



Feather Boutonniere

Just recently I had dinner with my friend Matt, and he was lamenting how his ultra-feminine bride-to-be wanted him to wear *flowers* on his suit at their wedding. It took me a second to figure out he was talking about a boutonniere. “It’s pretty standard groomsware, Matt. What’s wrong with a simple rose or lily boutonniere?” I asked. “Too girly,” he replied. When I asked him what he thought would be a suitable alternate? “Something manly! Fishing tackle! Car parts! Fuzzy dice! A skull and crossbones!” Ah, romance.

I made it my mission to come up with a stylish boutonniere option that would appeal to fashion-conscious brides without threatening the masculinity of their grooms. Instead of using flowers, I opted for something more natural and organic—



Time Wise

This super-easy project can be made in under 1 hour.

A Little Me Time

Got a few minutes to spare? Grab your supplies and plop yourself in front of the TV. You’ll be done with this project before your favorite sitcom ends.

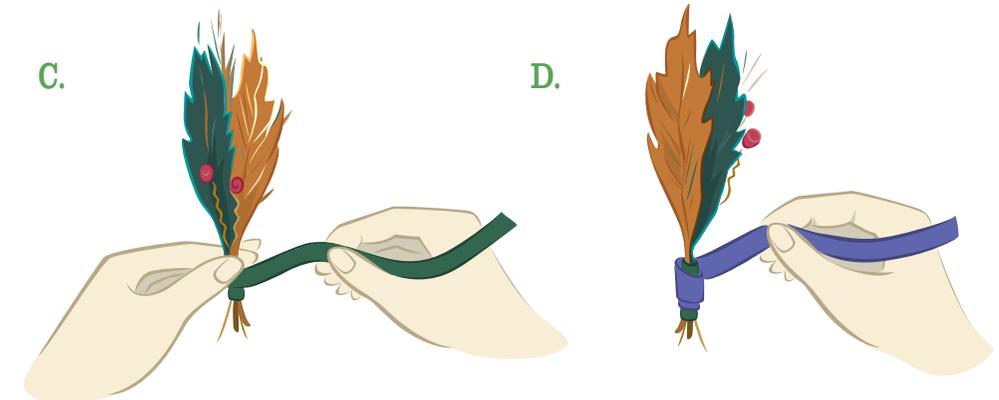
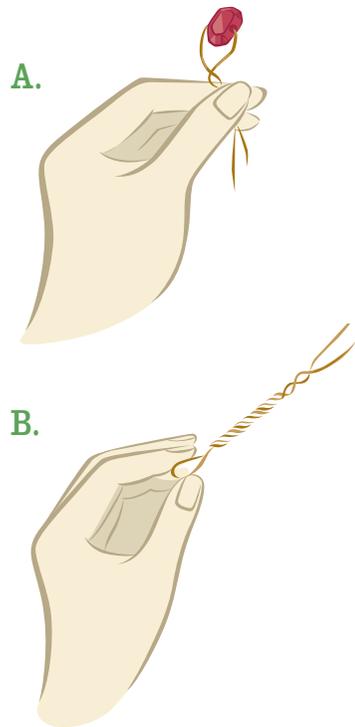
SUPPLIES

- Assorted feathers, available in bunches at craft and millinery stores
- Floral tape
- 1 crystal bead, 6 mm
- 22-gauge wire, about 8 in.
- Scissors or craft knife
- ¼-in.-wide velvet ribbon, about 6 in.
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Corsage pin

feathers as the base of the boutonniere with a just a little sparkle added via a crystal bead. Tied off with a velvet ribbon, this stunning boutonniere is a gorgeous (but still dude-worthy) accessory any groom will be proud to sport down the aisle.

DIRECTIONS

1. Gather a group of 4 to 6 feathers of different shapes and sizes (from 4 in. to 7 in. long) into a mini-bouquet. Arrange them with the tallest feathers in the back and the shorter feathers in front. Don't be afraid to play around with placement and sizes of the feathers in this step to get a look you (and your groom) like.
2. Bind the feathers together with a few wraps of floral tape to keep your boutonniere arrangement intact. You needn't cover the entire stem of the boutonniere yet.
3. The next step is to create a crystal stem for added boutonniere bling. Place the crystal bead on the length of wire, then fold the wire in half so that the bead is in the middle (drawing A). Holding the crystal in place with one hand, use your other hand to twist the wire ends tightly around each other (drawing B).
4. Place the crystal stem in the front of the feathers in the boutonniere and bind it in place with more floral tape (drawing C). Cover the entire bottom area of the boutonniere with floral tape to create a single stem. Ideally, the stem will be about 3 in. long when complete. If it's any longer, use sharp scissors or a craft knife to trim it to size.



5. Cover the floral tape stem with velvet ribbon, working in a tight spiral from top to bottom, then bottom to top (drawing D). Secure the ribbon to itself with a bit of hot glue.
6. When it's time to walk down the aisle, pin the boutonniere to the groom's suit or tuxedo with a corsage pin.

tips & hints

- *Feathers are available in nearly any color and size, making it easy to match the season or style of your wedding.*
- *Trimming feathers to a smaller size or even a different shape can be done by using very sharp scissors. Dull blades will usually cut unevenly.*
- *If ribbon is too froufrou for your guy, try wrapping the stem with twine, raffia, or leather to lend a more masculine vibe.*

Crafty Calculator

WHAT TO BUDGET

Feather assortment	\$ 6.00
Floral tape	\$ 2.00
Crystal bead	\$ 0.20
Wire	\$ 3.00
Ribbon	\$ 3.00
Total (for 3 boutonnieres)	\$14.20

COST COMPARISON

The supplies listed here can make three boutonnieres (though you'll have to buy more crystals), making this a very economical project. Custom-designed feather boutonnieres can set you back \$25.00 or more from higher-end salons. You get yours for \$4.73 and not a penny more!

STORE COST	YOUR COST
\$25.00	\$4.73

