



## ***Tree of Life***

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Level: Intermediate Wire Wrapping Skills  
Time: 3+ hours

Some of us grew up with a favorite tree in our back garden. The one I remember most is the apricot sapling I planted with my daughter when she was three. It was no thicker than the width of my pinky finger, but Ashley loved that tree and called it “George”; they really grew up together. And to our amazement, George became a plum tree after a few years. Today that tree is strong and beautiful with its arms lifting to the sky. It’s never too late to form lifelong memories with a tree. Find one you like and watch it change with the seasons. Even better, plant one and give it a name!

Please read through all directions before beginning project.

Begin with inspiration! Go outside and look at trees or, if you're near a computer, check search engines under "tree." You will find zillions of images to spark your creativity.

**Ingredients:**

- Open frame component in round, rectangle or square
- 4 feet 22-24 gauge dead soft round wire
  - for trunk and branches using glass or crystal
- OR
- 4 feet 26-28 gauge dead soft round wire
  - for trunk and branches using gems or pearls
- Beads for tree branches

**Studio Essentials:**

- Wire Cutters
- Fine-tip Round Nose Pliers
- Bent Chain Nose Pliers
- Chain Nose Pliers
- Tape Measure
- Wire Straighteners are an optional plus
- Emory board or metal file



**Lets Get Started!**



**Step One: Using Glass and Crystal**

Cut your 22-24 gauge wire in to 8 lengths of 4-5" each.

About 1/2" from one end, wrap each wire individually around the base of your component. Wrap each two full turns.

Using wire cutters, cut the excess 1/2" of wire not used. Any wire snags should be pressed in gently with your chain nose pliers. It should feel smooth to the touch.



**Step One: Using Gems and Pearls**

Cut your 26-28 gauge wire in to 7 lengths of 10" each. Unlike the heavier wire, this wire is not cut but folded in the middle and one half is wrapped around the frame 1-1/2 times. Once you have step one completed.....

**Step Two:**

Grab all your wires and twist them together two full turns to form the trunk of the tree. Spread wires and gently shape each wire out to form your tree branches. Don't bend the wires too much; it makes stringing the beads difficult. Just enough to give you a general shape.



**Step Three:**

Begin stringing beads on the wire closest to the middle of your tree. String beads to reach the edge of the frame. Wrap the wire end around the component two full times.



Unadorned



Adorned

#### Step Four:

Continue adding beads to each wire and repeat Step Three for all strands. When you have finished beading your tree, decide if you want to leave the frame unadorned or if you want to fill in with wrapped wire. We have samples of both on the left.

Either style, cut whatever excess wire you have\*. Press the end gently into the frame with pliers. Preferably, your ends fall on

#### Step Five:

Run your fingers over the front and back of your tree pendant. Are there any rough wire snags you need to pinch down and file with your emery board? Now is the time to prune your tree!



#### \*Step Six: Frames with no Loop

Add a sturdy jump ring at the top center or wire-wrap the excess wires to form a loop. Wire must be 26 gauge or heavier. String your tree on compassion suede or a chain, or wire wrap a decorative design.

Congratulations! You've grown a Tree of Life.