

## Technique - "Vintage" Chiffon Flower

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You can purchase flower embellishments at your "local craft store", but they can be quite pricey. With this technique you'll be able to make your very own MUCH more cheaply. A brilliant demonstrator was showing how to make these at the San Antonio Regional in January 2012 and I couldn't wait to give them a try once I arrived back home. You can shop for fabric that will go well with the colors that you're using in your project; my fabric store had lots of colors to choose from. I lucked out and found chiffon that coordinated beautifully with our Poppy Parade In-Color.



You will need the following supplies for this technique:

- Chiffon fabric (available at a fabric store)
- Sizzix BigZ die
- Heat tool
- Antique brads
- Photo copy paper



Step 1: Sandwich 4-5 layers of chiffon between two pieces of copy paper and place it over the shapes on the die that you want to cut.

The copy paper is used to prevent frayed ends of the fabric from embedding into your die.



Step 2: Die cut your flowers using the two acrylic plates as normal.

The sample was created using the Fun Flowers die, but the following Sizzix dies will also work well for this technique:

- Ovals
- Circles #2
- Flower Folds
- Island Floral
- Scallop Circle
- Scallop Circle #2



Step 3: Poke a hole in the center of your flowers, starting with the smallest size and working up to the largest.

Tip: This fabric is thin, but tough as iron; I found that I needed to pierce only two to three layers at a time to get the piercer through easily.



Step 4: Insert an antique brad in the hole that you just made in the center of the flower.



Step 5: On a heat resistant surface (I used my ceramic stove top) gradually heat the "petals" of your flower with the heat tool. I used tweezers to hold the ends of the brad to keep the flower from moving around on me.

Tip: Apply the heat in short bursts because the fabric heats up and crinkles really quickly when it gets going. You don't want to scorch the fabric.

**Safety Tip:** That center brad will get REALLY HOT - be very careful handling your flower until it has had a chance to cool down.



Step 6: Keep heating your flower in various sections until you have achieved the desired effect. Once you are happy with it, and it has cooled, you can spread the prongs on the back side of the brad.



Use your beautiful flower on a creation to add a lovely vintage looking element. I used it on a card, but it would be a wonderful addition on a scrapbook page, a box or just about anything else.

