

Notes: How To Create An Inverted Crescent Vase Arrangement



**Rittners Floral School
Boston, Ma.**



Hi, Welcome to The Rittners School of Floral Design in Boston. It's a pleasure welcoming you to this distance education workshop "How To Create A Contemporary Inverted Crescent Vase Arrangement." We think you'll really enjoy this lesson!

This arrangement is fun to do and people will be impressed when you create it.

Unlike a table centerpiece that is viewed all the way around, this arrangement is one sided. That means it has a front which is displayed here, and a backside (which while covered with foliage is not as impressive as the front.)

Contents That You Will Need To Create This Arrangement:

- °A VERY Tall Container
- °Foam
- °Roses (12-15 flowers depending upon the size of your container--Can mix varieties)
- °Sunflowers (3 stems)
- °Hydrangea (2 stems)
- °Larkspur (1/2 to 1 bunch)
- °Baker fern

The contents are approximate depending upon the size of your container, what materials are available to you, their level of development, how dense you like your design, and your own specific tastes.

Background on The Crescent Vase Arrangement

The crescent vase arrangement is one of a group of flower arrangements that are called various names. We call them “line arrangements,” “linear designs,” “geometric designs” or even “high style” arrangements. All of these varied names refer to the same genre of designs.



Typical geometric designs would include things like L shapes, triangles, vertical designs and inverted T's. It does feel funny to call something that is curved, a “linear” design, but we still consider the crescent (a curved line) to be within that family of arrangements. It is shaped like a crescent moon.

One reason it is so critical to master what we call line or geometric arrangements is that **once you have them under control, you can do all kinds of very neat manipulations/variations on them to come up with very cool results.** This lesson is a good example of this.

In this lesson we are going to show you how to take the classical crescent and **change it a bit to come up with something even more spectacular.**

In fact when this design is displayed folks will often not know how to classify it. It is often simply described as a “contemporary interpretation of floral art.”



Let's look at it more closely. Take a classical crescent. Turn it upside down and place it on a tall container, and you have a totally different look!



Start With Your Container:

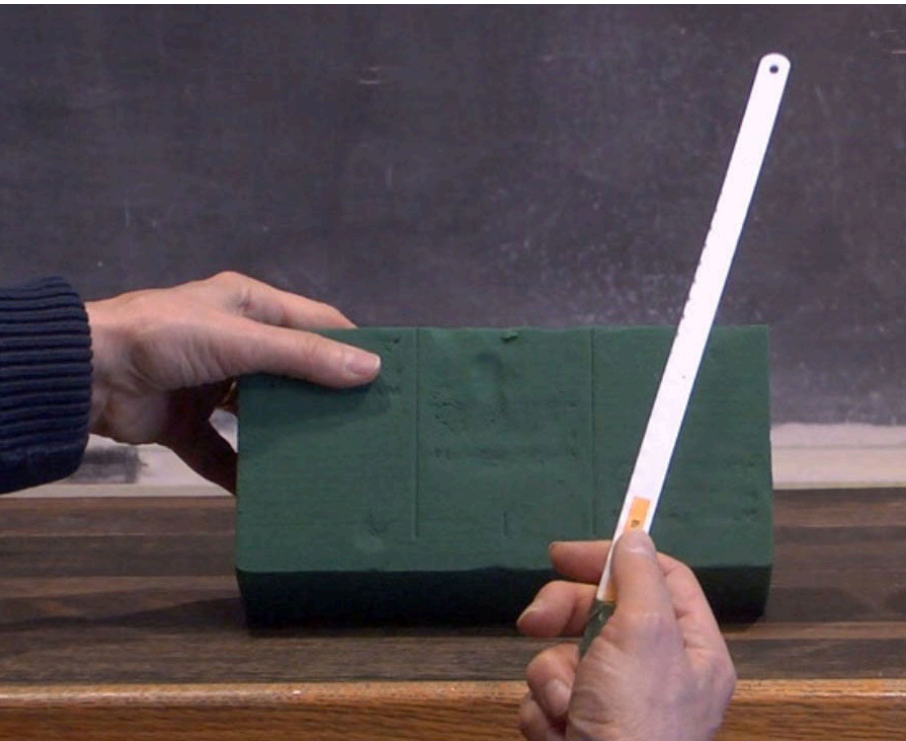


Containers are among the floral designer's best friends. Like your live friends, each container has its own unique qualities.

If you want to make your arrangement more "upscale" a lovely container is an easy way to contribute to that goal.

To create an inverted crescent, you need a container tall enough to allow a section of the flowers to angle downwards.

We suggest a container that is at least sixteen to eighteen inches tall or larger.



Saturate your foam with water. Because this container is a very deep one, we needed around two to three blocks of foam. Your mileage may vary.

We've cut our foam into smaller pieces and filled the container almost all the way to the top with those pieces. (You can easily cut foam with a hacksaw blade.)

Note: I usually like to take random pieces of foam that are leftovers from other projects and keep them in a foam scrap bucket. Instead of using totally new foam blocks you can use these odds and ends to fill your container, and then use a new piece on the top of the vase. It's a nice way to repurpose what otherwise would be discarded.



Wedge saturated wet foam into the top of the container. Notice that it comes up over the edge of the container by a couple of inches.

Some designers also like to use florist tape (rather sticky) over the foam to attach to several sides of the container to hold the foam in place securely. You can do that if you desire, but I find that if the foam is wedged tightly into the container, that alone is often sufficient.



Let's set the overall boundaries of the arrangement with foliage. One piece to the left and several to the right do the job. You can see why we needed the tall container for this arrangement.



Connect the left section with the lower right section





This gives the overall outline of the upside down crescent....



Let's use the foliage as a guide to adding the flowers. You can never go wrong with roses.

Starting at the lower right side and working upwards....



Don't worry if there is a lot of space between the roses. We will add other flowers after the roses are placed.







Connect the left and the right along the bottom.



Connect with roses
along the top.



The inverted
crescent shape
is now very
clearly defined
by the roses.





We could continue to develop this arrangement with more roses, or even make the entire arrangement with roses only.

Instead let's start to add some sunflowers. They are bold, bright and optimistic.

If sunflowers are not available to you some possible alternatives are lilies, fujis or cremon poms.



We could add a little more foliage in through the center and back, and this could be an ending spot for our arrangement. It is lovely.... But wait... There's more!!





Smaller mint green hydrangea adds more value and prestige to the arrangement.

We could add another stem or two of hydrangea over towards the right and again consider that a possible ending point, but let's play with this just a bit more....



Larkspur is a lovely linear flower. Let's use it to reinforce the shape of our arrangement, to fill in and to add contrast in shape and color







Once again this is a possible ending point, but, just for fun, let's continue to play with it!



Let's add more roses. In this case a different variety with a different color.



Uses For This Arrangement



This arrangement can be used in any of the ways the original crescent can be used. It does tend to work well in any context where you need a larger design.

While a regular crescent of roses is rich and lavish in appearance, this mixture of flowers is even more spectacular.





Once you know how to create an inverted crescent, you can do all kinds of cool things with it. Notice the application as part of a contemporary arrangement that is “out of the box!”

Or placed into a low container, and draped over the edge of a table, this arrangement could also be used as a head table design for weddings and events.....



Some Questions To Consider:

- 1. Does a crescent shape always have to be upright like a crescent moon?**
- 2. What genre of design does the “crescent” belong to?**
- 3. You need curved flowers to make a crescent. True or false?**
- 4. What is a major requirement when making most inverted crescent vase arrangements?**
- 5. Crescent designs are best made only using one kind of flower. True or false?**
- 6. How many possible ending points were there in the arrangement that was presented?**
- 7. What are some ways the inverted crescent arrangement could be used?**



Dr Steve--Action Shot!

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The ability to create crescents further expands your ability to do linear/geometric designs. This arrangement is often overlooked because it is a little more challenging to create.

Take the design and tip it upside down and you have even more awesome possibilities.

It is, however, but another amazing technique/ approach that will impress people and increase your floral designing options.

Please remember to add some water to the design every couple of days. The flowers (and the foam) like that!

At Rittners Floral School in Boston we provide floral design instruction that includes a wide range of different styles and techniques.

Folks from all over the US as well as abroad, learn floral art skills from Rittners Floral School because we are great floral designers, and just as importantly because, as you can see, we are outstanding teachers!!