

LESSON 2

HORIZONTAL LINE DESIGN:

I REVIEW: Lesson Plan No. 1.

A. Types of plant material needed:

1. Spiked forms for the main line.
2. Rounded forms to give emphasis.
3. Transitional or "filler" material.

B. General conditioning:

1. Cut plant material either early morning or late evening. Remove lower part of foliage before placing into water.
2. Cut end of stem on a slant and place into luke-warm water.
3. Place in a cool, dark room for several hours to condition.

C. Special treatment: Before conditioning in water, one of the following treatments may be helpful:

1. Woody stems like azaleas should be cut in an x at the base, or peeled back and split for an inch or more.
2. Milky stems, like many types of euphorbias, (poppies, dahlias, poinsettias, etc), must be sealed. Recommended methods are with a flame, or by dipping end momentarily in boiling water each time they are cut, or cutting stem under water before conditioning and when arranging. These plants require water after arranging.
3. Most foliage should be immersed in water for several hours to absorb adequate moisture.
4. Brittle stems, such as stock and chrysanthemums, should be broken to expose a greater surface for water intake.

D. Mechanics:

1. Receptacle to hold mechanics.
2. Sharp clippers.
3. Needleholder and/or Oasis; (Prepare Oasis by soaking in water first.)
4. Floral tape, wire and floral clay ("Cling", "Tack-clay" or "handi-tac").

E. **Review of line designs.** A line design is the most restrained of the three types of design. It uses less plant material than a Line-mass or Mass designs. It has a center of interest at or near the lip of the container. Line as an element of design is the foundation of all design. It dictates the direction the line will take, whether vertical, horizontal, curved or diagonal. Lines can be long, short, thick or thin.

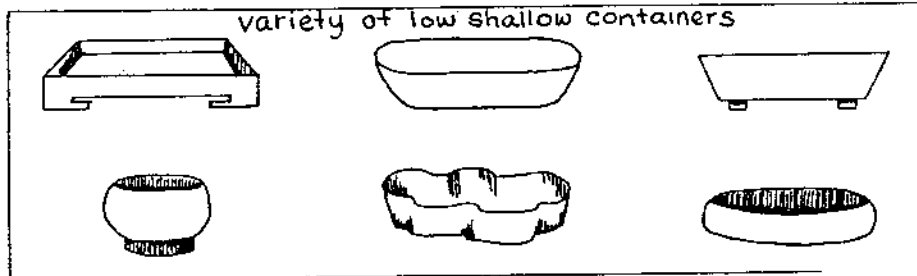
II. HORIZONTAL LINE DESIGN;

A Horizontal Line Design is a design where the main line is placed in a horizontal manner. There is restraint in the amount of plant material used and an open silhouette are characteristics of a Line design. The line direction is horizontal but it may follow the form of a straight line, curved, s-curve (Hogarth), zigzag, etc.

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A. Container.

1. Shallow and flat or low footed. Low ceramic bowls are often used as containers. Cup needleholder or container on a base is useful. Bases are designed to be placed under an arrangement. Bases are used for unity and/or visual weight. They are made of bamboo, cork, fabric, glass, metal, straw, wood, etc.
2. Styles of containers: Round, square, oval, rectangular, boat shaped, square-footed, round footed.
3. Color: Beige, black, green, blue, brown etc. Some colors need to be repeated in the plant material to avoid too much contrast. Ex. white containers need to have white repeated in the plant material.



B. **Mechanics:** See Lesson 1, page 2.

C. Material needed:

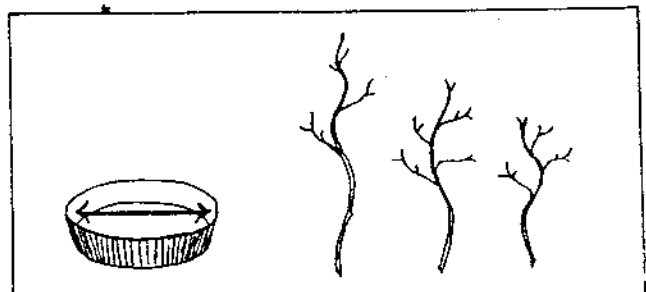
1. Select three groups of plant material of the same variety, but of different lengths. Tall & thin, medium and slightly larger, shorter stemmed and largest. Use the tallest least opened flower down to shorter stemmed and largest most fully opened flower.
2. Three pieces of line material (spike forms) as on page 1.
3. No more than five round form flowers, (mums, roses, carnations, etc.)
4. Four or five pieces of transitional/filler material.
5. A low shallow container; needleholder, "cling", and clippers.

D. **Construction:** Often horizontal designs are used as table centerpieces. They should be attractive from each side.

1. Needleholder can be placed in either end of the container, about 1/3 the diameter of the container. The design's balance will be asymmetrical. Balance is visual stability. It is the result of placing equal weight, either actual or visual, on opposite sides of an imaginary central axis. Asymmetrical balance has equal visual weight.
2. Place florist clay ("Cling"/Handi Tac, etc.) on needleholder as described in Lesson I page 3.

E. **Measurements:** Cut three pieces of line material.

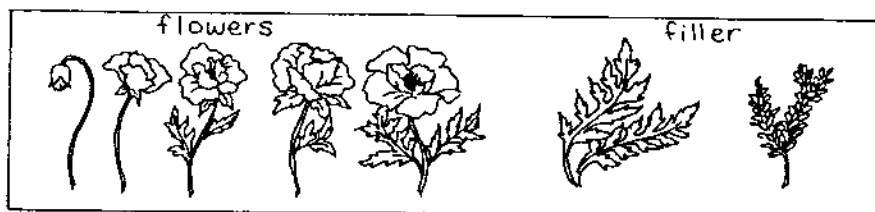
1. First piece; Minimum 1 1/2 times length or diameter of container, plus its depth.
2. Second piece: 3/4 length of the first piece.
3. Third piece; 3/4 length of the second piece.



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F. Flower and transitional/filler selection.

1. Five (5) flowers. If possible, select different sizes, from bud stage to fully open. This gradual change in size will aid the rhythm of the design.
2. Four or five pieces of transitional material.(see Lesson one page 1).



G. Placement of plant material for Line. This becomes the structural outline. (3 stems, see diagram below)

1. Insert first line material on left side of needleholder slanting to the left. Should flow over the edge of the container several inches above the rim.This becomes the main line.
2. Insert second line material on the right side of needleholder
3. Insert third line material at center rear of needleholder slanting low toward the back.

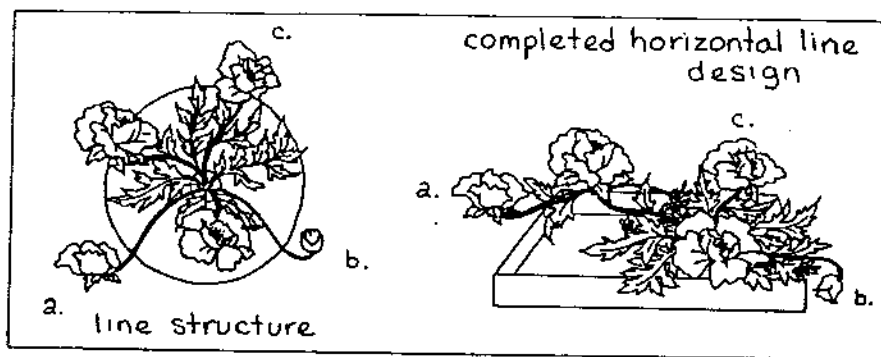
H. Placement of flowers. No stem lengths should be the same length of the flowers or the line material. Cut each stem according to page 4 Lesson 1.

1. Insert bud or smallest flower in center of needleholder following the main (longest) line. It should be shorter, slightly lower and facing toward the front.
2. Insert another flower following the line direction of first line material. This is to the left slanting upward. The flowers should be above the rim of the container.
3. Insert another along the line formed by the second piece of line material. That is to the right side and towards the front of the container. It should be shorter than the line material.
4. Insert next flower towards the back, slighter higher than the third line material. It should be shorter than the line material.
5. Insert the largest flower in the center of the needleholder, slanting forward, in a low position, toward the front of the container.

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I. Placement of transitional/ filler material.

1. Each stem should be of a different length than the plant material it is placed near. In this design it is used primarily to cover the needle holder, give contrast of texture and depth to the design.
2. Always prune off lower leaves to prevent them being underwater. Leaves deteriorate quickly underwater.
3. Material can also be placed between the line and flower placements to soften the change from line to round forms.



II. APPRECIATION TIME!

After the design is completed, it should be checked to see if it is visually stable. Does any part appear to be falling down or out of the container? This relates to the principle of balance.

Does the eye flow easily through the design, following the placement of the line? All placements should be within the framework established by the line material not leading the eye out in different directions.

If the line material is delicate, the flowers and other forms should be delicate also. This is referred to as scale. A principle of design.

Reference above has been made to the elements of line, form and size. Also to the principles of balance and scale. These will be discussed more fully in later lessons.

Focus on the beauty that has been achieved! Focus on the beauty of the flowers. Skill as a designer comes with practice and study. The challenge of developing the skill of flower arrangement is exciting and fun.