

A How-To by

THUSS + FARRELL
PAPER TO PETAL

FEATURED BY OH JOY!

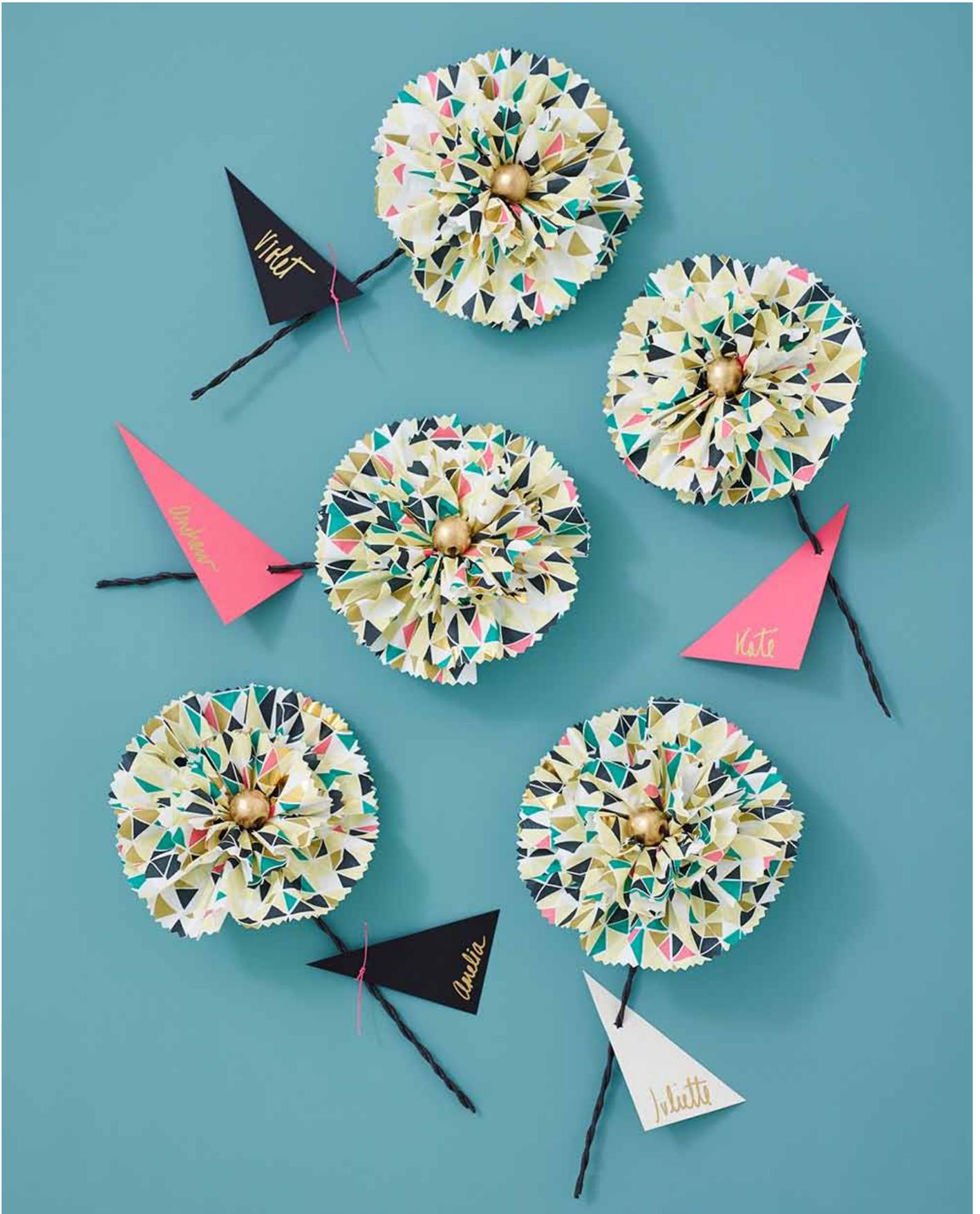
GEOMETRIC PAPER NAPKIN FLOWER /

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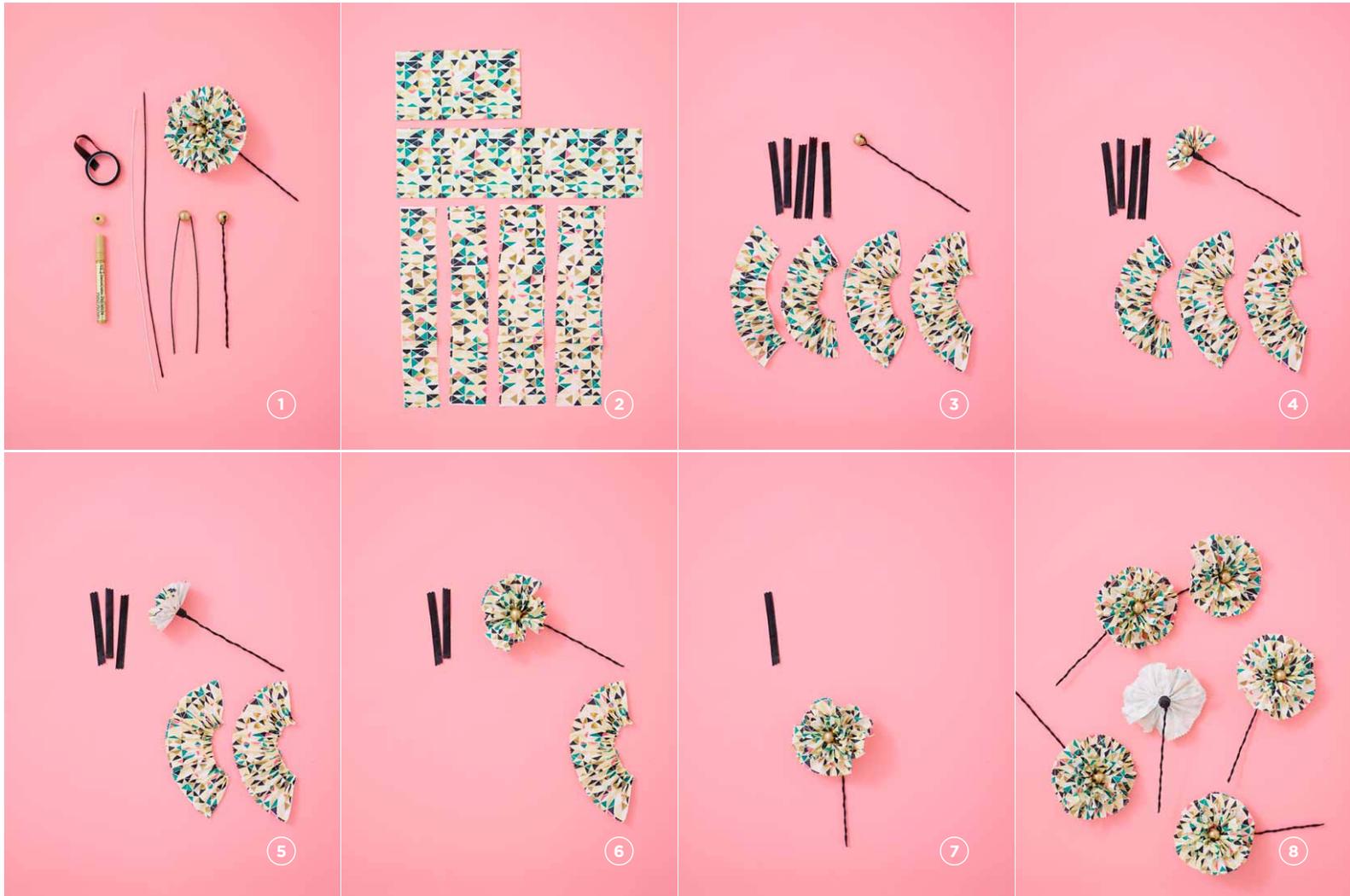
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MATERIALS

- 1 package OH JOY for Target geometric paper napkins
- 18" (45.5cm) 20-gauge cloth-wrapped floral wire from createforless.com
- Floral tape stem wrap in black from save-on-crafts.com (or black masking tape)
- 15mm (5/8") wood beads. We used some from "the big bag of wood beads" from Amazon.com
- DecoColor premium gold paint pen from createforless.com
- Scissors (and Pinking shears if desired)
- Assorted colored card-stock from Paper-source.com
- Hole punch and twine

BUILD

- 1.** Color the bead on all sides with the gold marker and set aside to dry. Wrap an 18" floral wire tightly with floral tape (see floral tape skill below). Thread it through the painted bead, find the halfway point, then bend down the wires. Carefully twist the wires together all the way down, to create a twisted stem.
- 2.** Open up one OH JOY for Target Geometric napkin one fold, as shown. Using scissors or pinking shears if desired, (cutting through the 3 layers of the pre-folded napkin), cut 4 strips total. 2 strips should be about 2.5" wide, and 2 strips 3.25" wide. You can get a few more strips for another flower from the same napkin. Open up all 4 strips as shown.
- 3.** Cut 5 pieces of floral tape 5" long. Lay one of the 2.5" wide napkin strips ("petals") on a slippery work surface. Beginning at one end walk your fingers up the strip, while scrunching the side that will be the base, pleating it and holding onto it as you work. Each strip will look as shown if you let go of them after pleating. The easiest method is to actually pleat each strip and attach it right away to your stem, without letting go of the strip. This makes it a bit easier to attach.
- 4.** Scrunch the pleated base of your 2.5" wide "petal" evenly around half of the bead on the wire, (the "petal" should look a bit like a fan shape) hold securely and tightly wrap a strip of floral tape to attach. (see both using floral tape skills, and attaching petals skill below).
- 5.** Repeat step 4 with the second 2.5" wide strip, on the opposite side of the bead center, overlapping the edges of the "petal" slightly on either side, so that

the 2 petals make a full circle.

6 & 7. Repeat step 4 with both 3.25" strips, alternating the starting point, offsetting the 2 larger petals opposite from the 2 smaller petals.

8. Finish the base of the flower with the final strip of floral tape, wrapping tightly. Bend flower head as shown if desired. Add a hand-cut card-stock triangle personalized with gold paint-pen, by punching a corner and either threading it onto the stem, or tying with twine.

Note: If you use masking tape instead of floral tape, your stem will be a bit more bulky, and you will not need to reference the floral tape skills.

SKILLS

Using Floral Tape: With some practice, floral tape is simple to use. Firmly but gently stretching the tape as you wrap is crucial to release the adhesive that makes it stick to itself. With one hand, hold and slowly twist the stem while applying pressure to the tape. The opposite hand stretches the tape as you work. Overlap the tape as you wrap, adding pressure with your fingers to prevent unraveling. Make a few fingernail scores at the end of each length of tape to help it adhere. When building a flower, keep a small pile of pre-cut 3"-4" (7.5cm-10cm) strips of tape at the ready to use for attaching each petal. When covering a stem, wrap the tape on a diagonal down the stem, by spinning the stem (not moving the tape around the stem).

Using Floral Tape when attaching petals: Holding a stem with one hand,

place a petal, leaf, or shape at the back of the stem, holding both between your thumb and index finger. Place the tape on the front of the stem and begin wrapping it around the stem, continuing to hold the petal in place and catching the base in the tape while spinning the stem, (not moving the tape around the stem). Wrap the tape around the base of the flower a few times. Continue wrapping down onto the wire at a slight diagonal, making sure to continually and gently pull the tape as you progress. Tape beyond the center, petal, or leaf and down onto the stem to secure. If your tape is unravelling, more stretching and pressure is needed.

Attaching Petals: Place approximately 1/2" (13mm) of the base of a petal against a center or stem. While squeezing the pleats at the petal's base to the center or stem, tape around the base a few times, gently pulling the floral tape as you work, continuing down beyond the petal onto the stem. When attaching make sure the tape comes into contact with the petal base as well as the base of the flower and the stem.

More paper flower how-tos are featured in our book PAPER TO PETAL. Available wherever books are sold.