

PRESSED AND DRIED FLOWER ART
Eleanor Aldridge and Ronnie Brancazio
DRIED FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS
(Eleanor)

Materials and Methods

Medium-sized bowl with cover
Silica gel

Procedure

Place about two inches of silica gel in bowl. Place flowers individually in gel.
Pour enough gel into bowl to cover each flower, about an inch or two depending on thickness of flowers. Put cover back on bowl. Allow at least two weeks to dry, allowing more time for larger flowers.

Eleanor's Favorite Flowers for Drying and Pressing

Impatiens

Hydrangeas

Pansies

Violets

Daisies

Queen Anne's Lace

Plus many more flowers - and pretty weeds - that she doesn't have names for! You can try anything!



PRESSED FLOWER CREATIONS

(Ronnie)

Materials and Methods for Pressing

A flower press constructed from two or more rigid boards, such as thin wood or Masonite, held together with four carriage bolts placed through holes drilled near the corners.

Recommended size is about 10-12" on each side.



A supply of water-absorbent paper (blotting paper and construction paper both work well), sized to match press, with holes poked to line up with bolts.

Only cut plant materials when they are dry, and morning is best.

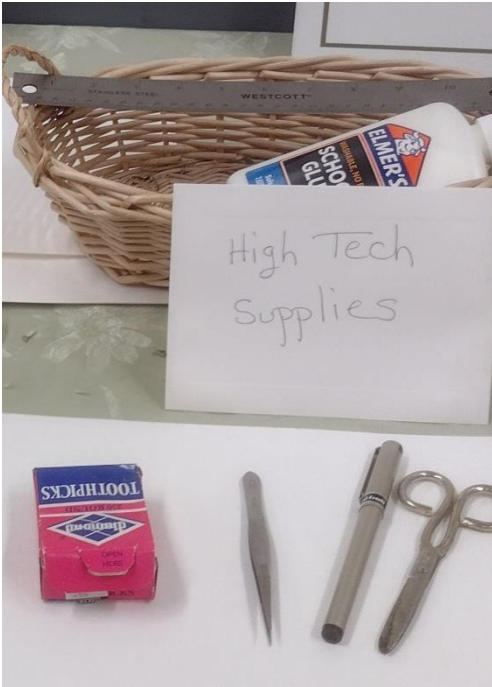
Cut your flower or leaf specimens and immediately place on paper in the press.

Cut either close to the flower head or leave an inch or two of stem and leaves.

Leaves and herbs can be a few inches long, depending on your plan.

Place separately, trying to flatten flowers a bit. Place second sheet of paper over items, close press, and replace and tighten bolts. Re-tighten after an hour or so, as specimens dry. Drying can take a few days or more, depending on weather and specimens. Once you remove dried items from press, you can store them in folders between dry sheets of paper.

For Creating



Your "High Tech" Supplies include:

Elmer's glue, toothpicks, tweezers small cup for glue.

Depending on what you are making, you will need:

Card Stock, heavy paper such as Bristol Board, or Any other paper you wish to try!

To seal your creation, you can use Self-Adhesive Laminating Sheets by Friskit or Avery. If you are placing your creation in a frame under glass, you do not need the

lamination. My method is to try out my design by placing each flower or leaf on the paper, then re-arranging as I wish.

Once you have decided, carefully pick up each piece individually with the tweezers, put a tiny amount of glue on each contact point using the toothpick, and place the item back where you want it. This is the most challenging part,

but I find that if things end up in a different place it still looks nice! Finally, cut a piece of Laminating Sheet to size, peel off the backing, and carefully place over your floral art. Done!

Ronnie's Favorite Flowers, Leaves and Herbs for Pressing

After years of Trial, and a LOT of ERROR, these are quite reliable.

Flowers: Forget-Me-Nots, Verbenas, Alyssum, Lobelias, White Spirea

Violas and Violets, Browallia, Salvia

Miniature Roses (Singles only, not Doubles),

Blue Bacopa

Leaves & Tendrils: Morning Glory tendrils

Miniature Rose leaves

Clematis tendrils (early growth only)

Leaves cut with Violas, Lobelias, Browallias, Alyssum and Spirea

Herbs: Oregano, Thyme, Sage, Rosemary

Dill (especially the flowers)