

Make a lily from sinamay

and wear it in your hair...

If you haven't met sinamay, the hat making fabric before, you're in for some delightful new discoveries! It comes by the metre and is great for shaping hair and hat decorations. Here we'll show how easy it is to make a lily. Make one to add to a comb to wear in your hair, another to put on your hat, yet another to decorate a bag—the possibilities are endless!

You will need a square of sinamay (any size, but approx 8 inches (20 cm) makes a medium sized lily), thread to match the colour, scissors, clear glue and a sewing needle.

Lightly fold the sinamay square diagonally. Cut approx 1 inch (2.5 cm) off the corners opposite the fold. Open out the square again and fold over 1/2 inch (12 mm) of sinamay on two sides between the cuts you have just made and the point of the diagonal fold. Fold diagonally again, and turn the un-folded sides of the resulting triangle towards the folded sides, tucking them in between these. You have created a cone shape.



Stitch down with a long doubled thread to hold the unfolded edges inside the folded ones, making the cone the neatest. Don't cut off the remaining thread. Stretch the diagonal fold around the open end of the cone gently, and turn it outwards in a pleasing curve. You can twist the pointed tip of the lily slightly sideways if you wish,



to give more interest to the shape. Insert stamens: beaded stems, feathers, quills, or anything else that takes your fancy. Gather the bottom of the lily around the ends of the inserted stamens and bind the whole tightly with the remaining thread, adding a little glue for security. The lily is finished!



Just one large lily can be all you need to decorate your hat, as illustrated in this photo. Here, a long quill feather has been inserted into the lily: very striking, isn't it?



Hat by
Susan Mai

Now you have a finished lily, here are some inspirational pictures showing ways it could be used! We think you'll want to start making another right away!



Clara Howell used just one large lily with two matching ostrich feathers as the basis for this lovely fascinator. She stripped the downy portion from an ostrich feather and added it to soften the look, mounting the finished piece on a comb.

Here is another arrangement of three lilies, this time placed side by side and stitched together to become the basis for a beautiful fascinator. Liz Putt added a selection of feathers in colours to match an outfit she hoped to wear at Ladies Day at Ascot. She was delighted with her effort and with how much it got noticed!

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Mackenzie Sanders made this lily to add interest to her (GCSE) product design portfolio. She wanted to incorporate one of the designs from her 'natural world' sketchbook. She made a sinamay skullcap as a base for this dramatic sinamay lily. The extended point, which has been twisted upwards, and the single quill stamen turn it into a really special fascinator which could also be worn at the races.



Take things one stage further...and the lily itself becomes the hat! Shirley Frame concocted this fantastic hat using the same technique as we have described, but using as large a square as the width of the sinamay would allow. She added a contrasting band down the seam of the flower and continued it beyond the lily's point to end in an interesting twist. The huge sinamay flower on the narrow side balances the hat beautifully.

*What could **you** do with a lily or two?*

