



FLORAL DESIGNER SARAH PEPPER OF COUNTRY COTTAGE CRAFTS SHOWS HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIVE WREATH FOR CHRISTMAS  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNA THOMPSON

## rosehips, chili peppers & roses wreath



Christmas is a time when most of us go to town with decorating our homes in a frenzy of festive cheer - here are some inspirational ideas for wreaths that will give your guests a stunning welcome!

These inviting wreaths (or 'welcome rings' as some people prefer to think of them) are a feast for all your senses, with textures that cry out to be touched, fantastic fragrances from orange and spice to zingy lime, scrummy sweets and bells to bring a smile to even the most harassed of us at this busy time of year. Choose from our selection of three wreaths to give your front door a magic makeover this season.



## TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS WREATH

### STEP 1

Wrap generous amounts of hay over your wire frame, one handful at a time, and wire the hay securely onto the frame by wrapping the wire loosely around the base and then passing the whole reel of wire through your loose loop.

By using this blanket stitch method every few wraps of your wire will mean that you have taken up the tension on the wire and can release your hold on the wire without it unraveling as you work.

Adding hay to your wire frame you will bulk out the frame and help to hold your bunches in place more easily, plus the hay will retain the necessary moisture to keep your finished wreath looking fresh for longer. After you have added the last handful of moss/hay to your base and put a last blanket stitch in place, just cut the wire and feed the cut end back into the moss to avoid cutting yourself when handling the wreath base later.

### MATERIALS USED:

A wire wreath frame, moss or hay, 2m of wire-edged ribbon, gilded pears and gilded cones, clove studded oranges, mixed foliage of holly, conifer and fruiting ivy

**TOOLS:** Strong gauge stub wires, reel wire or string, scissors, secateurs

*Although moss is the traditional material for binding onto wreath frames, a useful alternative is good quality hay. Hay has lots to recommend it, not least that it's more easily renewable; dry to work with and easy to buy in small quantities from pet food stores. However, its draw backs can include irritation for anyone with a dust allergy so make sure that you always bind the hay onto your base in a well ventilated area.*







## WHITE ORCHID & LIME CONTEMPORARY WREATH

**MATERIALS USED:** A wire wreath frame, moss or hay, 1.5m of wire edge ribbon, fresh limes, mixed foliage of holly, conifer and fruiting ivy, Sparkly glitter stems, 3 stems ivory dendrobium orchids

**TOOLS:** Strong gauge stub wires reel wire or string, scissors, secateurs

### STEP 1

For this wreath I put hay on the frame as described above **WHERE??** but then instead of making up bunches of foliage to wire onto the base, I made up small bunches of materials by wrapping a piece of stub wire around the short stems of foliage and leaving a long piece of wire to push through the hay base and back into the hay frame to secure the bunch into position, working in one direction around the base and leaving quite large gaps to be filled by all the other materials

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### STEP 2

Cut up limes in half and trim the orchids into small clusters and wire them up as described above for wiring fruit. Add the fruit and flowers into your wreath and secure your bow