

Lesson plan 1

Taping

Initial Activity 20 minutes (Discussion, reinforced on the video 10 mins)

Question for Discussion:

Why do florists use stem tape?

- to create a clean neat finish to coat wires so that they are easy to wear or carry with no risk of injury or damage to clothing
- to seal in moisture, as it cuts down the transpiration rate of plant materials through water loss from the stem.

Consider the different types of stem tape available, their key features and pointers for use.

Discuss the learners' experiences with tape and their current preferences and perceptions.

Paraffin/Plastic stem tape: (Parafilm is a brand name)

This tape has a very shiny and smooth finish, it has no residue, it repels water and can stretch to a very high degree of transparency. The tape doesn't need to be split down in width as it is so stretchy the required finish can be achieved by maintaining the correct tension to stretch it out consistently.

This tape is easier to use if warmed to room temperature, often this can be achieved by placing the roll next to the skin for a few minutes.

Possible issues with this tape can occur when the tape is old or if it is exposed to extreme temperatures. This can result in the tape becoming either brittle or fused together, which makes it impossible to use. This type of tape allows for a very fine coating and is often chosen for this reason.

Paper based tapes (e.g. Stemtex is a brand name) This type of tape has a more natural texture similar to paper, it has a slight sticky residue. It is very suitable for use when the process requires wool or yarn to be wrapped over the wires as the stickiness helps the wool bond on.

Paper covered tape stretches out but to a lesser degree than tape, for this reason it is advisable to split the tape to half width for a fine finish.

This can be done with scissors.

Watch Taping Video and follow instructions

Practical Activity 10 minutes:

Place the end of the tape underneath a 0.90 or 1.20 gauge wire, move the end of the tape upward to enclose the end of the wire.

Establish which is the dominant hand, hold the wire close to the end with the less dominant hand, rotate the wire between thumb and forefinger applying a firm pressure to the tape.

The tape should flow from beneath the wire and up toward the body.

With the dominant hand stretch the tape so that the coating is fine and even. Both actions are taking place at the same time.

When the end of the wire is reached continue the same action beyond the end of the wire so that the wire end is sealed in when the end is broken off.

Analyse the coated wire, could it be more evenly coated with the same thin consistent coverage of tape?

Are there any breaks in the tape?

Are the ends of the wire neatly sealed in?

Repeat the process as directed five times with plastic tape, and five times with paper tape.

- once heavier gauge wires are mastered (1.20 Or 0.90, move to 0.71, then 0.56, 0.46, 0.32 and 0.28 (the difficulty level will build as the gauges become finer)
- after this is mastered then taping wired plant materials can be introduced.

Top Tips:

- when taping round a wire stem it is important to stretch the tape a little at first so that the delicate materials are not damaged by the action of really firm pressing and twisting that would be necessary with unstretched tape
- paraffin/plastic tape works better at room temperature, often florists warm it against the body before use
- do not store in extreme temperatures as the tape can become brittle or fuse together
- older roles of tape are often brittle
- keep paper stem tape in its cello bag until used as this stops it drying out
- split paper tape to half width for neater finish.

Learning outcomes

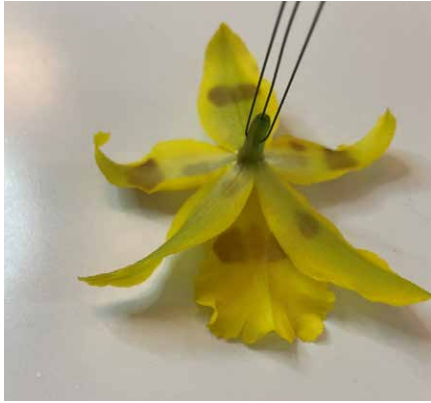
After completing this activity learners will be able to:

- identify the reasons a florist uses stem tape and note the key differences in the qualities and use of each tape
- apply tape evenly and consistently and improve timing without loss of quality
- recognise the importance of a consistent fine coating of tape to a wire with no breaks or projection
- identify the optimum hand position and pressure, and movements to achieve an even coating of tape
- learn how to pull the tape efficiently to the correct tension to allow it to stretch evenly whilst coating the wire
- analyse the standard of the finished wire, is the coating thin, even and with no breaks or bulky areas, no exposed wire throughout or at ends?
- increase commercial speed without loss of quality of finish
- once 0.90 gauge wires are mastered, move to 0.71, then 0.56, 0.46, 0.32 and 0.28 (the difficulty level will build as the gauges become finer)
- refer to the evaluation sheet
- understand the reasons why florists use wire
- identify the correct gauge of wire to support given plant materials (maintaining a degree of natural movement)
- perform wiring techniques: internal wiring, single leg mount, pipping, stitch support wiring
- create natural and branching units
- tape all wired elements ready for assembly into a shoulder corsage in the next lesson.

Lesson plan 2

Wiring plant materials and forming units for a shoulder corsage

(selection of illustrations below)



Wiring Methods (10 minutes)

Reasons why florists wire plant materials

- to support
- to control and position plant materials without breakage
- to lengthen and create units (offering diverse opportunities for design).

Practical Activity:

To select the correct gauge of wire and technique for the chosen plant material.

Consider the weight and length of the materials to be wired, try wiring them on different gauges and make a comparison with the weight and the degree of movement retained. Is the wire gauge sufficient to give support needed?

Is the plant material floppy / stiff and rigid or is there support with a degree of natural movement?

Apply these considerations to the following wiring methods:

Practical Activity:

To perform the following wiring techniques for use in a shoulder corsage (as instructed in the video)

(10 minutes to watch, 15 minutes activity)

- a diamond shaped paper template on the bench can be useful for level 2 learners to cut their materials to length against . They can arrange the materials on the template to see how they will look. This stops them leaving too much stem on in relation to the binding point. It also helps them visualise the outline shape and proportions. The lily grass will extend beyond this but the general principle is helpful at level 2
- the following list can be adapted and the number of elements reduced to simplify the task if necessary, but the following amounts are just suggestions:

Stitch support wire for Ivy (7 single stitched leaves)

Forming branching units with tape (2 branching units of three leaves, 2 branching units of two leaves)

Internal wiring for orchids and chrysanthemums with cross wiring (2 heads of orchids, one long unit of graduating chrysanthemum buds, one branching unit of two buds, and one single bud)

Single leg mount for Chamelaucium uncinatum (wax flower)(two long units and two shorter units)

1/2 x Orchid branches and 2 x units of two Liriope grasses

Pipping technique for Hyacinthus orientalis florets, (minimum of 1 unit of three and one unit of two florets, this can be doubled if desired and depending on learner experience)

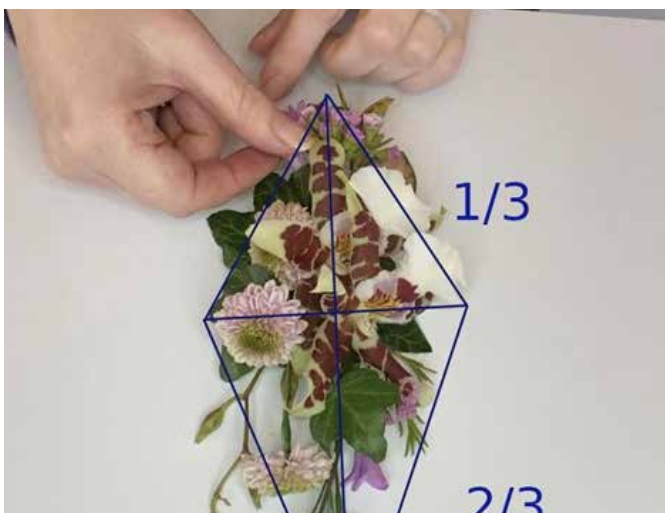
Follow the directions in the video

Lesson plan 3

(15 minutes to watch video and discuss the type of outfit this would suit and attachment considerations, 10 minutes practical activity)

1. Assemble wired elements into a corsage

(assembly covered in the video)



Main body of the design made within a kite shaped outline, with 1/3 in return end, 2/3rds from the focal point down

Top tips

- minimise the number of binds as much as possible so the binding point doesn't travel
- make sure no plant materials are caught in the binding point
- position some stitched leaves at the back of the design to improve finish
- make sure the design is light weight and comfortable to wear
- check for wire ends and breaks in tape before completion
- check that there are no gaps in the design that allow the mechanics to be visible
- don't forget a method of attachment so the design is functional
- spray with water and cover with cellophane to cut down transpiration and aid longevity
- don't forget a method of attachment so the design is functional.



Back of the design showing the correct stem length, the ivy extending beyond the flowers for protection, stability and visual balance.

It is possible to adapt the design to feature a wide range of plant materials. After the practical session it is of great value to discuss the suitability of materials choice in relation to worn and carried designs. Durable materials have been chosen for the design to reflect the fact that they will be out of water. Discuss a range of materials that would not be durable enough for a wired corsage. Also consider sources of heat that need consideration for worn and carried designs.

Learner Evaluation

The evaluation sheet will aid the learner build their own ability to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of their own work before seeking educator feedback.

Learning outcomes

Create a symmetrical decorative shoulder corsage by assembling units in a design with a radial single binding point.

Suitable for

Introduced at Level 2 as a core competence and reinforced in Level 3.

Suitable for Floristry Apprentices or Technical Qualifications.

Suggestions for Differentiation:

Larger Orchids will provide more challenge for Level 3 learners.

The use of threading technique can be introduced with decorative wire to extend and adapt the activity at Level 3.

Resources needed

1. Video & LMS access (link)
2. Task brief
3. Marking criteria
2. Infrastructure List
3. H&S Checklist
4. Skill Fact Sheet

Skills

A learner will need to be driven to achieve a consistent high standard of finish and workmanship, when the technique is mastered, then timed practicing becomes useful to build commercial speed.

When training to a world class standard it is necessary to know how long it takes a learner to tape ten wires to perfect finish, so this forms an easy "start of the day" routine which takes no real time from the lesson. It also introduces an element of personal pride and competitive drive that naturally drives improvement.

Reflection and self-evaluation are important in this process as the ability to analyse the process and then find ways to improve next time, drives improvement.

Delivery Modes

1. Students can go through the online materials independently – either at your facilities, if you have access to enough computers, or can go through the materials at home in their own time.
2. You can download and print all relevant resources, access the video demo and deliver the activity in the classroom.

Section	Timings	Key teaching points
Lesson plans	Lesson 1 35 minutes total Lesson 2 30 minutes total Lesson 3 30 minutes total	<p>The lessons are divided into three:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taping wires (video 10 mins) • wiring up materials suitable for a shoulder corsage (video 10 mins) • assembling the shoulder corsage (video 10 mins) <p>The lessons need to be done in sequence. Lesson one could be repeated as a daily ten minute routine before progressing to lesson 2 and 3.</p> <p>The task can be extended by showing learners how decorative wire can be integrated to extend a shoulder corsage.</p> <p>The task can be made easier by using smaller orchids, however at level 3 the learner should begin to practice with a diverse range of materials to grow their confidence.</p>
Videos	10 minutes each	Watch each video in sequence order, learners to make notes. It is also possible that the video be stopped and started to allow sequencing of activities.
Task Brief (below)	10 minutes per lesson	Familiarise learners with the key steps to complete the set tasks in sequence , focusing on lesson 1 as a key area before progressing to lesson 2 and 3.
Task brief	30 minutes	Take some time to think about the ideas you will explore. Plan the pipeline process for each section, noting which software would be best to use.
Infrastructure & H&S checklist	10 minutes	Prepare for the activity by ensuring all equipment is ready to use and that all Health and Safety Checks are in place.
Task Brief	10 minutes	Get learners to complete the task by following the instructions on the task brief.
Evaluation Criteria	2 minutes	Learners to complete their evaluation form, after your guidance and feedback encourage learners to record them on LMS. Do not forget to feedback to WorldSkills UK.

Additional info:

Preparation

- make sure that you have printed all of the resources
- ensure you have access to the technology to play a video demo and access LMS.

Differentiation/meeting individual needs

- you may need to support some learners who do not have access to the right technology or do not have internet access.