

# Wire Tree Workshop

## MATERIALS:

Wire: Floral Wire 28ga-22ga based on tree type and or scale

Woodland Scenics Latex Rubber or other

Tacky glue

2mm static grass

Paint: Flat primer, craft paints

Spray adhesive, Hairspray

Foliage: Coarse green foam turf, Foliage mat, Scale leaves

## LETS GET STARTED:

- 1 Start with 15 strands of your choice of wire gage cut to the desired length. 13" will yield a 2-3 inch tree.
- 2 Stack the wire strands together and bend in half.
- 3 Leaving a loop at the bend begin twisting the two ends of the bundle together. The size of the loop will determine the spread of the root system and the height of the tree.
- 4 When twisting the two ends together a small dowel inserted will help. Keep the twist tight by keeping the bundles at an angle of about 120 degrees.



- 5 After a few twists separate the bundle again to start branching.



- 6 Continue twisting and branching. When down to two wires on a branch form a loop in each wire and twist. The loops will be cut to form 4 more branches. Snip the loops and bend branches to shape



- 7 Any single branches left can be trimmed to desired length.
- 8 Start the roots by following the previous procedure then bend flat to the ground.
- 9 Give the entire tree 1-2 thick coats of latex rubber to fill in and cover the wire armature.
- 10 The tips of the branches may be coated with a tacky glue and sprinkled with 2mm static grass to represent finer branches if you wish.
- 11 Paint the tree with a flat grey or brown primer then touch up with craft paints to represent the tree bark color appropriate for your tree. Add hi lights by dry brushing with a light color.
- 12 Foliage may be added by using spray adhesive to coat the branches and dipping into the coarse ground foam. Foliage mat may also be used. Leaves can be added by spraying the mat material with hairspray then sprinkling on the leaves.