



Roses = The roses that I favor are the ones from the shrine in Arras France. I had originally intended to make a wreath of them for around the central focus but didn't quite get that far.

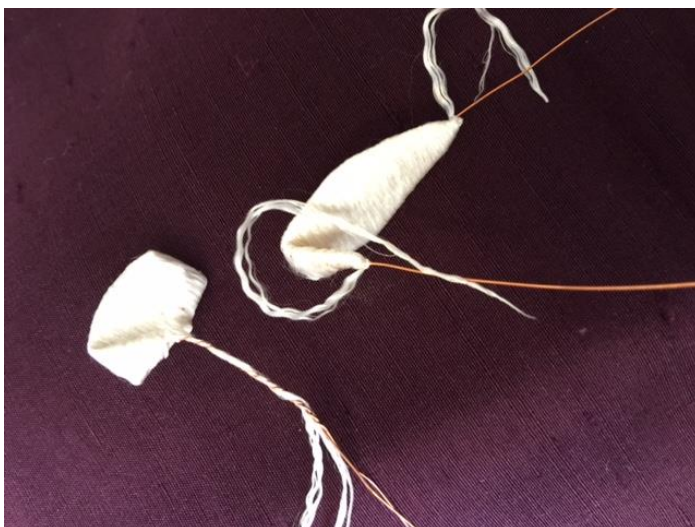
The roses are made by cutting about a dozen petals in an open fan shape. The more slope on the bottom edge the more difficult it is to wrap the petal.

I used a single ply of the Trebizond silk and made sure to untwist it as I wrapped so I would get a nice smooth finish.



The parchment that works best for petals is the natural sheep skin as it is the softest and the easiest to get a needle through. I poked a hole in the very tip of the petal and then tied the petal to a piece of 26 or 28 gauge wire. Then just keep wrapping until it's time to punch a hole in the other end and tie off the thread.

Then bend the ends so that the end points line up with the small point in middle. Twist the two wires together to hold them in place and then knot the ends of the silk together.



At this point I like to twist the silk ends in with the wires and trim off any loose ends.

Rose centers are made by coiling purl (and because purl is coiled wire it's like twice-coiled) and circling it around a silk-wrapped and coiled center.

Build the flower by taking the center and adding one petal at a time, starting with the smallest, and twisting the wires together.

It often helps to take a 32 gauge wire to wrap the stem or pliers to tighten the stem.