

# Cute Monkeys Valentines recipe

**By Claire Carney**

This recipe is perfect if you're looking for a cute Valentines arrangement that is simple to make and easy for your customers to collect. The basic instructions give you a great base to then experiment with extra touches, such as the monkeys holding a personalised foil balloon.

## Materials:

- 2 x 14" mischievous monkey air filled foils
- 1 x 14" red hearts and filigree air fill foil
- 2 x 11" chocolate brown latex balloons
- 16 x 5" blush latex balloons
- 4 x 5" chocolate brown latex balloons
- 4 x 260 chocolate brown latex balloons
- 2 x 160 chocolate brown latex balloons
- 3 – 4 scrap chocolate brown 160s
- Scissors
- Hand pump
- Heat sealer



## Techniques:

- Heat sealing
- Making a weight
- Making clusters

## Method:

1. Inflate and heat seal both monkey head foils and the filigree heart foil.
2. Tie a scrap of 160 onto the neck, roll up and tie ends together to secure and make the neck tidy.
3. Insert one 5" chocolate brown latex into another and partly fill with water or sand to create a small weight.
4. Repeat step 3 so you end up with two weights.
5. Inflate 4 x 5" blush balloons to 2.5". Tie into duplets and twist into a cluster.
6. Repeat step 5 so you end up with two duplets of 2.5" balloons.
7. Inflate 4 x 5" blush balloons to 4.5". Tie into duplets and twist into a cluster.
8. Repeat step 7 so you end up with two duplets of 4.5" balloons.
9. Put a knot in a scrap balloon and then knot over the top of the first knot a further 2 - 3 times to create a little bead. Cut off and insert into the 11" balloon.

10. Let the bead drop to the bottom, centralise and then wrap a scrap tightly around the bead on the outside of the balloon to create a fixing point at the base of the balloon.



11. Fully inflate the 11" chocolate brown balloon then deflate to 9".

12. Alternatively, instead of steps 9 - 11 you can snip a small hole in the bottom of your 11" balloon. Then place a 12" brown or clear Quicklink balloon onto a balloon stick, and insert into the brown 11" so that the Quicklink tying point is pushed through the base of the brown balloon and inflate the inner balloon as normal.

13. Tie a weight into one cluster of 4 ½" blush latex balloons.

14. Tie the new fixing point on the 11" latex into this base.

15. Tie the monkey head foil onto the neck of the 11" latex.

16. Place the smaller cluster of blush latex between the monkey head and 11" latex to create a neck and support the head.

17. Inflate a 160q chocolate brown and inflate fully. Let a tiny puff of air out before knotting.

18. Curl the end, and knot into the blush base cluster to create a tail.

19. Inflate a 260q to c. 10" and tie off. Knot the uninflated end close to where the balloon tapers off and leave c. 2" uninflated to use for tying. Cut off any excess.

20. Repeat step 19.

21. Knot both uninflated sections together leaving enough length to slide underneath the monkey's neck. (You can also make 2 arms from one 260q to save on materials).

22. Repeat steps 9 – 21 to create the second monkey.

23. Tie the end of one arm to the opposite arm on the other monkey. Repeat with the other arms so the monkeys look like they are holding hands.

24. Tie the heart foil into the point where the arms join, and wait for the 'aaaah's!