

TURN PRESSED FLOWERS INTO GARDEN ART



By Kathryn Sultzbaugh for Fine Gardening, Issue 74

The supplies needed for creating a framed pressed-flower design—tweezers, white school glue, mat or poster board, and a frame—can be found at craft and hardware stores. I first create an arrangement of pressed flowers on a piece of poster board, construction paper, or material cut to the size of the frame I'm planning to use. A typical design might include some fern fronds as a background with a few choice blossoms layered

alongside. Once I'm happy with the design I've created, I glue all the components into place.

Using tweezers, I pick the petal up, carefully apply a small dab of glue to the back of the petal with the end of a toothpick, and gingerly place the petal back where it came from. An allpurpose household glue is fine for this type of work. While gluing the petals down, do not sneeze, cough, or laugh until all the components are glued into place. I also make sure my very friendly dog, Emma, takes her wagging tail outside before undertaking any design.

With my design completed, I place the cleaned glass from the frame over the design and put it into the frame. I hang my designs out of direct sunlight to keep the flowers from fading, and I store unused pressed flowers between the pages of books or back in the press for the same reason.

With a stroke of her brush, Nature creates beauty that no artist can copy. When frost threatens my perennial beds and annual gardens, I can save a little piece of summer by pressing the blooms so that I'm able to enjoy each garden for years to come.

Read more: <http://www.finegardening.com/pressing-flowers#ixzz44D6WSaPK>