

Creating a Pinch Twist

A Pinch twist can be made on any size of modelling balloon. It is a way of making you balloon turn at right angles to itself, or to create an anchor point to attach another balloon.

The pinch twist can be used to create details on designs such as elbows, ears, noses and knees, as well as being incorporated with other techniques to make whole elements of a design such as coral, bubbles, and grapes.

First decide which size modelling balloon you need. When first trying this technique we would suggest you use either a 160 or a 260, just to get used to the technique. Then once you have mastered it move on and try it on the larger modelling balloons.

Creating your pinch twist

Step 1

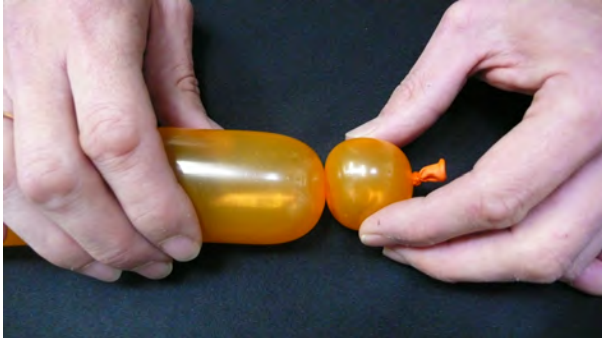
Inflate your balloon with air, you only need a small amount of inflated balloon so do not inflate the whole balloon. Normally as the technique is incorporated into a design you would be using a balloon that is already inflated and had some other technique done to it.

Step 2

Make a bubble, by holding the knot end of the balloon in one hand and pinching the balloon, and twisting the inflated portion of the balloon at the same time with your other hand. Twist the inflated portion of the balloon at least three whole turns, and always turn in the same direction. Keep hold of both the bubble and the inflated portion of the balloon.

Step 3

Make a second bubble, in the same way that you made the first, but remember to keep hold of the first bubble and the inflated portion of the balloon and twist this portion in



the same direction as before. The size of this bubble will determine the size of your pinch twist. So remember what it is for when making it as part of a design.

Step 4

Pull the first bubble back over the inflated portion of the balloon so they are touching, and hold them all in one hand.

Step 5

With your other hand take hold of the second bubble, lift it slightly away from the first bubble and inflated portion of the balloon, twisting it at the same time. Make sure you twist it at least two whole turns to secure it and stop it from untwisting. The reason for lifting the second bubble slightly is so as you twist it; it does not rub on any other part of the balloon and cause friction which could cause the balloon to deflate.

Step 6

This is your pinch twist completed; the picture below shows your first bubble at the top and your pinch twist at the bottom.

