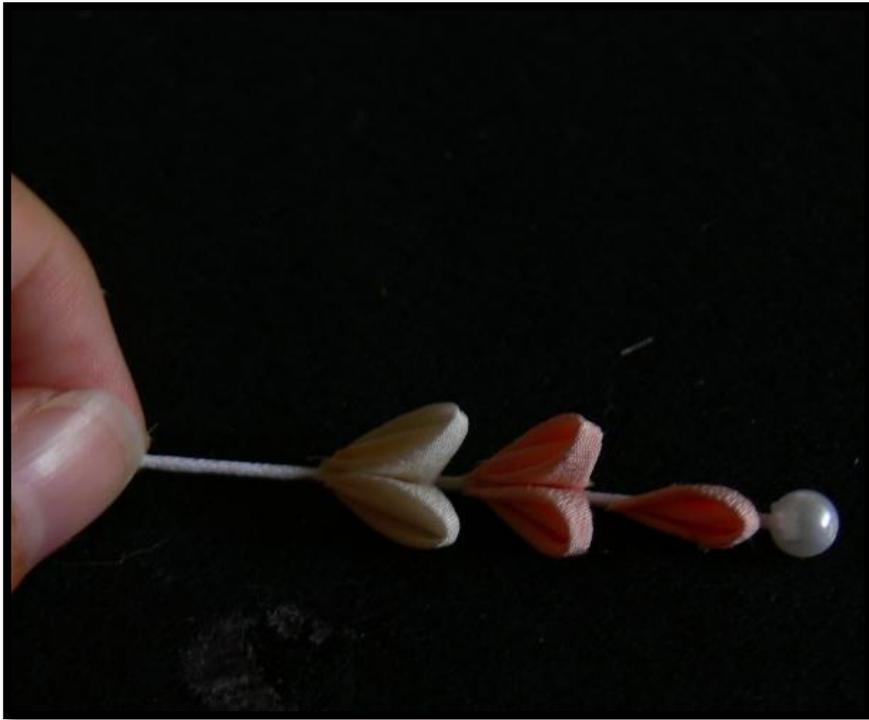


Okay what I used:

- some pieces of cotton cord,
- round pliers,
- some wire,
- pearls

Now the petals for the shidare. I actually fold them just right the petals for the flowers, but I glue the rough edges a little bit, so the petals hold their shape. I don't need to adjust the shape so I make my life easier and glue them with a bit of hot glue. Simple 😊

Shidare - Continued



Here you can see the pearl glued onto the cord, and the first three rows of petals.

Notice the single petal at the beginning. I really like how they look

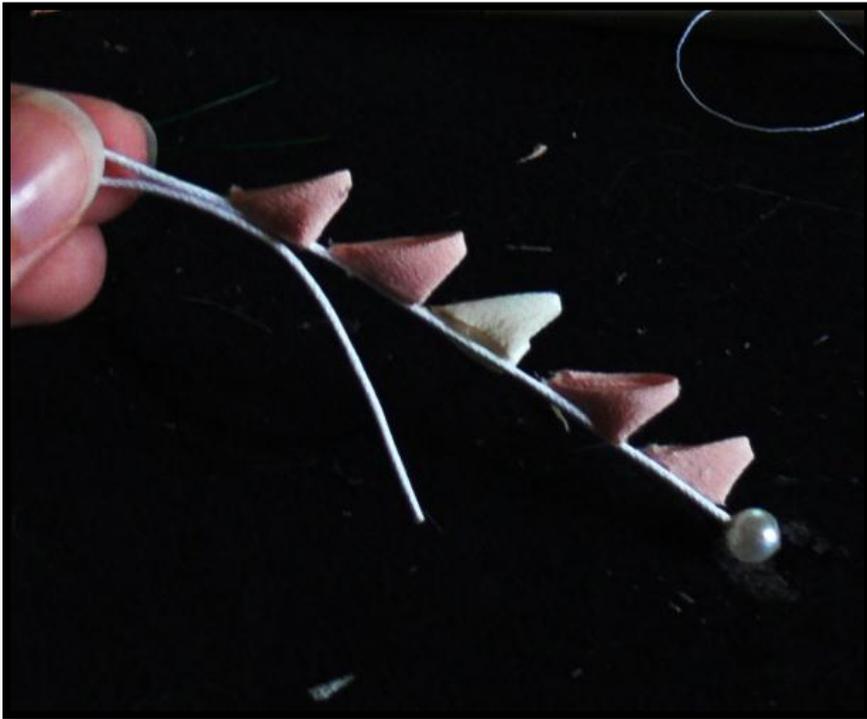


Here you can see the shidare almost finished.

I've decided to add another row after taking this photo - just an artist's whim...



Shidare - Finishing Touches



Here you can see how I make the loop for the wire to be attached to - I simply glued the cord and cut the excess after the glue sets. I add the last row of petals right after that.



Here you can see the way I prepare everything for the final stage. The shidare is attached to some wire and the flowers are attached together. Use very little glue or thin cotton thread to wrap the wire together.

Assembling the Piu



Now - see my hairpiu? It looks like crap because it's not a special piu for kanzashi. It should be metal with a special prong, but I can't buy any and don't have proper wire to make some. But it will look better...

With some cotton cord! See the difference? It's as easy as wrapping the piu with some good quality thick cotton cord. I use a Czech brand, but any good cord will do.



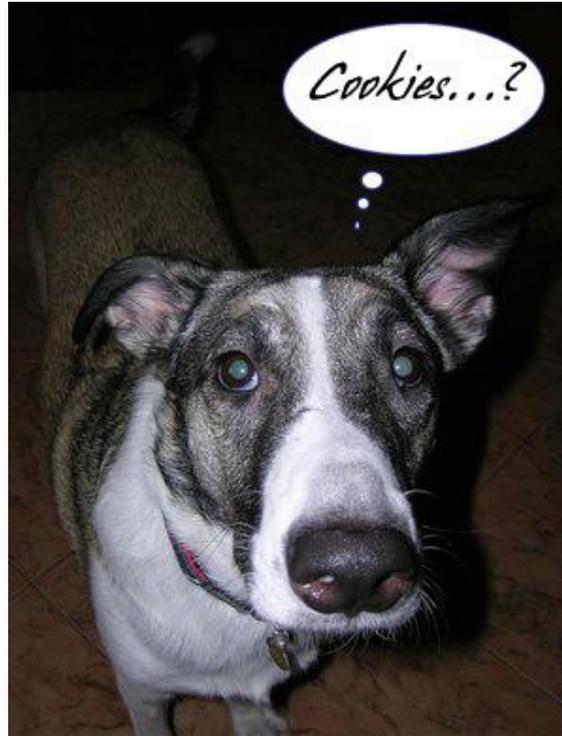
Voila!

It was not really hard, was it? All I did was put everything together. With some practice you can make basically anything with the flowers - earrings, brooches, pins...

Here are some examples of what I've made using the same technique and tools...



Now have some cookies :D



Feel free to contact me and ask me any questions at yasuki.hana@gmail.com

All photos except the rice glue photo are mine - I have no idea though where I got it... If you know, contact me so I can credit the owner. Also feel free to contact me in case I screwed up somewhere 😊

Thanks for watching!

