



I am so so proud of myself, I just can't tell you! I'm sitting here looking at the most beautiful potted red geranium plant that I've ever tried to raise. I must confess, though my most favorite flowers are red geraniums, I have two brown thumbs. So I cheated and purchased one of Debbie Noland's (Debbie's "Tiny Treasures") great round table kits at a Regional Houseparty.

To do your own gather, 1 package punched petals, 1 package punched leaves, 1 clay pot, 1 small Styrofoam tray, 1 quilting pin, floral wire, brown Styrofoam, green Styrofoam, craft foam (brown), mini "dirt"

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Straight Tweezers
- Tacky Glue
- Paintbrush with rounded end on handle
- Fine Tipped Glue Bottle
- Sand Paper

1. Wrap floral wires around top of tweezers once - giving wires a tiny circle at top. Bend circle 90 degrees (or horizontal to the table).

2. Sprinkle petals on styrofoam tray. Push quilting pin through center of about 10 petals. With your fingers, gently turn petals on pin and cup petals around pin. Now, gently pull petals off of pin. Repeat this step for all petals.

3. Put a dab of glue on wax paper. With tweezers, dip petals in a little bit of glue.

* place 3 cupped petals (side by side, but creating a triangle) on top of circles of floral wires, trying to match petal shapes. Let dry a few minutes. Stick wire in green styrofoam to dry.

*Now place another 7-8 cupped petals around edges of the 3 petals, trying to match petal shapes. Stick wire in green styrofoam to dry. Your geranium is finished . . . now you need leaves.

4. Sprinkle some geranium leaves on craft foam. With rounded end of paintbrush (or ball stylus), gently push leaves on craft foam and cup by moving paintbrush in circular movements. Don't cup a lot.

5. Place a dot of glue on wire of geranium stems about 1/8" from petals and 2 more 1/8" apart. With tweezers place notch of geranium leaves on stem. Stick in styrofoam to dry. Repeat this for all geraniums

6. Take 8 floral wires and bend down 1/8" of the top 90 degrees. Dip each bended top in glue, then place a leaf on top, cup side up. Place three dots of glue about 1/8" apart. Place notch of leaf on wire stem. Put in green styrofoam to dry. Don't forget to use some dying leaves. Every pot of real flowers has some dying leaves. At least mine do!

7. Put some glue in the bottom of the pot

. Place your brown styrofoam inside the pot. Press down firmly. Trim down the styrofoam if it doesn't fit exactly. Then, put a generous amount of glue all over the top of the brown foam. Immediately sprinkle "mini dirt" on top of glue. Pat down lightly. Turn pot upside down to remove excess dirt.

8. Now you are ready to plant your flowers! Planting should be done right away so glue doesn't dry. With tweezers pick up your flower stems, bend them a little and place them in the pot. This is your chance to be creative! Place them however you want. I plant mine at an angle. Then fill in the open spots with the leaf stems. Your leaf stems should be shorter than the flowers - cut them down if they are too tall. To be sure your flowers or leaf stems never fall out, it's a good idea to dip the stem in glue before planting.

Don't pass up the opportunity to participate in the roundtable sessions at any Regional or National. Debbie Noland's business, provides outdoor flowers and gardens.