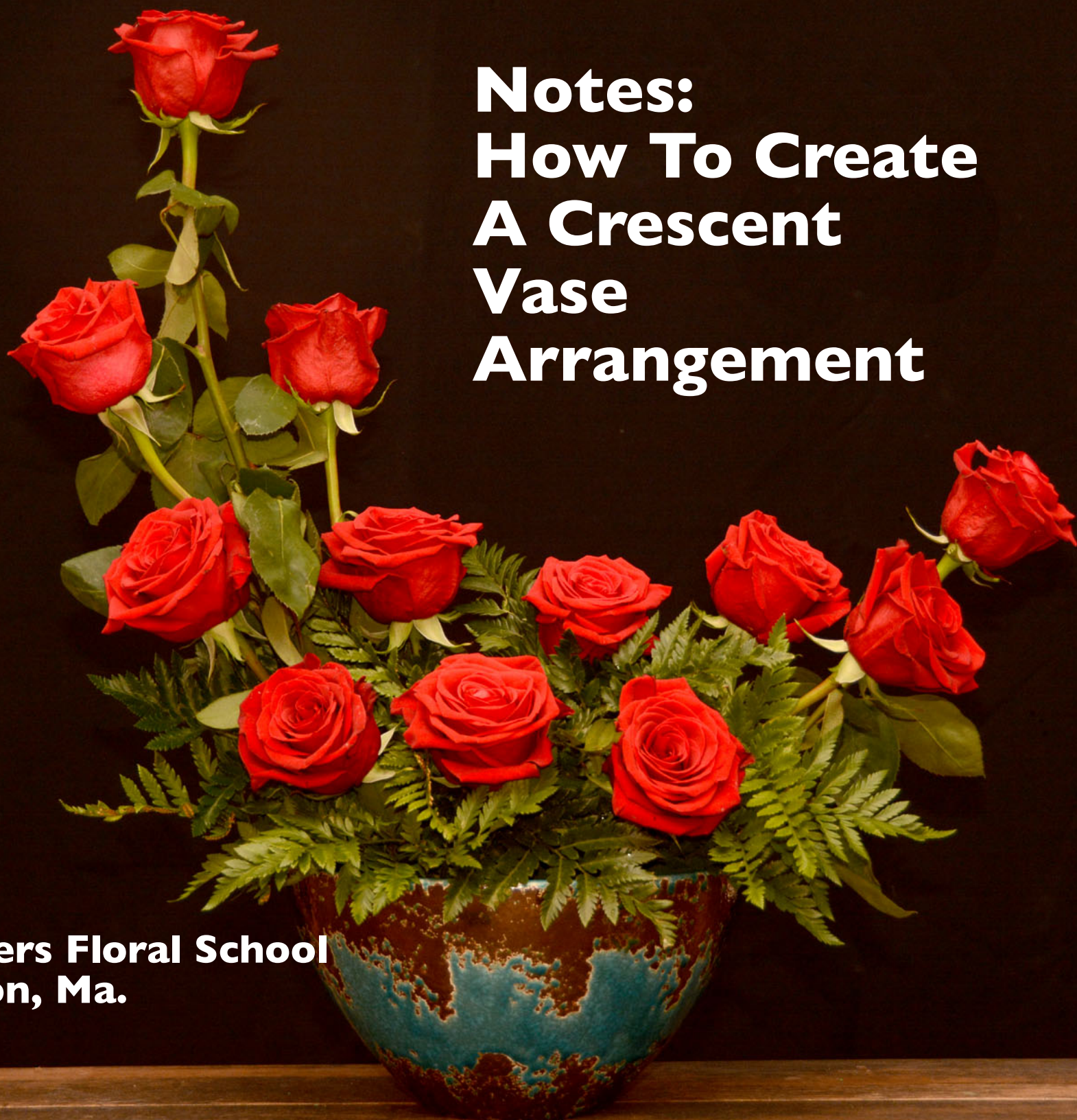


Notes: How To Create A Crescent Vase Arrangement



**Rittners Floral School
Boston, Ma.**



Dr Steve looking very profound here?

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 Crescent Vase Arrangement." We think you'll really enjoy this lesson!

This arrangement is fun to do and people love it when they see 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 Container
- °Foam
- °Roses (12-15 flowers depending upon the size of your container)
- °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.

The best way to think of the crescent is to consider a geometric L shape arrangement that has had a wild weekend!

Instead of having a strict vertical section going up and down with a horizontal section that goes out to one side.....



The “vertical” part of a crescent angles back a bit, and the section that goes horizontally to the side angles upwards.



Start With Your Container:

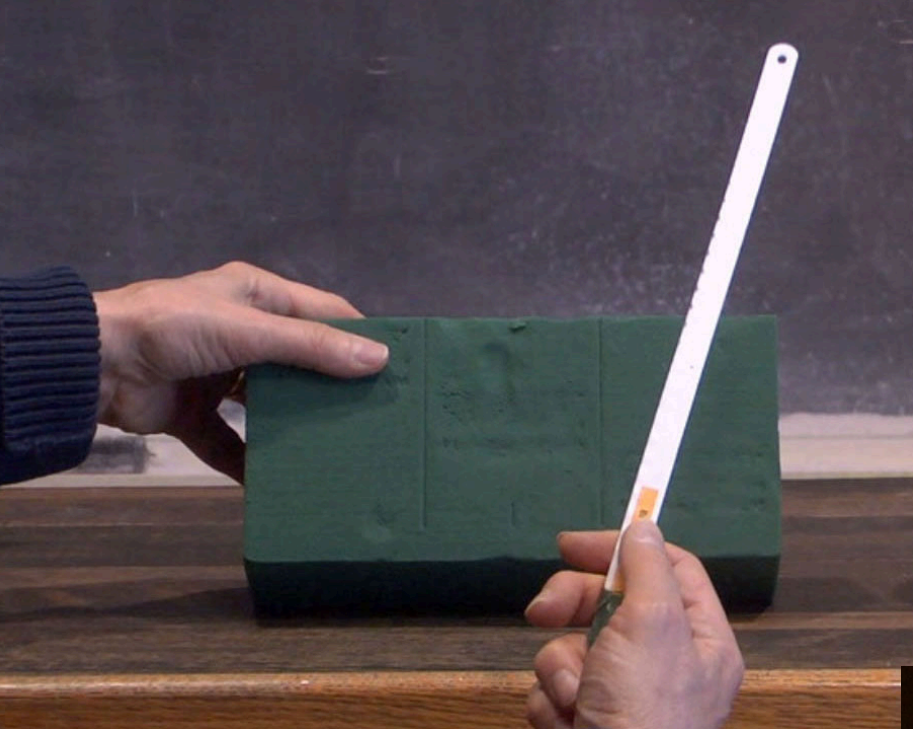
Containers are among the floral designer's best friends. Like your live friends, each container has its own unique qualities.

The container that we are using for this lesson is a rather large ceramic bowl. It's around ten inches across, but you certainly have freedom to use any container you desire.



If you want to make your arrangement more “upscale” a lovely container is an easy way to achieve that goal.

You can use just about any container that will hold foam/water without leaking.



Saturate your foam with water. Because this container is a rather deep one, we needed several blocks of foam.

We've taken one block, broken it into smaller pieces and filled the container half way with those pieces. (You can easily cut foam with a hacksaw blade.)

We then wedged another block of saturated wet foam on 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.



Many floral designers are afraid of the crescent. **Because of its unique curved shape, it is challenging to achieve.**

(And that is why we are teaching you how to make this one. There are some tricks involved, but it is certainly doable if you know how!)

Here is the first trick to making a crescent.

Angle the first stem as you place it. If you are lucky enough to find a “curved” or “bent” stem, it is easier, but it doesn’t matter.

Even if the stem is very straight, you will still be able to achieve your crescent shape if you **angle the first stems as shown here and on the following pages.**



Angle a second rose, even more towards the left but lower than the first.



Add two more roses as shown. I like to tell my students to consider them like steps moving downwards. 1...2...3...4



The second trick in making the crescent is to **angle your flowers upwards on the opposite side of the arrangement.**

If you don't do this it will turn into a rather "laid back" L shape.



Add two more roses from the right side towards the center as shown. Just as we went 1...2...3...4.. on the left, we are doing a similar step-like arrangement of four from the right.

Those are the critical steps. Do you see the crescent shape in your mind's eye?

From here on, it is simply a matter of "filling in" with your flowers.



You've already used eight flowers, four on each side. (See prior page.)

Add the last four in towards the center of the arrangement. (Think of it like the building of some of the railroads in the US--**starting at two ends and meeting in the center.**)

Depending upon the size of your container and flowers, you may be able to do this with twelve flowers (or less) total. You may need a few more.



The arrangement is lovely but a bit “air conditioned,” meaning that we can still see the foam mechanics.

Add some foliage. In this case we use baker fern. Break it into small pieces and gradually fill in the top and sides of the arrangement. Add some on the side facing away from us as well.







I like the effect of simply 12 roses to create our crescent.

However you could easily add additional flowers like Bells of Ireland or even nonlinear flowers to make the arrangement even more visually complex.

Uses For This Arrangement



This design could be used at just about any time through the year.

With seasonally appropriate colors/contents it could be used for holidays like Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter.

The design with red roses as shown would work well for Christmas. Add a few glass mm balls or pine cones.

Add a small Cupid or a heart or two for a Valentine's design.

It could be used on a side table or dresser. It would work well in a bay window or in an entry area.

You can use almost any combination of flowers in this arrangement and it will still look great.

As with most of the things we teach, we are featuring this design using live flowers. It could also be made quite nicely using permanent botanicals.

Some Questions To Consider:

- 1. Describe the “crescent” shape?**
- 2. What genre of design does the “crescent” belong to?**
- 3. What are other line/geometric designs that are in the same category?**
- 4. Why are some floral designers reluctant to make a crescent as opposed to an L shaped arrangement?**
- 5. You need curved flowers to make a crescent. True or False?**
- 6. Describe several tricks involved in creating a crescent arrangement.**
- 7. Crescent designs are best made only using one kind of flower. True or false?**
- 8. What are some ways a crescent arrangement could be marketed?**



Rittners Floral School
345 Marlborough St.
Boston, Ma. 02115
Tel: 617-267-3824
Email: steve@floralschool.com
Web: www.floralschool.com

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.

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!!