

create a pretty posie

With the fashion for flower arrangements tending towards more carefree styles, creating a posie doesn't require a degree in engineering.

Flower arranging is very different than the days when large sculptural flowers were carefully constructed in impressive arrangements. Today, we like our flowers more casual and carefree – like you've just walked in from the garden with a bunch of dewy blooms and haphazardly placed them in the nearest vase to hand.

Of course, as with many things, that seemingly simple effect isn't as easy as it looks. But with a few tips from friendly florist Michelle Henry of Roses in Mt Eden, Auckland, you can create pretty posies like these.

Today's fashion is for less greenery and more floral elements. In fact, these posies have hardly a leaf in sight and are made up of quite cottagey blooms such as hydrangea, sweet pea, dahlia, Singapore orchids, and bougainvillea.

Says Michelle: "People want more romantic, feminine and nostalgic arrangements. Like those that Grandma used to have. It follows the current trend for vintage fashion and handcrafted homewares."

Because of the casual, slightly mismatched look of the posies, you don't have to be too careful about colour, says Michelle. "Anything goes with this style. There are no rules." For a vase, she suggests either something brightly coloured, like these Rice glass vases from Germany, or something a little old-fashioned, like cut glass or even an old jug. Narrow-necked vases are best for this type of arrangement as they allow the posie to splay out into its spherical shape. **H**



- Resene Sargent Pepper
- Resene Woodstock

Background colour Resene Moonbeam. See overleaf for more tips on how to treat cut flowers.

Step 1 >

Collect a selection of pretty flowers, including one type (you'll need two or three blooms) that will be used as the base or anchor bloom. Hydrangeas are good for this, as is any other larger bloom like peonies, full-blown roses, dahlia, tulips or other spring bulbs. Or you can use foliage, such as magnolia leaves, as your base.



Step 2 ^

Holding the base flowers firmly in one hand, start to thread the other flowers in a random pattern between the base flowers and through your hand. Trim the stalks after threading if it makes handling easier. Keep building up the flower arrangement until you have a quite tight sphere of flowers.

< Step 3

Tie a piece of twine around the flower stalks so that the arrangement holds its shape. Place into your vase of choice.

√ Three alternative posie looks, in German-made Rice glass vases from Roses.



Florist Michelle Henry.