



Door Décor Wreath Making Instructions

Welcome to Mon Amie Door Décor – we are thrilled that you have bought this kit to make a stunning fresh Christmas wreath to hang on your door.

You might have already been to one of our workshops and have a good idea of what to do, or you could be totally new to this. Either way, we're going to take you step by step through the creative process so that you have something wonderful to behold!

So now all you need to do is pour yourself some mulled wine, grab a mince pie and put some Michael Bublé Christmas tunes on and be ready to get creative!

In your kit you will have:

- Copper wreath frame
- Reel wire on a dolly peg
- Bag of moss
- Spruce
- Bag of finishing items containing green backing tape and mossing pins
- A length of hanging string

Before you start, we recommend you forage some extra fresh foliage – this could be ivy, bay, rosemary, holly, viburnum or eucalyptus – basically anything strong and green. You could also consider using fresh berries and other lovely seasonal things that you can forage from your garden or the countryside.

Also have available any additional decorations that you have bought or have to hand like oranges, cinnamon, cones, feathers and ribbon etc. We'll be showing you how to add these later.

Wearing an apron is advised, as is wearing some gardening gloves or Marigolds to protect your hands and nails in the early stages. You might also want to protect the table you're working on with some cardboard or a cloth as the moss and spruce can get messy. You could open up the box that your kit arrives in to use as a base for making your wreath.

Happy wreath making – don't forget to share your results with us on social media – tag us in on Instagram @monamieliving

Step One – Mossing the Frame

A fresh moss base is the traditional way to make a wreath as it serves to keep the wreath fresh and vibrant for as long as possible. Everything will sit on the moss base so it's important to start your wreath construction with a base that's dense and as rigid as possible.

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Start by taking your reel wire and wrapping it a couple of times around the edge of the frame. There is no need to wrap it all the way around the base – just a couple of times to secure it to the frame.

Next take a handful of moss and squish it into a fat sausage shape – it needs to be nice and compact.

Place the moss on top of the frame where you have wrapped the wire and secure it in place by wrapping the reel wire around the moss and the frame a couple of times.

IMPORTANT – The moss knits itself together nicely when you squish it so you only need to secure it to the frame with a couple of wraps of the reel wire – but do pull the wire nice and tight to make sure it's secure.

Take another handful of moss and squish into another fat sausage shape and then butt it up to the first one on top of the frame and wrap the reel wire around another couple of times. Only work on one side of the copper frame as you'll need access to the back of the frame later on. Continue adding the moss in the same way until the frame is completely covered.

Before you move onto Step Two, take an atomiser and give your moss a good spray of water – if you don't have an atomiser to hand, give your moss a good sprinkle of water to ensure it's nice and damp. This will help to prolong the life of all the fresh elements that you will add.

Step Two – Adding Spruce and Foliage

Now you have a mossed base, you can start adding spruce and foliage. Fresh spruce is the traditional greenery that's used on Christmas wreaths – not only does it create a wonderful festive look, but it smells divine too!

This step is where your wreath starts to have a personality of its own – and when you decide what size you'd like your finished wreath to be. If you'd like a large wreath, you need to use longer stems and work your spruce and foliage outwards. If you'd like a smaller wreath, cut your foliage shorter and work closer to the edge of the mossed frame.

We recommend starting with a piece of spruce – simply place it on top of the mossed base, where your reel wire is still attached, and then secure it to the frame by wrapping the wire around the spruce and the frame together.

Be mindful to work the wire in and out/between the fronds of the spruce so that you don't squash the natural wildness of the greenery.

Next choose another foliage and place it on top of the end of the first piece of spruce so that you cover the end of the first stem. Wrap the wire around the foliage and the frame once again to secure it in place. One wrap of the wire will be enough to hold the foliage in place – just remember to pull the wire nice and tight to keep the wreath as rigid as possible.

IMPORTANT – keep the foliage travelling in the same direction all the way around the frame so that the flow is maintained. Always cover the end of the stem of the last piece of foliage that you added and keep the tips of the foliage facing the same way. It's not important if you go clockwise or anti-clockwise just as long as you keep going in the same direction with each piece of foliage that you add.

You could add two or three different pieces of foliage at a time in a small bunch for a more varied look – or you may choose to add just one type all the way round. You could also add smaller pieces of foliage and spruce to the inner side of the frame to cover the moss. Just be sure you don't completely cover the hole in the centre so that you retain a wreath shape.

The choice of what you add and in what combination is entirely up to you – it means your wreath will be unique to you!

Keep adding greenery all the way around your frame – tucking the final stem ends under the first piece of foliage that you added when you reach your starting point again.

Now have a good look at your wreath and give the spruce and foliage a tweak to make sure it's fulsome and lovely. If you feel there are any gaps that you'd like to fill, simply add in some extra pieces and secure them in place with your reel wire.

Finally turn your wreath over and cut the reel wire off leaving about 5-10cm that you will sew around the copper frame on the back to secure it in place. Pull it nice and tight and then press the end of the wire into the moss so that you don't have any sharp ends sticking out.

Step Three – Adding Decorations

At this stage you might decide that your wreath is finished and that you're really happy with a natural foliage look – in which case, jump to Step Four to finish off your wreath.

However, if you feel you'd like to add some decorations this is how you do it...

First you need to decide which way round you'd like your wreath to sit when you hang it on your door. There will naturally be a top and a bottom – which might sound odd for something that you have created as circular, but you will know when you see it! Try asking somebody else to hold the wreath and turn it for you slowly so that you can see which orientation you prefer.

Once you have established your top and bottom, it's time to start adding decorations. We recommend you lay the decorations on top off the wreath before you start to fix them on.

Have some fun designing your wreath so that you know you're going to love the end result!

Remember, your wreath doesn't have to have decorations all the way around – you could consider adding them just to one side or one corner depending on your style. We love an asymmetrical design with foliage and decorations that trail off the side.

IMPORTANT – In floral design we always work in odd numbers – some things require symmetry, but most floral design works better in a less formal way. They say that one reason is because our brains are more at ease with symmetry so they have to work harder with odd numbers – which makes us appreciate creative design more. You will find that if you add 4 of something around your circular wreath, you will make your circle look square – so just stick to adding 1 or 3 or 5 of something. Odd numbers just work better – believe us!

When you have worked out your design, you will need to add all the elements with a long stub wire.

To attach the wire to the different elements, where possible thread the end through or around a section of it and then bend it back on itself and twist the wire to secure it in place. This works for items such as dried oranges, orange slices, lotus heads and cones etc.

For decorations that have a stem such as faux berries, feathers and flowers of any kind, take your stub wire and make a neat hairpin with one end. Rest the hairpin against the stem of the decoration and then wrap the wire around a few times to secure it. Adding a hairpin makes the wire stick firmly to the decoration. If you simply wrap it around the stem, you will find it will slip off.

You can also add a ribbon of your choice at this stage if you like. Simply create a bow the size you'd like it to be and then secure a wire to it to thread through the moss just like all the other decorations. You can also leave flowing trails for an added whimsical touch.

Each element should have a wire attached to it before you thread the long end of the wire through the wreath and out the back. Then simply bend the end of the wire back into the moss so that it's not sticking out.

Keep adding your decorations until your design is complete!

Step Four – Finishing Off

The final stage of making your wreath is to add a backing tape to the back.

Some people prefer not to add a backing to the wreath, and if you are going to hang your wreath against a brick wall or a surface that you're not worried about marking, you can forgo this stage.

However, we do recommend that you add the backing tape. The purpose of this is two-fold; it helps to maintain the moisture in the wreath – making all the fresh elements last longer, and it stops the wires that you have been poking through to the back, from scratching any surfaces when it hangs.

To add the tape, you are going to work in a circular motion around the back of the original copper frame that you started with (this is the reason that you don't add moss to both sides at the start).

Take the green backing tape and fix one end of it into the moss with one of your mossing pins at one edge of the copper frame. Then work either side of the frame – taking the tape from top to bottom at an angle so that you can work around the frame – adding a mossing pin each side to secure the tape in place. Basically, you will be zig-zagging your way around the wreath – adding a pin and then covering it with the tape as you zig zag back to the other side.

IMPORTANT – Try not to take the tape too wide around the wreath or it could be visible from the side angle when hanging. Keep the tape flowing from one side of the copper frame to the other for a neater finish.

This is best viewed on our video for ease!

Once you have gone all the way round, cut the tape and secure your last pin in place.

The final thing to do is to add a hanging loop to the frame so that it can hang from your door. Simply thread your length of string around the original copper frame and knot it to secure a loop – making it as long or as short as you'd like it to be.

Top Tip – If you have a hook or a nail in the door that's great. If not, 3M make a product called a Command Hook that we thoroughly recommend as it sticks to your door very securely and can hold a lot of weight. Then it removes easily without leaving a mark – we have tried and tested this on Lou's brand new front door and it honestly worked a treat! We recommend you get a hook that can take around 5kg of weight – your finished wreath will be heavier than you think!

Now proudly hang your wreath on your door and wait for all the wonderful comments you'll receive!

Congratulations on making your Mon Amie Door Décor... we hope you enjoyed it!