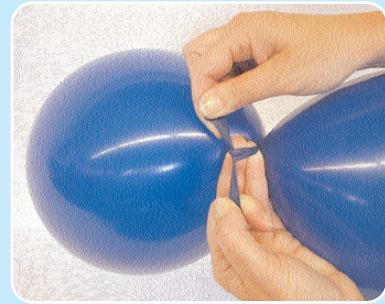
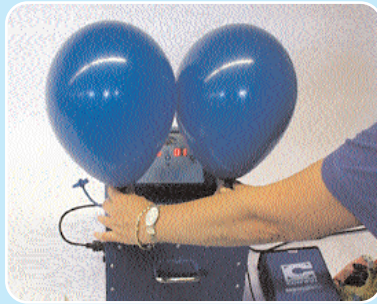


The *partytimes* guide to simple balloon decor in conjunction with Conwin Carbonic



Basic terms, techniques and pictures for balloon decorating,
provided by Sue Marston-Weston of ConwinOnline.com

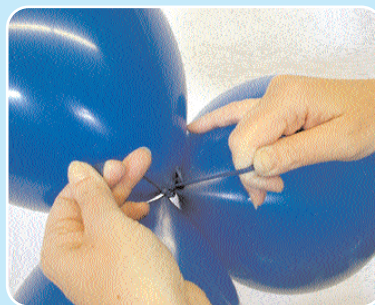


Duplet

Two balloons usually of the same size tied together using the necks of the balloons.

To create a duplet:

- Inflate two balloons to the same size.
- Cross the necks of the balloons over, pull tight and bring the necks round to the reverse side.
- Knot the two necks together.
- You now have two balloons tied together this is known as a duplet.



Cluster

A cluster of balloons could be three, four, five or even six balloons twisted together (usually from duplets) to create a cluster.

To create a four-balloon cluster:

- Take two duplets, hold them both at the tied necks.
- Push the duplets together and twist both sets together at the neck point. Rotate one balloon from one set over a balloon of the other set.
- You have now formed a four-balloon cluster.



To create a five-balloon cluster:

- Take one duplet and inflate a third balloon to the same size.
- Tie the third balloon into the centre of the duplet to create a three-balloon cluster.
- Take a second duplet and twist this duplet into the three-balloon cluster set as for the four-balloon cluster.
- You have now formed a five-balloon cluster. Please note that this cluster will not sit flat until a second cluster has been added to it when creating a garland.



Garland

Garlands of balloons are created from clusters of balloons packed together on Dacron Line or framework. They can be filled with helium to form arches or air to create garlands, swags and columns. The garland technique can be used to create simple sculptures such as Christmas trees for example see: www.conwinonline.com/design_projects/tabletop_trees.asp

These are formed using graduated cluster sizes.

To create a garland:

- Inflate the number of balloon clusters that you need to make the length of garland that you require. Click on this link for charts and formulas www.conwinonline.com/balloon_info/charts.asp
- Take your first balloon cluster and secure Dacron line to the centre of the cluster. (You can use either Dacron or monofilament line for this purpose. However, Dacron is softer and tends not to tear the necks of balloons unlike monofilament line which can be quite sharp).
- Now position a second cluster of balloons on top of the first but rotate the second cluster by 90 degrees, thus allowing this cluster to fit neatly into the first cluster.
- Run the Dacron line through the centre of the second cluster and carefully create a figure of eight round two opposite balloons within the top cluster. This will hold the balloons firmly in position. It is important to hold the balloons firmly in position while doing this to ensure that they pack together firmly.
- Continue to repeat the last step to keep adding clusters to create the garland.
- When creating a five-balloon garland you following the same steps; you will find that the five-balloon cluster will stay flat once you have added the second cluster.