Quilling with Confidence

(more than just a beginner’s guide)

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Now, on to the quilling!
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Introduction

Welcome to The Art of Quilling. I fell in love with quilling many years ago when I bought my first craft book on this intricate paper art in a local craft store. I was immediately fascinated by the creative possibilities – from delicate, lacy designs reminiscent of romantic times gone by to amazing 3-D sculptures – I knew that this craft was the one for me. I lost no time in making quilled items for gifts. They were so well received that I began participating in local craft fairs and giving lessons. I am so thrilled that technology has progressed to the point where I can share my passion with you. Because, after all this time, I still love the art of quilling.

What is Quilling?

Quilling … paper filigree … quillwork -- by any name, this lacy paper art has captivated creative imaginations for centuries. Quillwork is created from strips of paper that are rolled, scrolled, crimped, fringed, spiraled, and hand pressed into shapes that are glued to each other to form intricate designs. While there are few basic shapes, variations allow for endless possibilities. If you can imagine it … you can quill it!

A Brief History of Quilling

Surprisingly, for an art form so old, not much definitive information is available as to its origins. Most of the resources I find trace the beginning of this art to the European monasteries of the 15th century, while some sources say it started as early as the 13th or 14th century. It is believed to have first been practiced by French and Italian Nuns and/or Monks using the quill of a feather as a tool to roll the strips of paper, thus giving the technique its name. Filigree work was used to decorate religious objects and to simulate more costly handwork such as carved ivory or wrought iron. Eventually this decorative artwork spread into the homes of the wealthy in France and England during the 1700s. By the late 1700s, quilling
had become the pastime of refined young ladies of leisure and patterns resembling embroidery motifs were even published in the women’s magazines of the day. Ultimately, the art of quilling crossed the sea and arrived in the colonies where it was used to decorate practical items such as candle sconces. During the 1800s, quilling became all but forgotten. Only after the turn of the century did this delicate art start to make a comeback, enjoying a rise in popularity in the 1970s that brought several instruction books (which are now considered vintage), pre-cut papers, and specialty quilling tools to local craft stores. Unfortunately, due to the fragileness of the materials, few examples of early quillwork have survived. These date mostly to the 1700s and are now housed in museums and art collections.

**Quilling: Art or Craft?**

There is an on-going debate within the quilling community as to whether the technique of quilling is an art or a craft. Those who quill, or who understand the artistry and time that goes into creating a wonderful piece of quillwork, overwhelming feel that quilling is an art. It seems that those not familiar with quilling, however, are not as sure, and perceive quillwork as having less intrinsic value because it is, after all, just made from paper. As a member of the North American Quilling Guild, I promote quilling as an art form and even carry this message through to the name of my blog, The Art of Quilling.

I believe that quilling is much like painting. Both use simple, inexpensive materials and are fairly easy to learn. It takes time, talent, and practice, however, for an artist to produce a painting worthy of a gallery show. The same is true for quilling. The quality of the finished quillwork depends on the skill, creativity, and design created by the quiller.
5 Tips Every Quiller Should Know

I am a self-taught quiller and years ago worked mostly in my own creative bubble (social networking as we now know it on the internet did not exist). I often wished that I had known a seasoned quiller who could have shared her experiences with me. It is in this spirit that I offer you these five quilling tips.

1. Use the quilling tool that works for you.
There are many commercial tools available for curling paper, both slotted and straight needle types. A round toothpick or corsage pin can also be used. As for me, I prefer the most basic tool of all — my fingers. Keep in mind that quilling tools are just that, tools to help you create the desired coil or spiral. By all means, follow the instructions that come with the tool or those you find on the internet, but if the directions just don’t seem to work for you, don't hesitate to try using the tool in a slightly different way. The instructions that came with my first slotted tool told me to curl the paper toward me. I tried many times, but my fingers struggled with that motion. However, when I rolled the paper away from me it felt right and that is how I use that tool today. If after several tries you find that you still have trouble using a tool, it is perfectly OK to put it away and try a different one for curling your paper. All tools are not for all quillers. You will soon find the one that is right for you.

2. All quilling paper is not created equal.
You would think that one package of 1/8” wide paper would be the same as another, but that’s not the case. As we all know, paper comes in different weights and even among those of the same weight, some papers simply have more “body” than others making them more suitable for quilling. The weight of the paper used to create the strips will vary slightly between manufacturers and even within the same manufacturer. In fact, there is one manufacturer out there selling quilling strips made from thin card stock that is very

Each coil is made from a 6” strip of quilling paper from a different manufacturer.
difficult to work with since it cracks and splits. If you are having trouble, before you give up out of frustration, try a strip of paper from a different company. You may find that the problem with your coils is with the paper and not you.

3. **Quilling paper has a “right” and a “wrong” side.**

If you examine a strip of quilling paper, you will notice that one side has smooth edges that curve down ever so slightly. The other side has edges that slightly curve up. This is because the paper cutting blade pushes down on the paper as it cuts. The smooth side is considered the right side of the paper and you will want to keep it to the outside of your coils and scrolls. This difference is especially noticeable when joining several strips together end-to-end to form a large tight coil for use as a base, etc. This example is made from four 6” strips with alternating right and wrong sides. Notice the striations – they look like the rings found in a tree.

4. **Neatness counts — control the glue.**

Nothing will ruin the look of a piece of finished quilling more than seeing bits of glue all over it or gobs of glue under it where it is attached to its backing. It only takes the tiniest drop to seal the end of a coil to itself or to attach one coil or scroll to another as you build your design. A bit more adhesive may be needed to attach the paper quilling to the box or frame back, but not much. Clean hands are an absolute must when working with paper filigree and you’ll want to wash your hands before starting any quilling project. The best quilling tip I’ve found to help keep glue off the fingers is to have a wet paper towel handy to wipe your fingers on as you quill. I also keep a dry hand towel in my lap to dry my fingers on so they are not too wet for handling the paper. In addition, keep hand lotions to a minimum so the oils don’t discolor the paper.
5. **Your rolls and scrolls will be unique to you.**

They will not look exactly like mine (or anyone else’s). Everyone uses different tension when they curl the paper strips resulting in variations in the coils and scrolls. Not only that, but your own quills will vary from each other depending on your mood and how you feel at the time. To see for yourself, compare coils that you made when you were tired or frazzled with those made when you were relaxed and rested. You’ll notice a big difference. A great quilling tip is to prepare all of your strips for a project at one time. This allows you to roll your strips one right after the other, producing quills with more consistent tension.
Basic Tools and Supplies

Quilling Tool
You will need to use something to curl your paper strips. A corsage pin, round toothpick, slotted tool, or needle quilling tool can all be used. With the pin, toothpick, and needle tool, the paper strip is curled by rolling it around the center shaft. A slotted quilling tool grabs the end of the quilling paper and you wind the paper into a coil by turning the handle. There are pros and cons for each type. The needle tools make a smaller center, but starting and rolling the coil can be a bit tricky. The slotted quilling tool leaves a tell-tale bend in the paper at the center of the coil, but is by far the easiest tool for beginners to use. I recommend that you purchase a slotted tool with a long cushioned handle. Once you get the hang of quilling, you can branch out and try the needle tool or finger rolling. If you simply refuse to spend another dime on supplies, then try the toothpick. It is easier for paper to grab onto the wooden surface than the smooth shaft of the needle tool or pin.

Quilling Paper Strips
The most common width of paper strip used in quilling is 1/8", however, other widths are available. Narrower strips (1/16") are used for fine, detailed quilling, while wider strips (1/4", 1/2", and 3/8") are used primarily for fringed flowers and 3D sculpting. Not only does modern quilling paper come in a rainbow of colors, you’ll find an amazing variety of specialty papers (speckled, metallic, pearl, gradient, etc.) as well.

You’ll want to avoid the strips that are sold in a tube. They are very difficult to work with and I don’t want you to become easily discouraged.
Glue
Any good quality white tacky craft glue that dries clear will work fine. Over time you will notice some slight differences and no doubt choose a favorite, but for now, use what you have on hand.

Work Board
You can purchase one of the many nice ones available on the market today, or make your own from a sturdy piece of corrugated cardboard. A good size is 6"x8", but any size will do as long as it is larger than your quilling pattern. Cover the front of the work board with a piece of wax paper or clear plastic cut to size and held in place with a few straight pins.

Straight Pins
Besides holding the work board covering in place, pins are used to hold your coils and scrolls on the board as you work on your quilling pattern. This allows you to “dry fit” the pieces and make any adjustments before gluing.

Ruler
You will usually want to measure the length of your paper strips so you can form shapes that are uniform in size. Your quilling pattern instructions will tell you the length of the strip needed to form each coil or scroll.

Tweezers
Some of the individual shapes you create will be pretty small. You will find tweezers quite helpful in achieving perfect placement of your coils and scrolls into your quilling design.

Scissors
Usually you tear your paper strips to length; however, there are times when a cut end looks neater.
Toothpicks

Besides being an all around handy tool to have in your crafting arsenal of supplies, toothpicks are excellent for apply glue to your quilled shapes.

A quality slotted tool manufactured by Lake City Craft Co. is available from Scrapbook Super Center where you will also find their brand of quilling paper. Joann carries a larger variety, stocking both the Lake City Crafts line as well as tools and papers from Quilled Creations (my personal favorite for the papers). Just enter “quilling” into the search menu.
Quilling Techniques

The first step is to tear a strip of paper to the desired length. Tearing the paper creates a frayed end that is less noticeable when glued than a cut end. For practice, a 6” strip is a good size. Next, you’ll want to condition the paper to loosen the fibers making it easier to create a smooth roll. This is done by running the paper strip over your quilling tool or thumbnail. Be sure to roll the paper in the same direction it is bending.

Instructions for using a slotted quilling tool should come with the package, but it is quite easy to use. Simply insert one end of the paper into the tool (just enough to catch in the slot) and turn the handle. I roll paper away from me, so I insert the strip with the smooth side facing me and the curl of the paper that we created by loosening the fibers is toward the floor. If you are more comfortable rolling paper toward you, insert the paper with the wrong side up (the curl in the paper ends will be towards you) and roll towards you. Either way, use your other hand to guide the paper, keeping the edges aligned as evenly as possible. Use an even tension on the paper strip when rolling your coil.

Quilling with a needle tool, pin, or toothpick, is a bit trickier and may require more practice, but certainly can be done by a beginner. Place the end of the paper between your thumb and index finger and pinch the paper edge around the shaft of your tool and start rolling the paper. If you have difficulty in beginning the roll, try moistening your finger tips or the tip of the paper. The beginning of the coil should be tightly wound to ensure a small round center. Loosen your tension slightly as you roll to the end of the strip.

A finished coil or scroll is called a “quill.”
5 Basic Quilling Coils

Coils are the building blocks of most quilling patterns. They can be made in all shapes and sizes, but the one thing all coils have in common is that after the strip is rolled, the loose end of the paper is glued to itself. Don't forget that when making coils, it helps to condition your paper by running the wrong side of the strip over your quilling tool or thumbnail. The paper will start to bend with the smooth side out which is what you want.

Tight Coil: Using your quilling tool of choice, roll a strip of paper tightly, being sure to keep the paper aligned as you roll. Place a small dab of glue at the end of the strip, glue to the roll, and hold until set. Remove the tool.

Loose Coil: Roll a strip into a tight coil. Remove the tool and allow the roll to uncoil. Glue the loose end of the paper to the coil.

Teardrop, Raindrop, Peacock Eye: Make a loose coil. Hold the coil between the index fingers and thumbs of both hands. Using one hand, pinch your finger and thumb together catching the paper and forming a point. Leave the other end rounded.

Marquise: Make a loose coil. Hold the coil between the index fingers and thumbs of both hands. Instead of pinching the paper with one hand to form the teardrop, pinch the paper with both hands at the same time, leaving the center of the coil round.

Pressed Heart: Make a loose coil and pinch it into a teardrop. With your fingernail or toothpick, indent the center of the round end to form a heart shape.
5 Basic Quilling Scrolls

Open scrolls help create the beautiful lace-like quality quillwork is known for. They are made by rolling one or both ends of a paper strip, but, unlike coils, the rolled ends are not glued down. I mentioned earlier that you should tear your strips since the frayed end is less noticeable when glued. This is the method followed by most quillers. For extra neatness, however, I like to cut both ends of the paper strip since it gives a sharp definition to the scroll ends. When making scrolls, you will still want to condition the paper in the direction you want to roll.

**Loose Scroll:** Using your quilling tool of choice, loosely roll a strip into a coil. Remove the quilling tool and allow the roll to relax. Do not glue.

**S-Scroll:** Loosely roll one end of a paper strip half-way down. Flip the paper and loosely roll the other end in the opposite direction to form an "S" shape. Do not glue.

**C-Scroll:** Loosely roll one end of a paper strip half-way down. Flip the paper and loosely roll the other end toward the center until it meets the loose coil made from the other end and forms a "C" shape. Do not glue.

**V-Scroll:** Fold your strip of quilling paper in half. Loosely roll each end outward to form a "V" shape. Do not glue.

**Heart Scroll:** Fold your quilling strip in half. Loosely roll each end toward the center to form a heart shape. Do not glue.

S-scrolls and C-scrolls make wonderful “filler” quills for larger projects. V-scrolls and loose scrolls are often used as beautiful tendrils to accent quilled blooms. Scrolls can also be combined to form some lovely designs for interesting special effects.
Assembling Your Quillwork

Quilling designs are assembled with the help of a work board. Place your quilling pattern under the wax paper or clear plastic covering and pin it in place at the corners. Start your design by pinning a single quill in place at the edge of your design. Following the pattern, position a second quill next to the first and pin in place. If you are pleased with the placement, lift the second quill and apply glue sparingly where the second quill touched the first. Replace the second quill and pin to hold. Continue this process until your design is completed. Be careful not to glue your quills to the wax paper or plastic sheet – glue them only to each other.

When the glue has dried, unpin your quillwork and carefully lift it from your work board. It is now ready to be attached to the background of your choice.
Let’s Start Quilling

Quilling is most beautiful when the coils and scrolls used in the design are uniform in size and shape. With practice, you will see this uniformity start to develop, but don’t wait until you achieve perfection to try these projects. Have fun while you learn and don’t hesitate to show your quilling to friends and family. They will marvel at your creativity!

Elements of a Quilling Project

There are three fundamental elements to consider when planning a quilling project:

1. The quilling itself — the type and color of the papers and the choice of quilled shapes used to create the design;

2. the embellishments — with the explosion of scrapbooking onto the craft scene has come a seemingly endless supply of ephemera that can be used to enhance quilling projects;

3. the “canvas” — how the quilling is displayed (in a frame, on a card, mounted on a box, etc., or not used at all as is the case with free-standing 3D pieces).

Together, these components contribute to the overall look and feel of a finished piece of quilled art and are addressed in all of my patterns.

There are many ways to use and display a piece of quillwork. My patterns suggest only one. Get creative! Instead of a card (beginner project) – make a border of flowers for a scrapbook page. If you don’t have a papier maché box, recycle a throw-away container you do have to create a unique treasure box all your own. Once you start, you’ll think of many ways to enhance your world with quilling.

About the Patterns

For each project you will need the basic tools and supplies discussed earlier, along with the additional supplies listed.
My pattern instructions tell you the number, size, type, and color of the quills needed to complete the design. For example, (5) 3” Marquise coil, blue, means that you will need five marquise coils each made from a 3” strip of blue quilling paper.

Before you start quilling, print off the pattern and slide it under the wax paper or plastic sheet of your work board and pin it in place.

**IMPORTANT!** You may print the patterns any size you like, but for results as illustrated, printing the patterns at 100% is recommended. To ensure that your patterns print at 100%, open the Print box (File → Print) and select “None” for the Page Scaling option. The other options modify the size of the printed page which will distort the patterns.

As we discussed earlier, your quills may be smaller or larger than mine depending on the paper you are using and your own rolling tension. It is a good idea before starting any pattern to make a test coil for comparison. Simply take a strip of paper the length specified in the pattern, roll and shape the quill as instructed, and compare the size of the quill to the printed pattern. If your quill is smaller than the pattern, then your paper may be thinner or your tension is tighter than the one used in the sample and you will need to use a longer paper strip. If your quill is larger than the pattern, then you may be using a heavier weight paper or your tension is looser. If so, you will need to shorten the length of paper a bit.

Remember, your quills will be unique to you. Don’t spend hours trying to make them look exactly like mine. Use the pattern as a guide; variations are normal. If your fingers fumble a bit, don’t be discouraged and keep practicing. I promise you will see improvement with each new project.
All Occasion Card

This colorful card is perfect for a birthday, anniversary, or just because. The elements can be used together or separated to adorn gift enclosure cards making it a very versatile design.

You’ll Need

- Basic quilling tools & supplies
- Quilling paper strips, 1/8": blue, green, pink, yellow, black
- (1) 5-1/2” x 4” blank greeting card, lavender
- Plain circle punch, 1-7/16”
- Fluted circle punch, 1-7/16”
- Card stock: white, blue, yellow, pink
- Black fine tip pen (Sharpie)

Quilling Pattern(s)

**Blue Posy w/Bud**

(5) 3” Marquise coil, blue
(1) 3” Teardrop coil, blue
(1) 1-1/2” Tight coil, yellow
(1) 3” V-scroll, green
(1) 2” V-scroll, green

Glue one point of each blue marquise to the yellow tight coil to form the flower. Glue the end of the 3” green V-scroll between two flower petals for a tendril. Glue the blue teardrop to the top of the 2” green V-scroll to form a flower bud, then glue the green tip between two flower petals.
Pink Carnation

(3) 6” Pressed heart coils, pink
(1) 3” Pressed heart coil, green
(1) 3” S-scroll, green

Glue the tips of the three red pressed heart coils together to form the flower petals. Glue the top of the green pressed heart under the flower petals to form a calyx. Attach the 2” S-scroll to the side of the green pressed heart for the stem.

Butterfly

(2) 6” Teardrop coils, yellow
(2) 4” Teardrop coils, blue
(1) 3” V-scroll, black

For the butterfly body, glue 1/2” of the black V-scroll together at the tip end, leaving the scrolls loose. Glue the pinched tip of the blue teardrop coils to each side of the end of the black V-scroll to form the bottom wings (be sure to leave a bit of the V-scroll tip showing). Glue the tip of each yellow teardrop coil to each side of the black V-scroll to form the top wings.

Assemble Your Card

1. Using the photo of the completed card as your guide, tear a 5-1/2 inch strip of pink, yellow, and blue quilling paper and glue them vertically to the front of the card; trim ends flush with card edge.
2. Punch three (3) fluted circles from the white card stock.
3. With your pen, draw stitch lines around the inside edge.
4. Punch three (3) plain circles, one each from the pink, blue, and yellow card stock.
5. Glue the white fluted circles on top of the plain circles and glue onto card.
6. Glue the blue posy with bud, pink carnation, and butterfly in place on the card.
7. Be sure to sign your card on the back so the lucky recipient will know they were given a card handmade by you.
Framed Cross

This cross has the look of rusty wrought iron. Layering it on torn handmade paper adds texture to the quillwork and enhances its Old World charm. Though it looks complicated, if you break it down, the cross is assembled in four sections corresponding to the headings of a compass. You’ll note that three of the sections (east, west, and north) are identical.

You’ll Need

➢ Basic quilling tools & supplies
➢ Quilling paper strips, 1/8": brown
➢ (1) Flat back crystals, 3mm, lt. topaz (Swarovski)
➢ Handmade paper, tan, 4”x6”
➢ Blending chalk, black (Inkadinkadoo)
➢ Mat board, dark brown, 4”x6”
➢ Frame with glass deep enough to hold the quilling, 4”x6”
➢ Dry adhesive (optional)

Quilling Pattern

(4) 4” Marquise coils
(4) 4” Heart scrolls
(6) 8” Marquise coils
(14) 3” Loose coils
(4) 3” S-scrolls
Glue one 4” marquise coil inside the folded tip of a heart scroll. Glue the tip of an 8” marquise coil to the tip of the 4” marquise. Next glue three (3) 3” loose coils into a triangle shape and glue them onto the open tip of the 8” marquise. Add a bit of glue to tack down the loose curled ends of the heart scroll where they meet the tips of the marquise coils. Repeat these steps to build three (3) sections. These will be the top and two sides of the cross (north, east, and west).

To create the long section of the cross, glue the remaining 4” marquise inside the remaining heart scroll. Glue the tip of an 8” marquise coil to the tip of the 4” marquise. Tack down the loose curled ends of the heart scroll. Next glue a 3” loose coil to the tip of the 8” marquise coil, followed by another 8” marquise coil, 3” loose coil, and the remaining 8” marquise coil. Glue the remaining (3) 3” loose coils into a triangle and glue them on the open tip of the 8” marquise.

To assemble the cross, glue the tips of the heart scrolls of each section together, keeping the sections as straight as possible. Glue the flat back crystal to the center of the cross.

Frame Your Cross

1. Tear a half inch off of each edge of the handmade paper leaving a piece that is approximately 3” x 5” in size.
2. Rub black chalk along the edge.
3. Adhere the middle of the paper to the center of the mat board backing, allowing the edges of the paper to curl up slightly.
4. Glue the cross to the center of the handmade paper.
5. Be sure to sign and date your work!
Fan Treasure Box

Take one lacy quilled fan, add plenty of gold leaf, crystal jewels and a flirty little tassel, and you have the perfect embellishment for a romantic treasure box. Make this box for a special friend, or save it for yourself to hold small keepsakes.

You’ll Need

➢ Basic quilling tools & supplies
➢ Quilling paper strips, 1/8”: ivory
➢ 18KT Gold leafing pen (Krylon)
➢ (13) Flat back crystals, 3mm, rose (Swarovski)
➢ Small tassel, gold
➢ Paper crimping tool
➢ Oval papier maché box, approximately 3-1/2” long x 2-1/2” deep x 1-1/2” high
➢ Acrylic paint, black
➢ Paint brush
➢ Mod Podge® Matte finish sealer (Plaid)
➢ Scrapbook paper with script print, 1/2” wide x 10” (Script Gold Foil, Penny Black, Inc.)
➢ Clear acrylic spray sealer
➢ (4) Gold beads, 8mm
New Technique – Paper Crimping

For this project we will be using a quilling paper crimping tool. This is a fun tool made up of two interlocking gears that crimps, or flutes, the quilling paper as it is fed through the gears. To create the spokes for this fan, crimp a piece of the 1/8" ivory quilling paper and glue it between two straight strips creating a sandwich that resembles corrugated cardboard when turned on its edge.

I have the crimping tool made by Paplin Products, but there are several good ones available.

Quilling Pattern

(7) crimped/sandwiched strips, 1-1/2"
(6) 2" Teardrop coils
(6) 4" Loose coils
(6) 3" C-scrolls
(6) 4" S-scrolls
(6) 4" V-scrolls
(6) 4" Teardrop coils
(Note – fan is assembled from the center out and quills are listed in the order they are used.)

Glue the tip of each 1-1/2" fluted strip together and fan them out forming an arch. Glue a 2" teardrop between each spoke. Next, glue a 4" loose coil between each spoke (there will be a space between the teardrop and loose coil). Glue a C-scroll to each loose coil, with the scroll facing the coil. Next, glue an S-scroll on top of the C-scroll making sure that they are all curling in the same direction. Glue a V-scroll to the center of the S-scroll. Finally, glue a 4" teardrop to the center of each V-scroll.
Using the golf leaf pen, gild the paper edges of the fan. Spray the fan with two light coats of acrylic spray to help protect the quillwork. To finish the fan, glue a crystal to the center of each 4” loose coil, each 4” teardrop, and at the tip of the fan where the spokes are joined. Next, glue the tassel to the back of the fan. (See photo for reference).

Assemble Your Treasure Box

1. Paint the papier maché box with two coats of black acrylic; let dry.
2. Seal the box with a coat of Mod Podge; let dry.
3. Using the leafing pen, gild the cut edges of the scrapbook paper strip.
4. With the Mod Podge, decoupage the strip of scrapbook paper around the lid edge, butting the ends together in the back; let dry.
5. Glue the four gold beads to the bottom of the box for feet.
6. Glue the fan to the top of the box.
7. Using the gel pen, sign and date your treasure box.

If you have difficulty finding a tassel small enough for your fan, don’t hesitate to make your own using gold embroidery floss. If you need help, there are many wonderful tutorials available on the internet to show you how.
Solutions to Common Problems

The techniques used in quilling are fairly straightforward, however there are a few problems most new quillers encounter at one time or another. I’ve offered solutions to help you solve these dilemmas so you can continue to enjoy the art of quilling.

**Problem:** The quilling paper sticks in the slotted quilling tool. When the coil is removed, the center of the coil stays in the tool and the coil becomes a mangled spiral.

**Solution:** The coil has been rolled too tightly. Try reversing the handle slightly and ease the tool out of the coil. After the coil has been removed, you’ll want to check the slot to make sure it hasn’t been bent closed. The tip of a pin can be used to pry the slot open again if needed.

**Problem:** The coils and scrolls do not lie flat after they are rolled.

**Solution:** This will happen if the paper edges are not kept even when rolling. Unroll your coil or scroll and try again.

**Problem:** The pins used to hold the quilling on the work board stick to the paper quills.

**Solution:** Unfortunately, too much glue has been used and the pins are glued to the paper. Twist the pin slightly to dislodge the pin from the paper so it doesn’t pull the quills apart when removed.

**Problem:** The paper just won’t curl around the quilling needle or toothpick.

**Solution:** Try slightly moistening the end of the quilling paper strip and your fingertips before rolling. As with glue, a little moisture goes a long way. You don’t want the paper to get too wet or it will go limp and not curl.
Problem: The coil does not spring free smoothly or open as desired.

Solution: Using too much pressure while rolling the paper will result in a coil that is too tight. Unroll the paper and run your fingernail lightly over the strip on the back side of the curl to straighten it back out a bit and re-roll the coil, using less tension this time.

Problem: After rolling, the coil unwinds too large with few discernible concentric circles which give a quill its distinctive spiral effect.

Solution: The quill was rolled too loose. Simply open the paper strip and re-roll the quill.

Problem: The quill unrolls in an uneven spiral – tight in the center with loose circles on the edges or the middle of the coil is off-center. Uneven tension

Solution: Crooked rolls are a result of applying uneven pressure while rolling. Try to roll your quills in one continuous motion without stopping and be sure to use an even pressure. You might find it helpful to roll the paper back and forth between your thumb and index finger to distribute the tension more evenly before removing the quilling paper from the tool.
In creating this e-book, I received invaluable assistance from "Complete Craft Book Publishing". Details can be found here: