



Vibrant Mother's Day Gift

By Claire Carney

This simple yet effective design is ideal for clients looking for an affordable Mother's Day gift and as it is all air filled you can prepare it in advance. Consider switching out the printed foil for a plain, personalised foil to add extra value and make it truly bespoke.

Materials:

- 1 x 18" Wonderful Mum floral damask foil balloon
- 1 x decorative metal bucket
- 1 x maxi 2 stick and cup
- Postcrete / fast drying cement
- 8 x 5" white latex balloons
- 8 x 5" black latex balloons
- 4 x 5" rose latex balloons
- 2 x clear 160 latex balloons
- 1 pack diamante ribbon (from B&M)
- Glass nuggets
- Embellishments such as pink feathers, white tulle
- Glue dots / balloon bond / double sided tape
- Hand pump
- Mini spirit level



Techniques:

- Create a pole and base structure
- Making tulle tufts

Method:

1. Mix the postcrete as per instructions to $\frac{3}{4}$ fill the bucket.
2. Insert the maxi stick, ensuring it is straight (use a mini spirit level if you wish) and let it set. Allow to dry.
3. Cut a strip of diamante ribbon to fit around the base of the bucket and also the length of the maxi stick (minus a small section at the top to allow it to slot into the maxi cup). Attach using balloon bond or double sided tape.

4. Place glass nuggets over the postcrete to cover it.
5. Air fill the foil heart, using a piece of 260 roll the neck and tie off. Tie the ends together to keep the neck tidy. Attach securely to the maxi cup.
6. Inflate 2 x black, 2 x white and 1 x rose 5"s to 4"
7. Tie into a 5 balloon cluster and wrap around the base of the pole.
8. Inflate 2 x black, 2 x white and 1 x rose 5"s to 2". Tie into a 5 balloon cluster and wrap onto the base of the pole, just above the first cluster so they nestle together.
9. Place the maxi cup with the foil heart attached onto the top of the maxi stick.
10. Inflate 2 x black, 2 x white and 1 x rose 5"s to 4". Tie into a 5 balloon cluster and wrap around the base of the heart balloon.
11. Inflate 2 x black, 2 x white and 1 x rose 5" to 2". Tie into a 5 balloon cluster and wrap just below the cluster already placed under the foil heart so they nestle together.
12. Cut 4 squares of diamante ribbon (mine are 3 diamantes by 3 diamantes in size) and place double sided tape or balloon bond on the backs of them. Stick the diamante squares onto one balloon on each cluster so they are all front facing.
13. To make a tulle tuft, take a piece of white tulle (c. 20cm x 20cm), fold in half and half again and tie around the centre point with one end of half a clear 160. Attach another piece of tulle to the other end in the same way.
14. Repeat step 12 so you have 2 sets of tufts.
15. Slide one amongst the balloon clusters at the top and repeat with the second set of tufts at the bottom, ensuring any remaining mechanics are covered.
16. Glue in place the feather details.