

How to Make Your Tree of Life



This is a Cherry Blossoms Tree I made. Yours will be different as everyone has their own unique style.

This is in your kit



- Aluminium frame
- For the tree: a coil with assorted aluminium, non-tarnishing copper and coated copper wires (nine)
- For beading: a smaller coil with non-tarnishing copper wire
- A feast of green seed beads in a variety of sizes
- A pair of bent chain nose pliers (called pliers from now on)
- A hook

I have used multi-coloured wires for the tree so that the instructions are easier to follow. This is why the colours differ from the ones in your kit.

I will go through the steps of making a Tree of Life the way I do it. That doesn't mean that my way is the only way or even the right way, if there even is such a thing. Feel free to give it your own spin.

The main thing is to relax and have fun with it...

...and enjoy the experience of creating

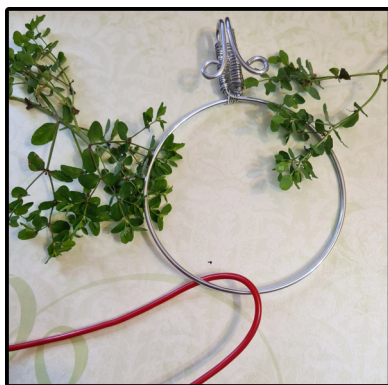
Making the Tree

Starting with the Roots



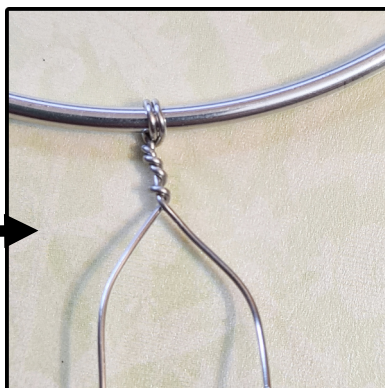
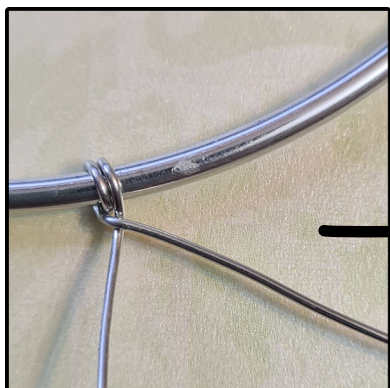
Find the thickest coil of wire. It will have 9 wires of various thicknesses and materials.

It is held together by a short piece of aluminium wire. Once discarded, it can go in the recycling bin.



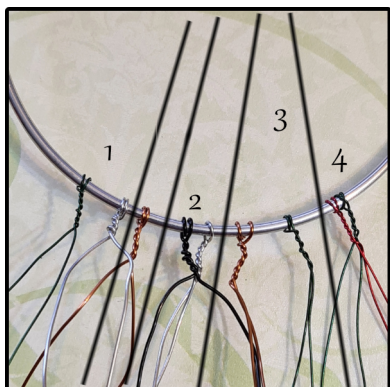
I have used some red electrical wire to illustrate how to attach the nine wires that will make the tree.

Wrap the wire twice around the frame.



Hold the two two strands firmly in place close to the frame with one hand and twists them with your other till you have a tight twist of around 1.5 cm/1/3" long.

This is the first part of your root.

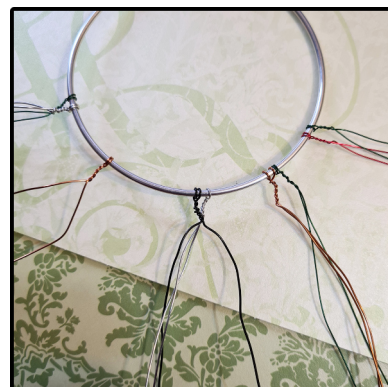


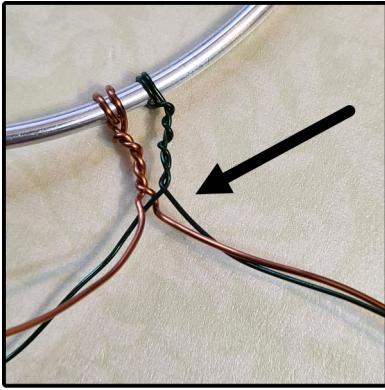
Do the same with the other eight wires.

I like to make sure that the adjacent colours are different. Often, I place the thicker wires in the middle and the thinner ones on the outside.

Make four pairs, each one has four wire ends.

Don't worry about the spare, that will be explained.





I like to separate the four wires so that each new pair consist two different colours. Here I made two pairs of black and red.

Grab hold of the wires where the previous twists end. Start a new twist of the four wires.



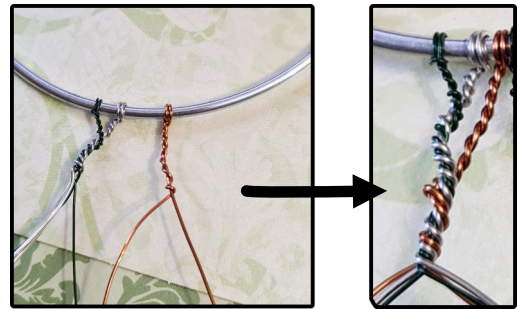
In the picture on the right, I didn't separate the colours, so you can see the difference (see picture below). You might prefer it or do a mixture as I ended up doing.

I aimed to make this twist roughly around the same size as the previous one (around 1.5 cm/1/3").



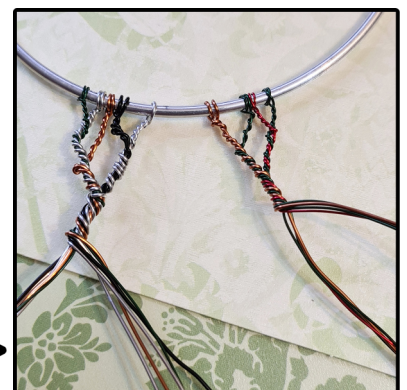
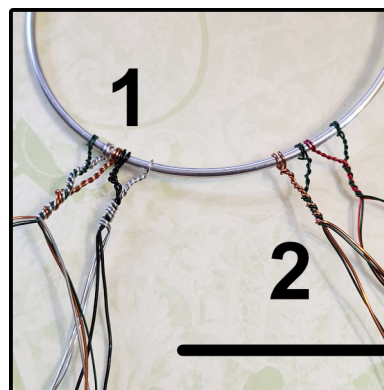
There's the one spare to deal with! Twist it a bit more to make it longer.

When it is roughly the same length as one of its neighbours, split the now six wires apart, into two sets of three. Twist these strands together into one twist.



Now you have four sets. I'm sure you can guess what will happen next.

First divide the four sets into two pairs (1 and 2), then twist these together as before.



The root system is made. By twisting the remaining sets together you create the tree trunk.

Make sure you don't make it too long, otherwise you don't have a lot of space for the tree branches.

Tree Trunk and Roots



The roots are way too long if I were to keep them in this position. They need to be spread and lowered.

This can be achieved by simply pulling and pushing them into a position you like.



The Branches



To create the branches the whole process gets repeated, but in reverse. Where first they were combined, now they need to be separated.

Split the strands into three, four or five parts. Try not to make them the same.

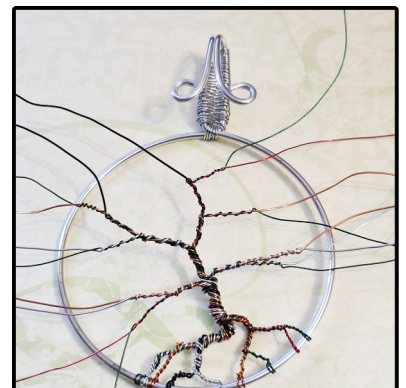
For my tree I split the strands into three sections. These are split in two parts that are then twisted together.

Where possible, I like to keep the colours different from each other.

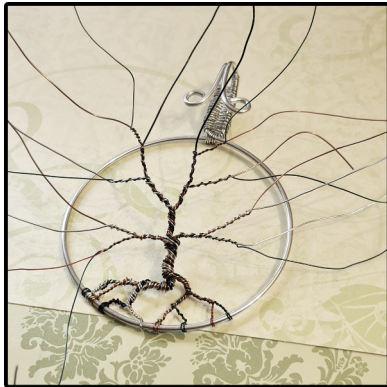


After the twist, divide the strands up again, split in two and let's twist again.

By now you'll have some singular strands left and some pairs. Twist the pairs together till you only have singular strands left.



Forming the Tree



Decide where you would like your branches to be.

I like them to be a-symmetrical as that looks more pleasing and natural to me.

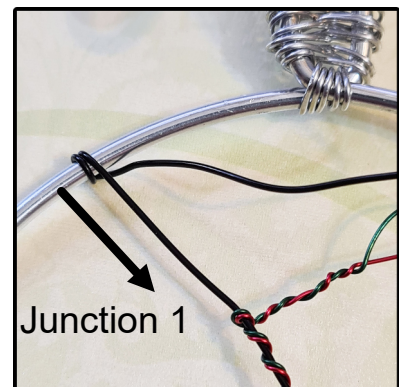
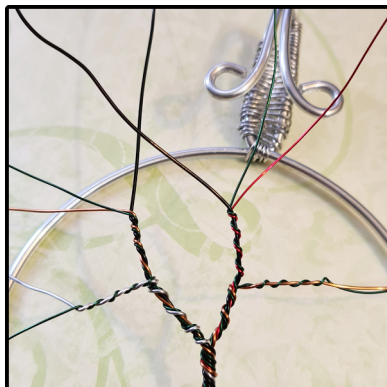
I also prefer to have one main branch to have side branches at either side of the top hanger.

It's a good idea to start attaching these, to prevent you ending up with a tree that only has branches on the right or left side (this once almost happened in one of my workshops).

Attaching the branches

Once you're happy with how you have distributed your branches, you start attaching them to the frame.

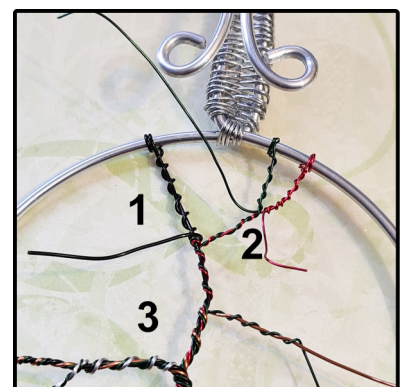
I started with the strand to the left of the hanger and looped it twice around the frame.



Wrap the remainder of the strand back onto itself on the way back. Stop at the point where there's a joint in the tree or a junction (junction 1).

Do the same for the first few branches on the right of the hanger. Green and red join together at junction 2.

The green and red strands can both be wrapped around the wire leading to the aforementioned junction (1). From that point downward, the green, red and the black wire can be wrapped around the downward branch till junction 3.

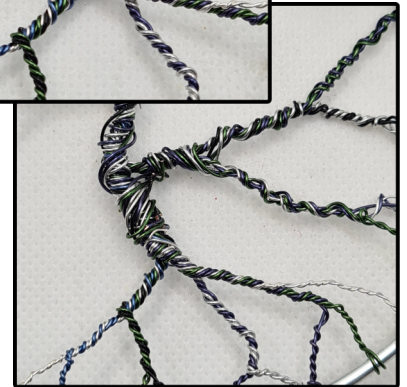


Make life easier for yourself by moving branches out of the way.



Do the same with all the wires.

You'll end up with lots of wire ends sticking out of the tree. Squeeze them against a branch with the pliers so they don't stick out.



My once nicely orchestrated root system got changed in the process, so I need to reshape it.

I also want to make the branches a bit tauter. I do this by shaping them with the pliers, creating bends and curves where I want them. Be careful with the aluminium wires as they could snap. You then have a loose branch, which, however, creates a nice effect, so no worries!

You might want to move the branches as well till you have a look you like.



You've made your tree!

Time to bring it all together by adding the Cherry Blossoms beads

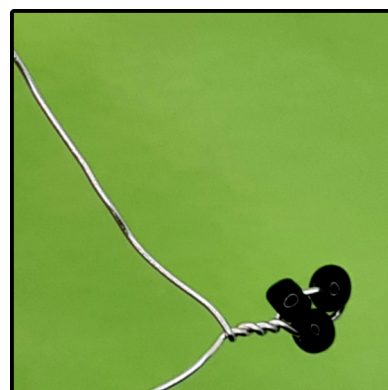
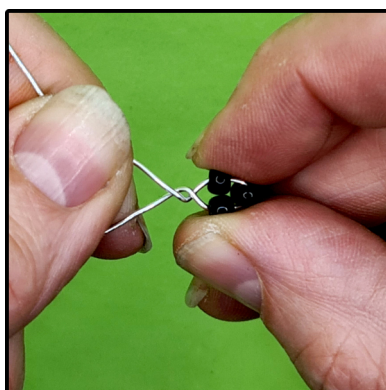
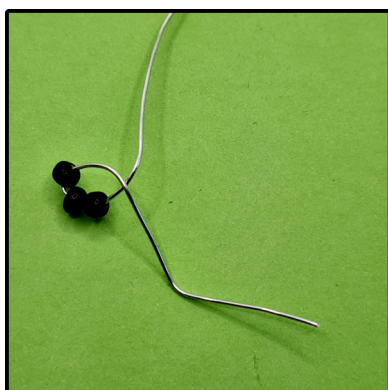
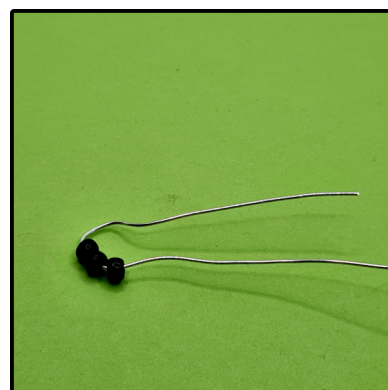
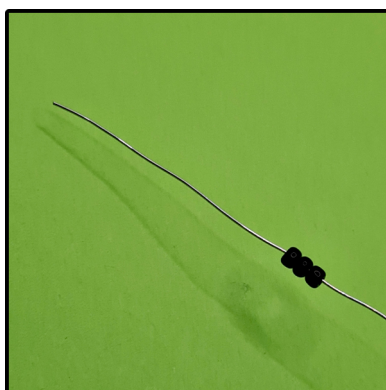


Beading

I have used black beads for illustration purposes. You have a variety of beautiful pink beads of different sizes. Be careful unwrapping them, have a little bowl ready to put them in!

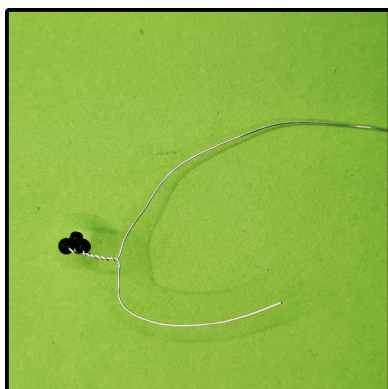
To start, get one of the three weaving wires from the second coil. Add three (or more especially if they are small) beads and bend the wire at around 5cm/2" from the beginning.

Hold the wire tightly at around 1 cm/0.4" from the beads. Twist with the hand holding the beads. Make the twist of about 1 cm/0.4" long. You have created a little stalk!

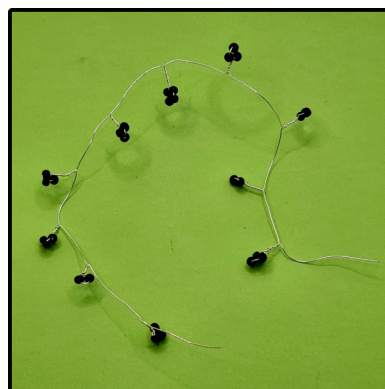


Two options

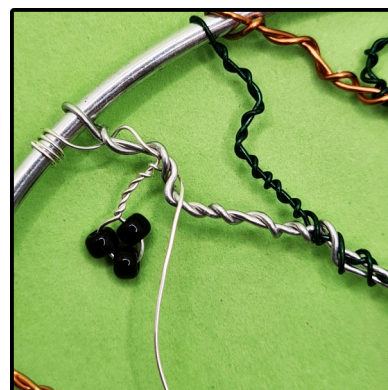
1. You fasten the short end to the tree/frame and add little clusters of beads as you go along.



2. You make all the clusters first and then add the whole strand to the tree or frame.



Method 1

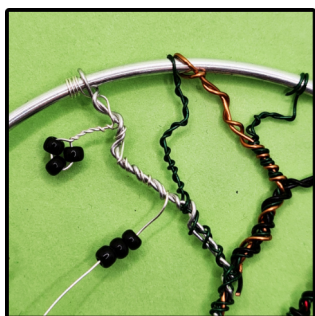


Coil the shorter end of the wire around the frame or if you want you can start on a branch, up to you.

Wrap the wire that is between the frame and the stalk around the branch in the direction you want to go. In this instance it is going down the branch.

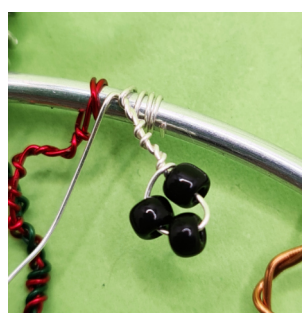
Secure the stalk where it meets the branch with a tight wrap. Wrap the wire around the branch a little further, then add beads to make another little bunch. Repeat till the end of the wire. The tree is definitely looking tree like, with the bunches looking like leaves on a stalk.

You can cut off the last end of the wire with an old pair of scissors close to the branch and squeeze it onto it with the pliers.



Method 2

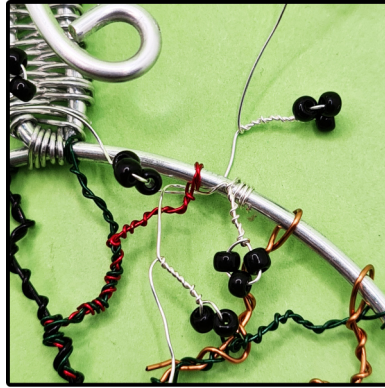
Using the strand with little bunches of cherry blossoms, wrap one end onto the frame/branch as in method 1.



Having attached the the first bunch to the red wire, I now need to thread it through the sma opening between the red and green branch to work my way down. This can be a bit fiddly, which is why some people prefer method 1.

Repeat this till the end of the wire or till you reach a natural end. If there's any wire with some bunches left, just cut it off. If necessary you can add this at a later point.

I prefer method 2, so I'm adding the third wire with beads onto the tree. Choose whatever method or combination thereof suits you.



You can move the stalks into position as well so that they fit the spaces nicely,

All that's left to do is cut off the loose ends with scissors, squeezing the against the tree with the pliers and attach the hook by pushing the hanger curls through one at the time.



The tree is complete!

I hope you love the result and enjoyed the experience of creating it!

Helga

Cherry Blossoms Tree of Life



If you enjoyed this, you might like the following ,available from the
[Colourbuzz Shop](http://www.colourbuzz.net)

Cherry Blossoms

A Tree of Life Kit



Age: 11+
 All materials
 and 1x pliers

Summer Greens

A Tree of Life Kit



Age: 11+
 All materials
 and 1x pliers

Autumn Hues

A Tree of Life Kit



Age: 11+
 All materials

Winter Blossoms

A Tree of Life Kit



Age: 11+
 All materials

Elephant

A 'Silver' Shapes Kit



Age: 11+
 Materials
 and 1x pliers

Scottie

A 'Silver' Shapes Kit



Age: 11+
 Materials
 and 1x pliers

For more information about kits and workshops, have a look at the Colourbuzz website

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or contact me at colourbuzz1@gmail.com

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