"Boucle Rose"

by Jim Suzio, c2016

Supplies:

- Boucle Rose designs
- Embroider machine and accessories (four inch hoop, etc).
- Embroidery thread (40, 30 or 12 weight is fine).
- Wash away stabilizer like Sulky’s Fabri Solvy
- Floral accessories (floral stem, tape, wire, cutters)
- Hand sewing thread/needle (optional).

Embroidery Directions:

1. Load petals design into machine (as per manufactures directions).
2. Wind bobbin with embroidery thread (can be a shade lighter/darker than the color selected for the rose petals or same thread).
3. Thread machine with embroidery thread in needle.
4. Insert wash away stabilizer into embroidery hoop.
5. Clip hoop onto machine’s arm and embroider rose petals (16 are needed for the rose pictured). Note: if you have a machine with a larger hoop/embroidery field, then use your software to fill the
hoop with as many petals as the hoop can hold. Once the petals are complete, then install the leaf design, and thread needle/bobbin with thread color choice for the leaves.


7. When all petals and leaves are complete, fill a small bowl (large enough to hold all of the petals/leaves) and place in container with enough warm water to cover. Allow stabilizer to be dissolved and absorbed by the thread (you don’t want a soft “hand,” yet a firmer one to create the petals). Allow to soak/absorb (10 – 20 minutes), then remove and place petals and leaves to dry (may take several hours due to it absorbing the stabilizer). **TIP:** Drain container outdoors (as you will see the liquid it contains will be quite thick, and could clog a drain!).

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**Creating the rose:**

1. Take floral stem, and attach floral wire to top. Take one petal, and with the little “tail” against the stem, wrap with the floral wire to secure, rolling the petal while attaching (center petal).

2. Take three more petals, and position them around the first petal, overlapping them as you work your way around, securing the “tails” with the floral wire as before. Adjust as desired.
3. Take five more petals, and overlap and attach around the first three. Secure with wire as before.
4. Take remaining petals, and attach around the previous five petals, overlapping and securing with wire as before.
5. Wrap bottom and stem with floral tape (to aide in securing the floral wire and the petals).
6. Adjust the petals to create a realistic shape.
7. Add a section of wire to the “tail” on the leaves and attach to the stem of the rose (make as many for the desired effect). Secure with floral tape.

Note:
For a very secure, and less bulky method of securing the petals, after you wire wrap the center rolled petal to the floral stem, try using a needle and thread and hand sew the following petals to the center wrapped one (uses less wire, and makes the base smaller).

When shaping the petals, mist them with warm water, and allow the petals to soften a bit. Shape and secure as above, and they will retain that shape after they dry.

Experiment and have fun!
**Bonus tip!**

When drying our projects, we often lay them flat, if you do this to the rose petals and leaves, its fine, but no flower is truly “flat,” as they have curve and shape to them. Instead, why not recycle and make your own “shaping/drying tray” out of an egg carton! Simply line it with plastic wrap (so the petals do not stick to the Styrofoam or cardboard cartons) and then place the wet petals and leaves within the wells of the carton, and allow it’s shape to give your petals a more “natural” shape, and allow for ease when creating/shaping your final rose. It’s an easy way to make their creation simple (and best of all, the cartons free!). As most cartons hold twelve eggs, you may need two or more cartons (especially if you are making a dozen or more roses for your bouquet).

Be sure when placing your petals and leaves that they do not touch each other, as they will “bond” together, and may be difficult to separate when dry.