

Crepe paper comes in "folds" (a sheet or more that has been folded over to a narrower width). For continuous strips of petals like these, cut off a prefolded piece as tall as the template. The creases in the paper should run from the bottom of the petals to the top; this gives the petals proper body and support, and allows you to pull the creases open to shape the petals.

Place the template on top of the prefolded paper, aligning the dotted bottom edge with the bottom of the folded crepe paper. (You can cut through as many as nine layers at once.) Cut along the solid lines to create petals; do not cut all the way down the paper at the folds, but stop at the dotted line so that you leave the petals attached in a continuous strip. (The jagged top edge of carnation petals can be cut with pinking shears.)