



Floral Frogs 101

Sometimes what is old is new again. In an effort to be more earth-friendly, many people are using old school floral design techniques. One example is the floral frog -- it is making a comeback. They are now used more often than floral foam.

Quick history of Floral Frogs:

Floral frogs were used widely in arrangements during the late 1800's and early 20th century. In the 1950's, a floral foam with the ability to absorb water and stabilize arrangement materials

was invented. This floral foam is known as Oasis. Given the features of Oasis, the use of frogs quickly diminished.

Floral Frogs Fabrications:

Floral frogs can be made in many types of materials. The most common are metal, glass, ceramic and plastic.

Styles of floral frogs- pin cushion or spiky needles; hairpin wire; glass with holes; and metal cages.

Floral frogs come in many shapes—oval; round; square; rectangle; crescent; flower bud and even turtles.

How to use Floral Frogs:

The purpose of the frog is to hold flowers, a small branch and other materials in the arrangement in place when sitting in a container. ~~Submerge the frog in water.~~ The spiky pins, holes or woven cage will grip the flower stems and other materials being used.

So first, select a frog suitable for the container being used for the arrangement. To keep your floral frog stable, affix a small amount of waterproof floral clay on the underside of the frog and then place it in your container. If you are using a glass vase it will prevent the frog from scratching the bottom of the vase.

Fill the container with water. The frog will then allow you to securely arrange the stems of the materials at many angles or positions. Floral Frogs works great in shallow containers.

Today frogs can be purchased at craft stores, garden shops, on-line, yard sales, flea markets or your grandmother's cupboard (with permission).

Fun Floral Frog Alternatives:

Don't have a floral frog? They are available at floral supply stores, sometimes where flowers are sold, online, and at second hand stores.

Or, if one wants to, one can really go old school and use a fresh potato. Here's how to do so.

Make some holes in the potato using something like a nail, a Philips screwdriver or the tip of a pair of needle nose pruners. Do not cut all the way through the flesh. Insert the stems in the holes. The flowers will stay hydrated as their stems draw moisture from the potato. This works best when the flowers have strong sturdy stems like roses, carnations, chrysanthemums, alstroemeria, etc..

Floral Frog Fun Facts:

How did floral frogs get their name? It is believed that since they are used under water, are disguised by the flowers stems and branched like a frog that people called them floral frogs.

"Kenzan" is a pin needle frog used in Japanese Ikebana flower arranging. The meaning of the word is "sword mountain".