

WIRE GEM TREES



Tools & Supplies:

- Acrylic Spray (clear)
- Base (glass, rock, tray, etc.)
- Gemstones
- Glue (Jewel-It)
- Leaves (optional)
- Paper Towel
- Straight Pin
- Toothpick
- Wax Paper
- Wire (24 ga)
- Jewelers Pliers
 - Cutters
 - Needle Nose Pliers
 - Flat Nose Pliers

Instructions:

1. Select a base for your tree.
2. Determine your tree size. Multiply the desired height x 2.5 to get your wire length.
3. Wrap wire to length about 10 times. The more wraps you use the fuller your tree will be.
4. Hold all wire pieces together with needle nose pliers about 2" up from bottom.
5. Using flat nose pliers twist all wires together up 2.5" to form the trunk.
6. You will have a loop at the bottom that will become the tree's root system. Divide the loop into bunches of two, three or four wires each, creating separate loops.
7. Twist each of these loops to form the root system. Spread the roots horizontally.
8. To create the top half of the tree, cut each wire loop at different levels (uneven).
9. At the trunk area, divide the wire into two sections forming a V. Twist one side part way up to form a branch, leave room to add loops to the ends. Divide that branch wire into two sections and twist part way up to form two branches. Now divide that wire into four sections. Repeat until all wire is branched. Repeat on the other side.
10. Repeat step 9 until all branches are formed.
11. Using needle nose plier's form loops on the ends of all branches. A branch can have more than 1 loop or can be left straight without any loops.
12. Bend branches and trunk slightly to achieve a more natural look.
13. Separate wires at base. Twist 2 or 3 wires together to form roots. Spread to form a stable base.
14. Glue tree roots onto base. Let dry for several hours until set.
15. Spray base and tree with clear acrylic spray, let dry.
16. Flatten loops at branch ends.
17. Place a drop of glue on a loop, set gemstone on glue, let dry.
18. Repeat for each loop you desire to add a gemstone. You can leave some loops plain if desired.
19. Once gemstones are set and dry, place a drop of glue under each gemstone for added hold.

Helpful Hints:

1. Wire can be colored, copper, silver, gold, etc.
2. Your tree can be made without gemstones for a winter tree.
3. Do not spray acrylic on gemstones as they may dull the stone.