

## Pressed Flower Homeware



### Materials:

- Pressed dried flowers (or microwave your own - instructions below)
- Chosen item(s) to decorate
- Slightly watered down dries clear PVA glue and small brush (optional glitter)

### Instructions:

I've always loved pressed flowers and for these projects I've used microwave dried daisies from a few years ago and also mixed packs bought some time ago that I recently came across again. The pressed flower art form has been traced back to 16<sup>th</sup> century Japan and is known as Oshibana so it's been around a long time. Flowers are dried and flattened to press out moisture to preserve them. They do need gentle handling and lots of patience when decorating your homeware as hands can get messy with the glue and flowers then sticking to your fingers.

On the main image above I've added flowers to a frosted jar which held craft supplies, now all gone – reuse and recycle when you can! I've added flat hessian ribbon around the neck as it needed a little something else. Inside the jar are glass floristry pebbles to support the additional wooden painted stem flowers (with added embellished glued on dried flowers of course) and some fake foliage. It's been finished by standing it on a light up drinks coaster – looks lovely at night when the light shines through the pebbles. The clocks are an 'IKEA tromma wall clock hack'. The cover is easily removed for clock face decoration. The numbers have holes cut in which I've embroidered through with backstitch to make them stand out more. Flowers have been glued around the centre (without having to remove the clock mechanism) making sure there was enough space for the hands to move freely without obstruction.

## Microwaving instructions:



To microwave dry flowers and greenery you will need flowers/ greenery, absorbent kitchen towel, a heavy microwave safe lidded dish and of course a microwave.

Pick on a dry day choosing flatter flowers as they are easier to press.

Add kitchen towel to the inside lid of your dish, lay out your flowers leaving space between each, add more kitchen towel on top. Place the dish over the lid and press down.



Place in microwave and 'cook' at low/half power in 30 second increments. Check after each cooking, they should feel dry and paper like, if still moist put back in microwave and repeat till dry. Leave to cool, as they do they will harden.

They are now ready to add to your chosen project.

Some things to note. White flowers like these daisies do not remain white and will brown considerably over time. Coloured flowers will fade and discolour but not as much as white. Store in a darkened place in a sealed air tight container to keep them at their best, preferably wrapped in tissue paper or kitchen towel.

## Lightweight card frame sun catchers:



Here's an idea to use your pressed flowers with - a lovely suncatcher to hang from a window.

For these I've assembled flatpack lightweight diecut card frames used in papercrafts. I've added acetate behind two of the frames and decorative mesh to the other two, to add my pressed flowers on top of. You could easily use a floating frame instead, or a photoframe adding heavier weight acetate at the back instead of the frame back itself to keep it see through.

Glue the flowers on using watered down PVA glue (not as watery as you would for napkin decoupage). Add a generous covering of glue with a small paintbrush to the back of the flower. Pick up and place down with the paintbrush, be as delicate as you can to prevent breakages, add a generous glue application to the front. Complete your arrangement and leave to fully dry. I added a small sprinkling of glitter to make them sparkle in the sun even more.

On one of the acetate frames I added torn flowery napkin to overlay the flowers on top of, on the other I arranged skeleton leaves - just to fill out the frame a bit more. For the mesh frames I arranged the flowers in a wreath shape.

My next project on this theme is to decorate some old summer canvas shoes to disguise the scuff marks – how pretty will they look with a lovely summery outfit.

It is possible to microwave press roses and other similar rounded flowers but they do take more work - I will be having a go at some time in the future.

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