


CraftStudios17th Quilling Glossary: Core Terms from the Five-Petal Foundation Exercise

Quilling Hand *(Core Concept)

Your unique technique habits while forming coils—similar to “handwriting” in calligraphy. Each person’s quilling hand affects coil shape, tension, and tool handling. It is personal but trainable.


Overhand

A coiling method where the needle is rotated **clockwise** with the paper **above** the tool.

- Pro: Easier to see the edge of the paper for alignment.
 - Con: Harder to monitor the forming coil underneath.
 -  Consistent use prevents unintentional unraveling.
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Underhand

A coiling method where the needle is rotated **counterclockwise** with the paper **below** the tool.

- Pro: Easier to see how the coil is forming in real-time.
 - Con: Harder to align the edge of the paper at the start.
 -  Alternating between underhand and overhand can cause **unintentional unraveling** due to reversing the coil direction.
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Unintentional Unraveling

A loss of coil tension caused by **alternating between overhand and underhand coiling**.

-  Clockwise (overhand) followed by counterclockwise (underhand), or vice versa, creates opposing winding forces that undo the coil.
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Tight Hand / Loose Hand

Describes the amount of force a quiller applies when coiling.

- **Tight hand** = smaller, denser coils.
 - **Loose hand** = larger, softer coils.
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Needle Tip Positioning

Where the quilling paper sits in the needle slot during coiling.

- Paper at **tip**, **middle**, or **base** of the slot can affect coil shape.
 - This position is a part of one's quilling hand and varies between quillers.
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Pinching Technique (*Shaping Methods*)

Used to transform closed loose coils into distinct quilling elements.

Free Pinch

- No external support is used.
- The coil is gently held at its belly; one hand performs the pinch.
- Produces **random, organic** shapes.
- ✦ Ideal for flower fields and natural variation.
- △ The center may shift—pinch speed affects final shape.

Controlled Pinch

- Coil is pinched a controlled manner is the quilling technique that give the kind of results that is similar to using a ruler to draw a line. It gives the quiller full control over the final form.
- The coil center is manually placed and held before pinching.
- Produces **predictable, symmetrical** shapes.
- ✦ Ideal for geometric designs (e.g., snowflakes, mandalas).
- △ Finger position is flat (top and bottom of the coil).

Gather and Pinch

- A **tweezer-aided** shaping method.
 - Tweezers are inserted **into the coil** before the pinch: one tip in the center, one on the outer edge.
 - The tweezer remains **in the pinching area during the pinch**, acting as a **retaining wall** to prevent overly sharp tips and gather all coil layers to one side.
 - Produces **soft, rounded spikes** in the spine of the element.
 - ✦ Ideal for soft floral shapes (e.g., sakura blossoms).
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Pinch Force

More pressure = sharper, more defined point.

Less pressure = softer, subtler shaping.

Pinch Surface Area

How deep into the coil you pinch affects the final look:

- **Small surface area** = a rounded coil with a subtle point. Produce rounder fatter elements.
 - **Large surface area** = more dramatic spine and narrow shape. Produces narrower and taller elements.
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Quilling Element

A completed shaped coil—like a “**Lego piece**” of quilling—that can be assembled into designs.

- Each element has a specific visual geometry.
- Examples: teardrop, marquise, eye, triangle, crescent, and all variations formed through pinching.