

In many cases the Twistie Matrix is the same pattern as the standard Round Balloon Matrix. The designs have simply been scaled down to hold bubbles made with #350, #260 or even #160 balloons. This means that a heart design that normally requires 38 round balloons can be made with as few as two #160 balloons, only smaller, of course.

1. Stretch open the Matrix.

- A. Start with the Matrix flat on a table. Cover most of the width of the Matrix with one hand. Leave just one or two rows of straps visible at the edge of the Matrix.
- B. Lift up the edge of the matrix with the other hand. As the Matrix opens, let the hand covering the Matrix slide slowly down the width of the Matrix thereby exposing more and more rows of Matrix as they open.

2. Twist a string of bubbles in your long balloon.

- A. Use bubbles that are about 1" in diameter with #160 Matrix, 1.5" in diameter for #260 Matrix and 2" in diameter for #350 Matrix. These sizes will vary somewhat with different Matrix configurations and with your planned use. Some designs, such as the Heart, have a few openings (apertures) of different sizes to help make the overall shape come out right.
- B. It is usually helpful to do a double pinch and twist between bubbles. This creates extra space between bubbles. This extra space makes it easier to push the bubbles all the way into the apertures of the Matrix. It also makes it easier to make turns between one row of bubbles and another row.

3. Push the bubbles into the openings in the Matrix.

- A. It is usually best to center the bubbles in the straps of the Matrix (that is with 1/2 the bubble on the back side & 1/2 the bubble on the front side of the Matrix) with the twisted ends against the straps. This makes a smooth flat sheet of balloons with little of the twisted portions showing.
- B. It is usually best to start installing bubbles where the end of the string of bubbles will later be hidden from the public. The end of the string normally has a knot where you have tied the balloon to seal in the air.

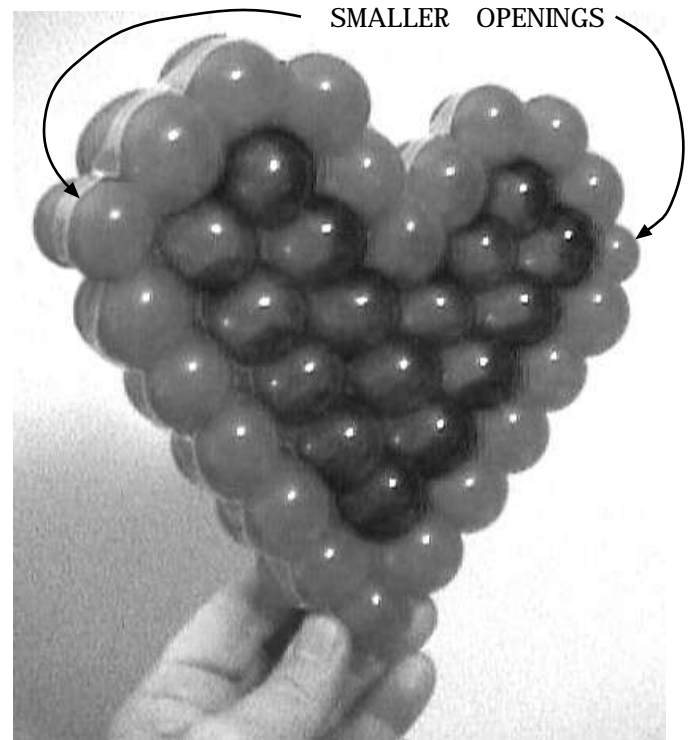
4. Double Bubble Technique

(This takes twice as many balloons, but makes the finished piece twice as thick and more than twice as strong in little more time.)

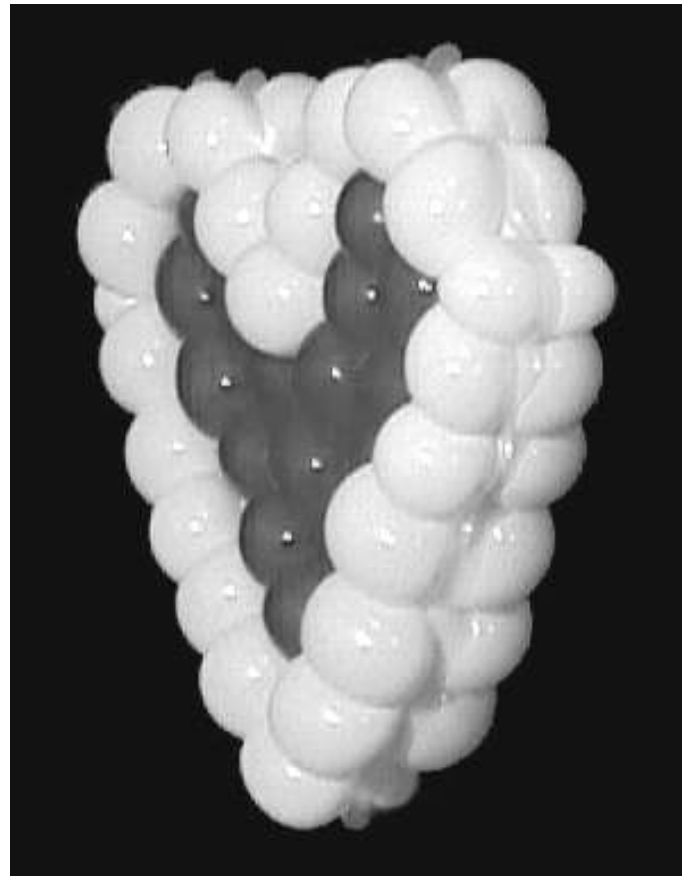
- A. Tie the knotted end of two long balloons together.
- B. Keep the balloons together as you pinch and twist bubbles.
- C. Push one of the two bubbles all the way through the aperture in the Matrix. This leaves one bubble of the pair on the front side and one on the back side of the Matrix.

Visit us on-line at: <http://www.rouseinternational.com>

Also, subscribe to our FREE, on-line balloon arts magazine at <http://www.rouseinternational.com/ra>



RMS #260 HEART - SINGLE BUBBLE TECHNIQUE



RMS #260 HEART - DOUBLE BUBBLE TECHNIQUE