



# **Texas State Florists' Association**

*Presentation for High School  
Floral Certification Testing of the*

## ***Symmetrical Triangle Arrangement and Boutonniere***



# Texas State Florists' Association

*PowerPoint Presentation for High School  
Floral Certification Testing*

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Texas State Florists' Association  
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United States of America

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# High School Certification Testing Information

- Students must be enrolled by the deadline. Check for updates on the TSFA website at [tsfa.org](https://tsfa.org).
- There is a \$120 testing fee, which includes the knowledge-based (KB) exam and hands-on design testing at a TSFA testing event.
- Students must pass both the KB and hands-on testing components to earn Level 1 certification.
- The 100-question KB exam:
  - Is administered online with 60 minutes allotted for completion.
  - Includes true/false, short answer, multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions.
  - Is proctored by the teacher and may be administered at their convenience.
- Students must pass judging criteria for the hands-on symmetrical design and boutonniere.
- Test dates and locations will be posted at [tsfa.org](https://tsfa.org). Visit the site periodically for updated dates and times.

# Additional Testing Information

- Students will be provided a design bowl, 1/3 brick wet floral foam, anchor tape, floral wire, floral tape and fresh product for hands-on design.
- Students should bring knives, stem cutters or shears and wire cutters. No tools will be provided.
- Students will have 60 minutes to complete the hands-on test.
- Retesting is available for students who do not pass the hands-on or KB test.
- There is a \$20 retesting fee for KB and a \$35 retesting fee for hands-on.
- Hands-on retests may be taken during any of the scheduled testing events listed at [tsfa.org](https://tsfa.org).

# Symmetrical Triangle Arrangement

The items below will be provided for each student testing at a TSFA testing event.

- 9 stems of carnations.
- 11 stems of leatherleaf.
- 7-10 florets of statice — approximately 3 stems.
- No extra product will be provided. Students **MUST** be careful with the product they are given.
- Broken stems may not be replaced during testing, so they students may need to wire stems. Points will not be counted off for inferior product.
- The design is judged on stem placement only.
- Strict guidelines and procedures will be followed during certification testing.

# A Completed Symmetrical Triangle Arrangement





## Required Materials for Symmetrical

- 9 carnations
- 1/3 bunch statice
- 11 stems of leatherleaf fern
- Container, floral foam and anchor tape

**Tools needed:  
Wire Cutters, Clippers or Shears,  
and Knife ... Band Aids.**

**Note: There will be NO TOOLS  
PROVIDED.**



**FRONT VIEW**

## Prepare Container for Design

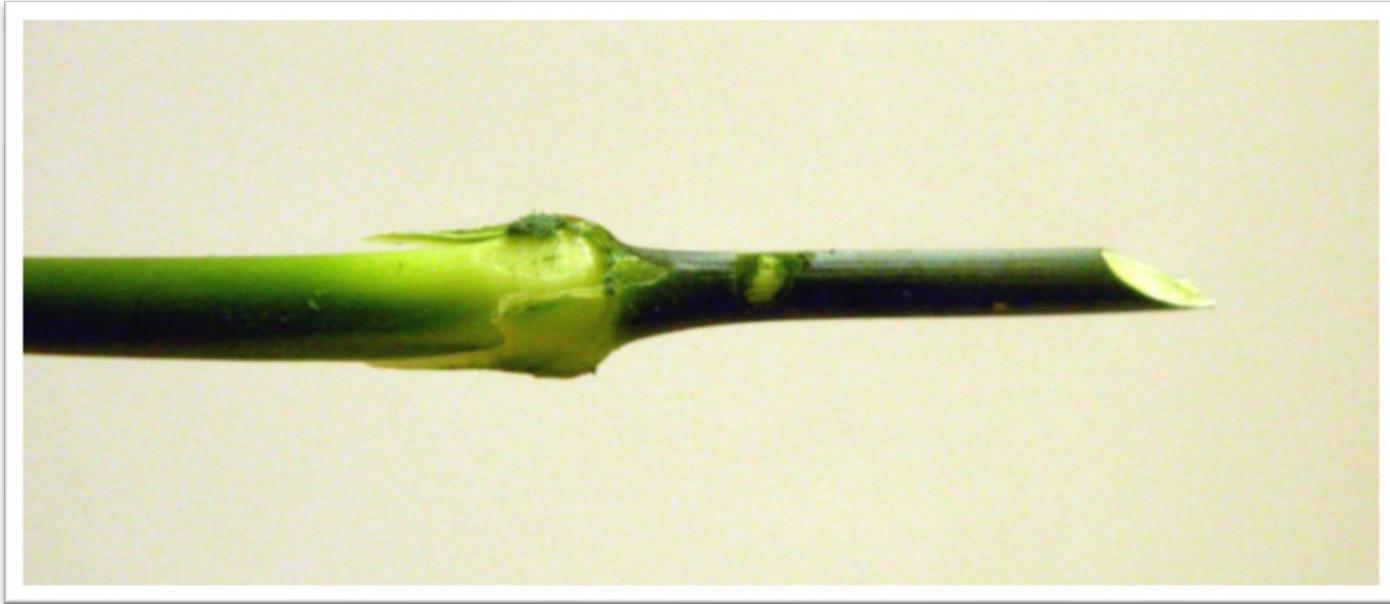
- 1/3 block wet floral foam
- 2 pieces of 1/4" anchor tape, enough to secure wet floral foam into the bowl
- Slice off the front corners of floral foam for better insertion of stems  
Into the front corner area (Suggestion only)

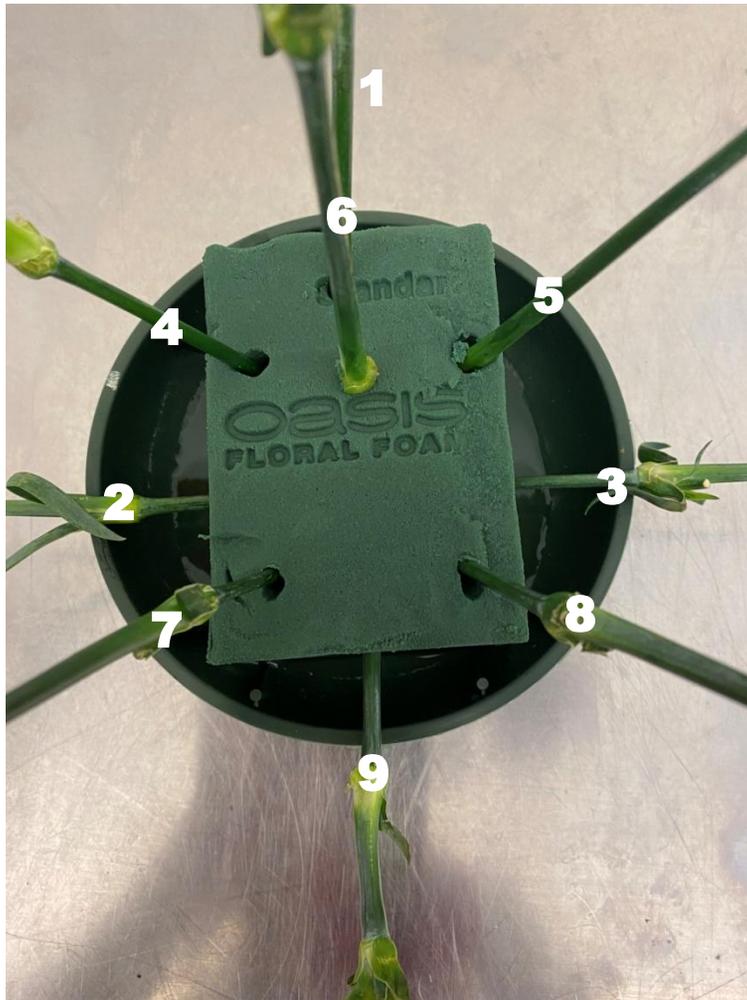
# Insert Carnations

- **Cut stems at an angle.**
- **Stems must be secure in floral foam below the water line.**
- **There should be no reinsertions.**
- **Develop a symmetrical triangle.**
- **Be sure to carefully measure before cutting the stems.**
- **Develop the skeleton of the design in steps 1-9.**
- **May fluff tight or non-round carnations before inserting into floral foam.**
- **Filler flowers are to be inserted between carnations, placing them high and low to create depth.**

# Cutting Stems for Insertion

Stems should be cut with a knife at an approximate 45° angle immediately prior to stem insertion into the floral foam.





## 9 Stem Insertions into the Floral Foam

Placement of stems in foam to form the symmetrical triangle skeleton

**FRONT VIEW**  
Floral Foam with Insertions

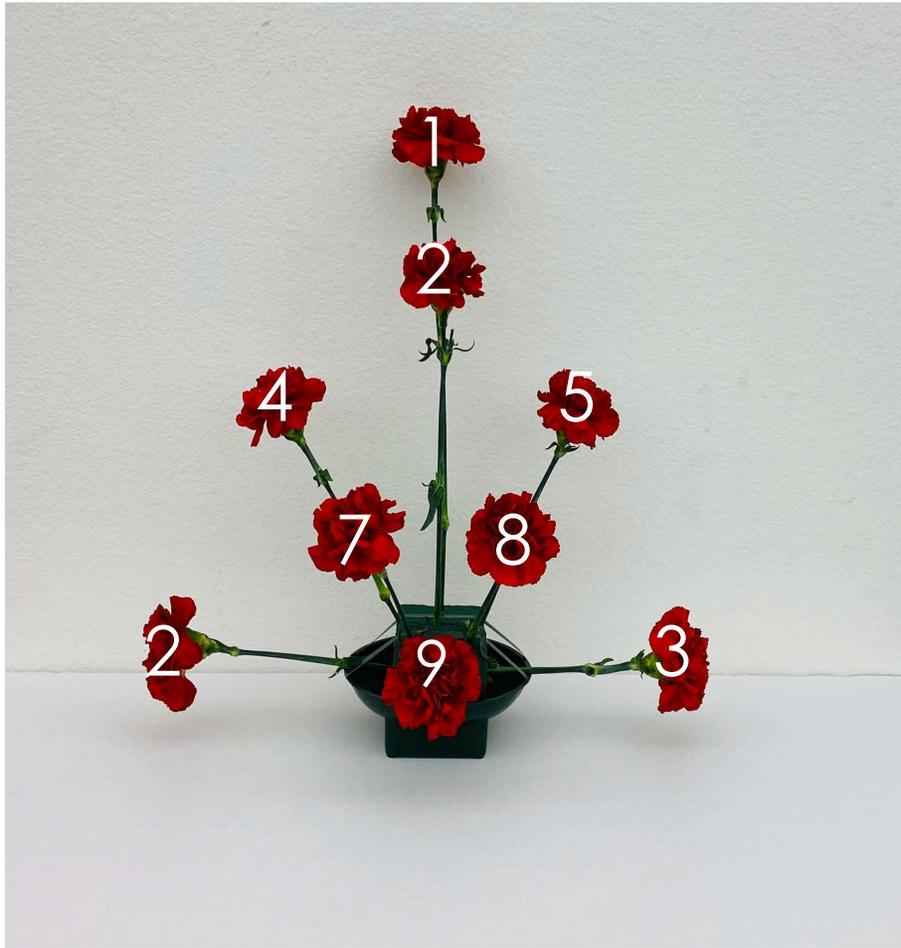


## 9 Stem Insertions into Floral Foam (Side View)

Placement of stems into lengthwise floral foam, creating a symmetrical triangle skeleton.

FRONT

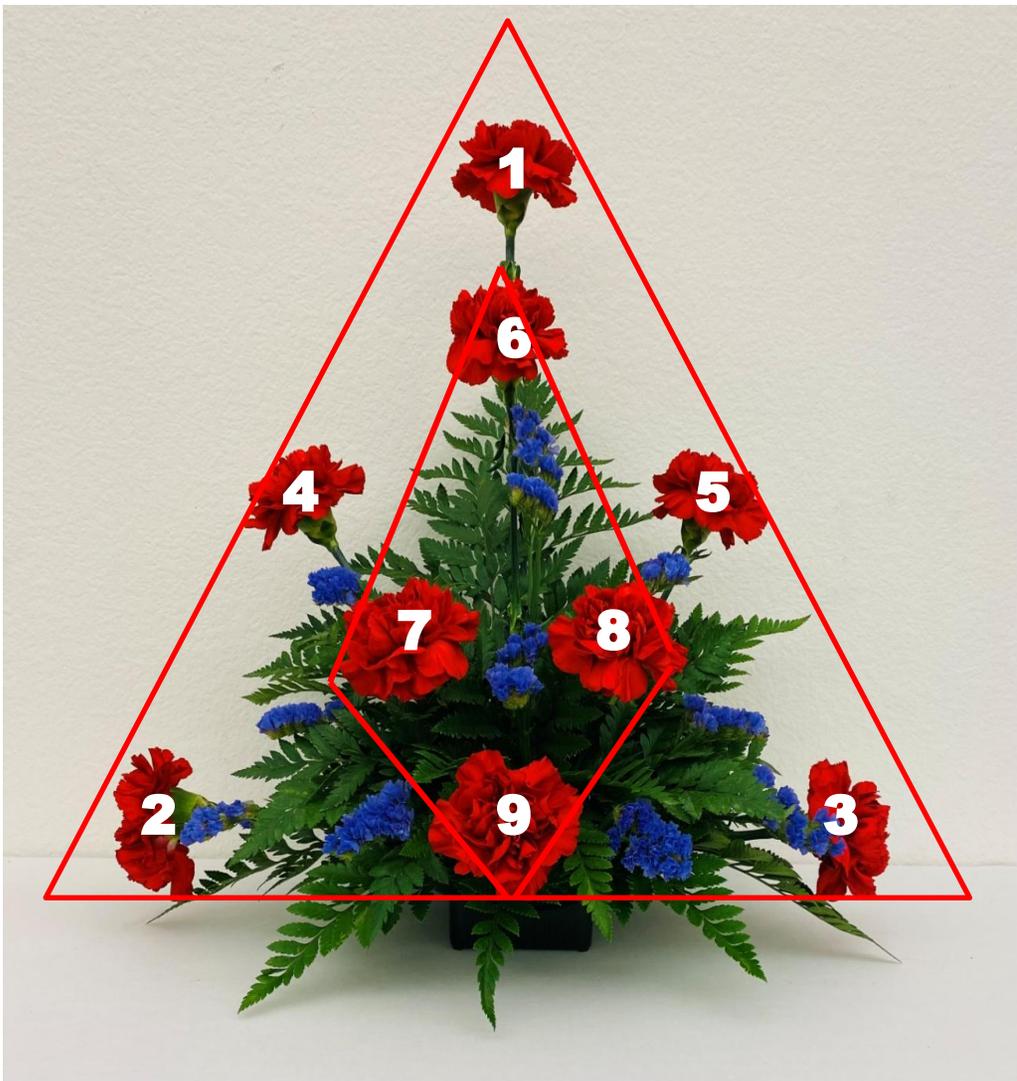
**SIDE VIEW**  
Lengthwise floral foam  
with insertions



## Overview

Placement of skeletal stems for  
Symmetrical Triangle Arrangement

**FRONT VIEW**



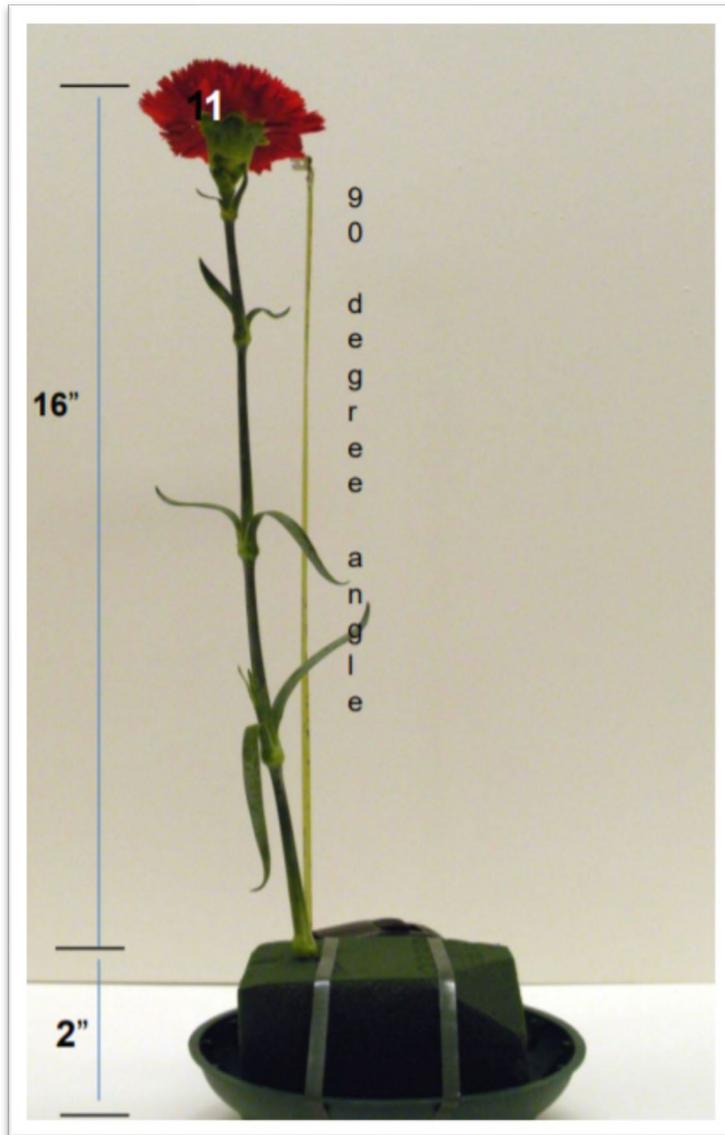
**Skeletal stems – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 – follow the triangle shape.**

**Numbers 6, 7, 8, and 9 form a diamond shape. You can practice by using an actual drawn triangle and diamond as a guide.**



**Skeletal stems – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 – follow the triangle shape.**

**Numbers 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 form a “V” shape . You can practice by using an actual drawn triangle and diamond as a guide.**

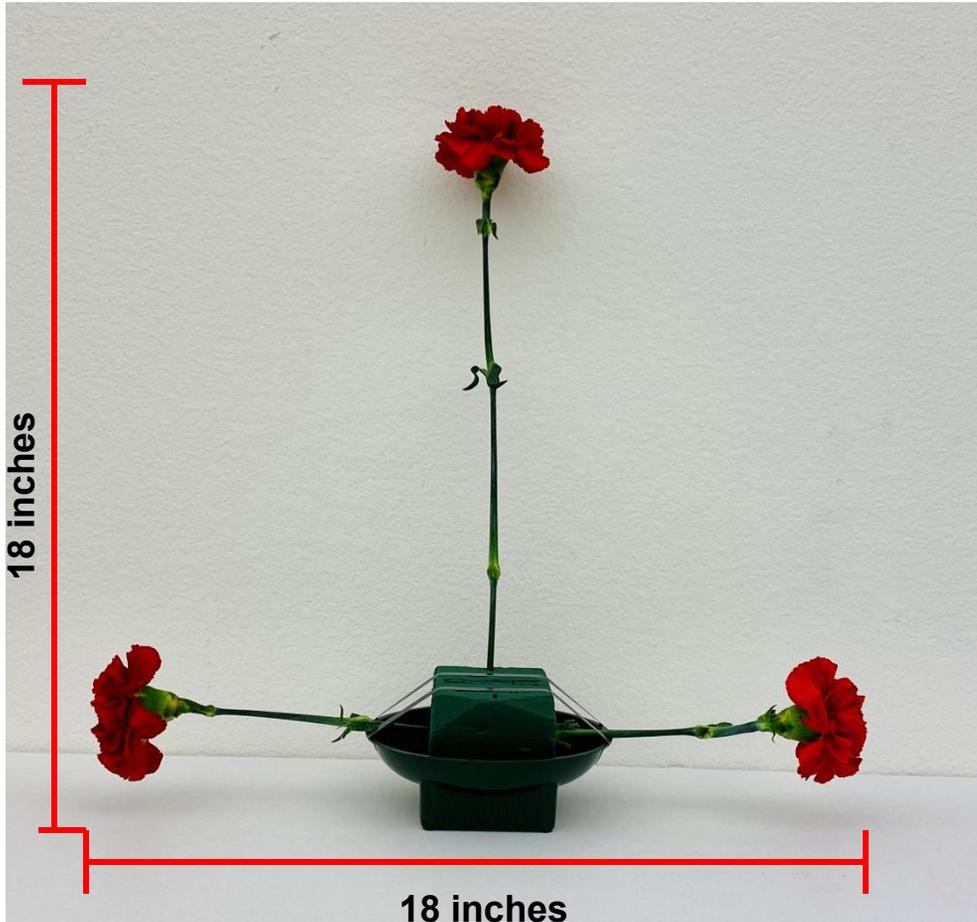


**SIDE VIEW**

## Beginning Insertions of #1

- The first stem (#1) will be approximately 18" tall and will be inserted toward the back of the foam, using the lengthwise direction of the foam
- Insert the stem approximately 2" into the foam as upright as possible with no more than a 95 degree angle

**Note: 90 degree angle to use as a guide (The stem should lay no further back than shown in example).**



## Insertion of the #2 and #3 Stems

- The combination width of the two stems will be approximately 18 inches.
- Insert the stems halfway between the length of the oasis in front of the vertical stem.
- You are creating depth and space within the arrangement by placement of these insertions

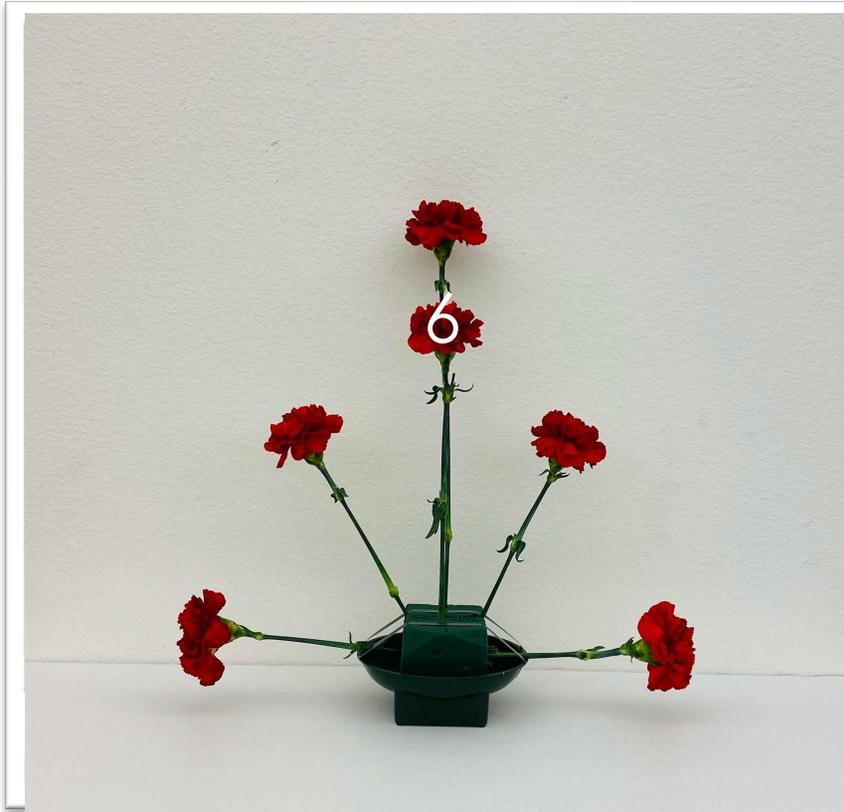
Total width is approximately 18"



**FRONT VIEW**

## Insertion of the #4 and #5 Stems

- Insert #4 and #5 in front of the line of #1 stem and behind the line of the #2 and #3 stems.
- The stems will be inserted toward the focal point/area and will lean slightly back.
- The stems will also be inserted closer toward the center of the floral foam.



**FRONT VIEW**

## Insertion of #6 Stem

- The second vertical stem, #6, is placed directly in front of the #1 stem
- The stems will be inserted toward the focal point area and will lean slightly forward.
- The stems will also be inserted closer toward the center of the floral foam.



**FRONT VIEW**

## Insertion of the #7 and #8 Stems

- The #7 and #8 stems are placed in front and toward the center of #4 and #5 stems.
- The stems are inserted in a direct line toward the focal point/area creating a V shape from #4 and #5 insertions.
- The stems will also be inserted closer toward the center of the floral foam.

## Insertion of #9 Stem

- This stem is placed in front of #1 and #6 stems near (but not directly on the lip of the container).
- This insertion defines the focal point/area of the arrangement. All stems (flowers, foliage and filler) will radiate from this point.
- Stems become shorter and tighter, as they near the focal point/area.



Front View of Skeletal  
Symmetrical Triangle Arrangement



**Side View  
of Skeletal  
Symmetrical  
Triangle  
Arrangement**

# Inserting Foliage



Enter from right side toward focal point



Enter from left side toward focal point



Enter from front center toward focal point

- **Begin adding Leather Leaf in the same manner you inserted your flowers**
- **Foliage should cover the stems and Floral Foam**
- **When you trim the length of a stem, save the excess to be used to fill in, where needed**
- **A stem must be inserted at least 1” -2” deep into the foam, in order to take up water**

# Insert Leather Leaf Fern

- Follow same insertion patterns as carnations
- Leather should support carnation stems
- Insert Leather Leaf closely behind carnations
- Keep greenery wings for filler pieces, i.e. front spaces and to fill gaps and cover floral foam
- No anchor tape should be visible
- No floral foam should be showing
- Do not cut foliage into tiny pieces and insert into floral Foam

# Inserting Foliage

Photo shows front view of the symmetrical triangle and the foliage which shadows the carnation stems



Front View with first  
Insertions of Foliage

# Complete Foliage



Front View with first  
Insertions of Foliage



Back View with first  
Insertions of Foliage



## Inserting Foliage

Photo shows side view of the symmetrical triangle and the foliage which shadows the carnation stems

Side View with  
complete Foliage



**Purple Statice**

## Filler

- ✓ Statice is a filler flower with multiple breaks on each stem.
- ✓ Each bloom/floret on the stem, may face a different direction.
- ✓ When designing with statice, you will need to separate the breaks so that you are using the blooms/florets in the correct direction. They must follow the lines within the arrangement.

# Insert Filler

- **Should be placed deeper than carnations to fill in empty spaces**
- **If using directional fillers, they should radiate out of the design**
- **Insert filler securely into floral foam. Do not over fill design with filler; graders will count off for this. All filler material provided does not have to be used.**



## Directional Placement of Filler

- Statice blooms/florets will radiate from the focal area with the tip of the bloom pointing outward. Each stem may have multiple directions of florets on a stem. You separate and use so that each radiates correctly.

**\* Filler should be placed in after the Foliage**

## Side and Front Views of Symmetrical Arrangement



**SIDE VIEW**



**FRONT VIEW**



## Back View of Symmetrical Triangle Arrangement

Back view of completed  
arrangement

# The Completed Arrangement

- Completed arrangement with flowers, foliage and filler
- The photo shows depth created by the filler and emphasis of the focal point created by bringing some of the filler and foliage in tighter/shorter toward the #9 carnation



## Top View of Finished Arrangement



# Design Conclusions

- Design will be judged on stem placement, NOT product quality
- Smaller blooms placed on outside edges of design and larger blooms to inside/ interior of arrangement for depth and focal for example: #7, #8 and #9 should be larger bloomed carnations. Larger pieces of filler/statice should be placed towards the center.
- DO NOT make design short and dense. If it is dense, space and proportion cannot be determined within the arrangement. The arrangement should be approximately 18" tall and approximately 18" wide. With this height and width, space will be created within the arrangement.
- Mass flowers (carnations) **MUST NOT** touch each other.
- Graders will not count off for broken carnation stems that have been re-wired together and taped correctly. Repair broken stems/carnations as needed

# Rose Boutonniere





## Required Materials for Boutonniere

- ✓ Small Rose head (50 cm)  
appropriate for boutonniere  
(i.e. Red Rose)
- ✓ Foliage – Small piece of Leather  
Leaf Fern
- ✓ #26/#24 wire
- ✓ Floral Tape



## Boutonniere Stem Length

- Stem length for a rose boutonniere should be proportionate to the head size, or in the area of 1 ½ inches to 2 ½ inches long.



## Inserting Wire

- Use  $\frac{1}{2}$  length of a #24 or #26 wire, pierce through the calyx of the rose



## Inserting Second Wire

- Using a second #26 wire, cross pierce the calyx Slightly lower than the first insertion.
- See example pictures for cross insertions



## Securing Wires

**In order to keep the wire parallel to the stem and prevent spiraling around the stem of the rose, you may want to floral tape around the lower portion of the stem to hold the wire straight and parallel to the stem before completing the taping of the entire stem.**

Note: (If you have a torn or broken sepal, rotate it to the backside of the rose head. DO NOT REMOVE. If more than one sepal is bad, you may trim or re-shape, but do not trim all sepals).



## Foliage

- Choose a tip from the Leather Leaf Fern that is proportionate to the size of the rose head. Foliage is an accent only and should not over power the design.



## ★ OPTIONAL: Wiring Leather Leaf Fern

It is not necessary to wire you foliage

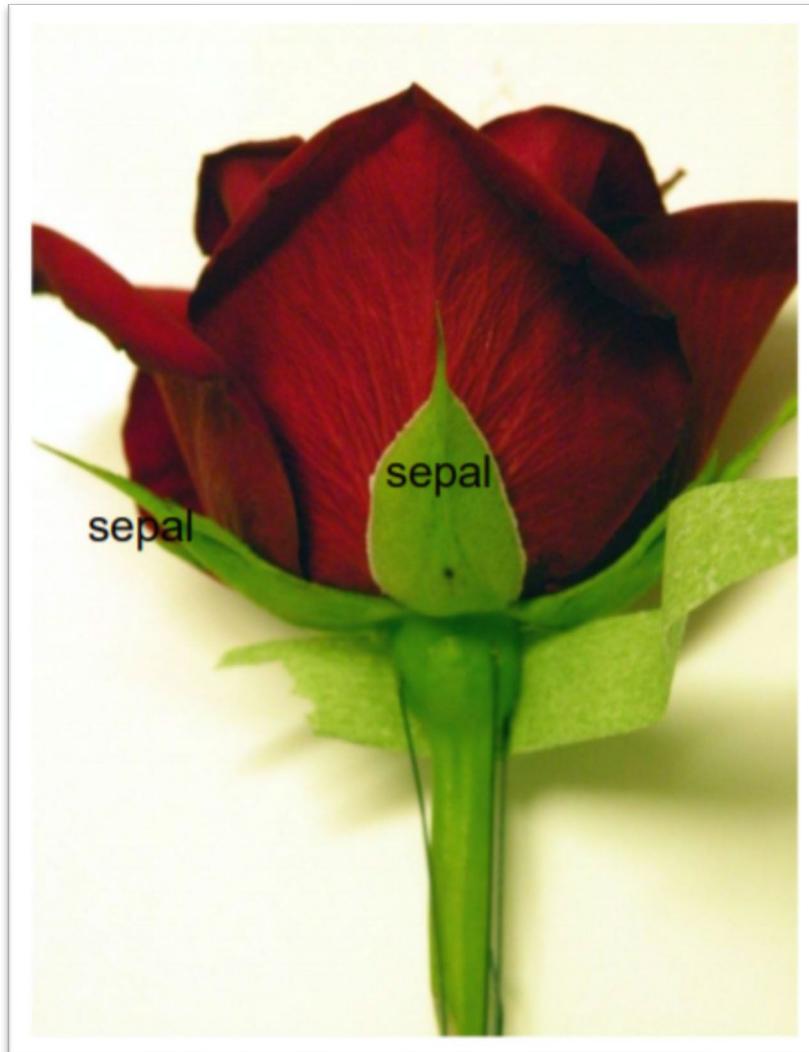
However, if you choose to wire Leather Leaf Fern, create a hairpin of 1/2 length #26 wire



Thread through the two lower fronds and pull the wire straight down parallel to the stem.

Tape partially down the rose stem to prevent the Leather Leaf stem from spiraling around the stem and then tape over the entire rose stem.

★ *Leather Leaf is very delicate and easy to break, again, wiring is optional, not necessary.*



## Tape Wired Rose Stem

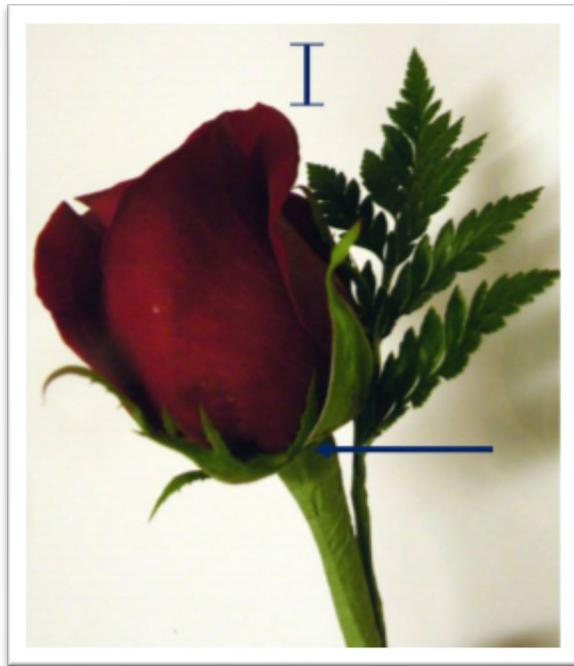
- If sepals are hanging down, do not remove, simply move aside
- Tape around calyx with floral tape, being careful to cover all insertion holes and pulled tight to top of stem

Tape should be pulled tight and

- smooth all along stem

No curled (pig tail) stems, please!

- Be sure there are no barbs or pieces
- of wire showing along the stem or at the bottom of the stem.



## Tape Rose and Foliage Together

Lay Leather Leaf Fern so that the lower end of the fronds fit close to the bottom of the rose head.



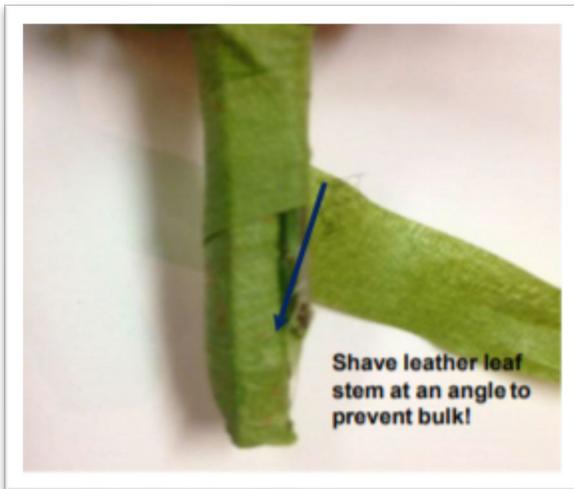
The tip of the Leather Leaf should be just slightly above the head of the rose, no more than 1 inch, maximum, in *proportion and scale* to the size of the rose head.



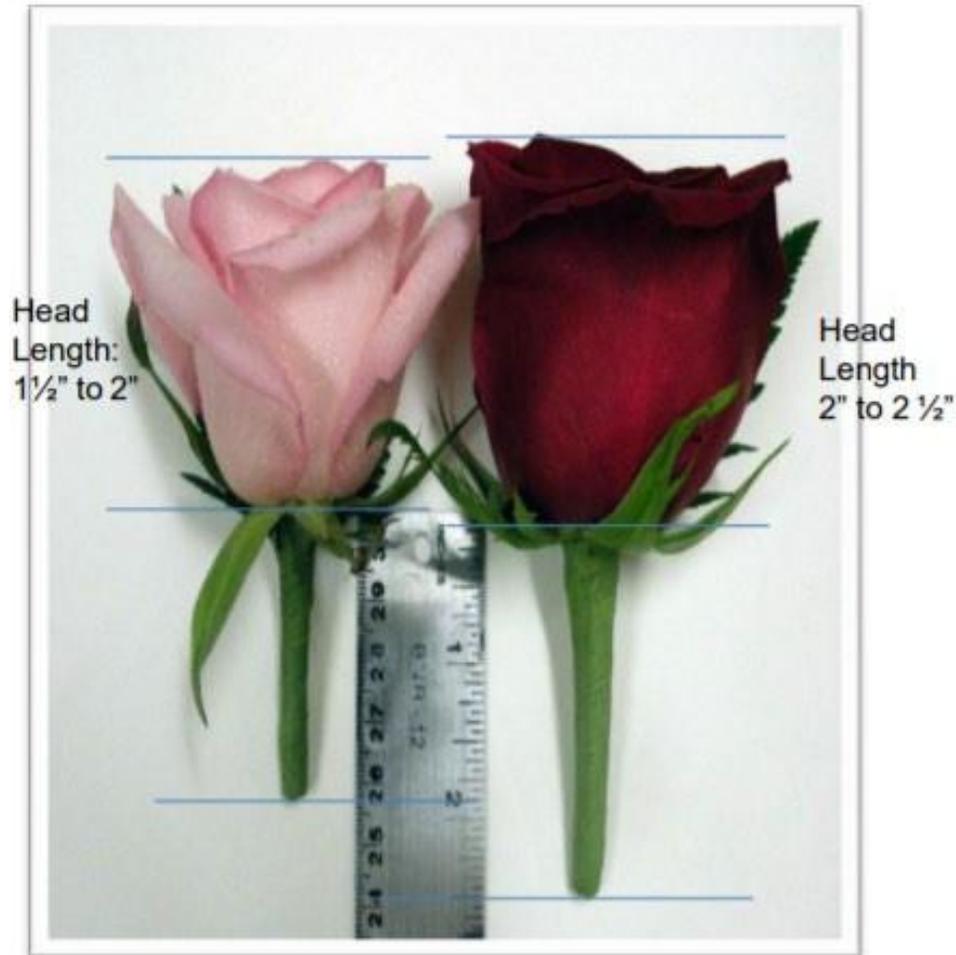
Shave Leather Leaf stem half way down the stem length of the rose and then tape stem and foliage together. This prevents the stem from



becoming so thick with tape!



# The Stem length for a Rose Boutonniere



## Reminder:

The length of the stem of your boutonniere is proportionate to the head size of the Rose.

The smaller the head size of the Rose, the shorter the stem.

The larger the head size of the Rose, the longer the stem.

**\* REMEMBER: stem length is Proportionate to head size!**



# Completed Rose Boutonniere