

## Mini Gem Tree EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES



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1. **24 gauge craft wire** – Wire can be found at any craft store.
2. **Gemstones** (easier with predrilled holes)—In order to keep stones from rolling or getting dropped on the floor, store in a small plastic container.
3. **Place mat for work area** to prevent scratching your table (or you can cover the table).
4. **527 Multi purpose cement**—if gluing into a dish, hot glue can be used versus the cement but hot glue will not work for long-term use on a rock base.
5. **Wire Cutters**—The cutters used in these instructions are small craft wire cutters. If your tree is large you may need heavy duty cutters that can be found at a hardware store.
6. **Smooth Needle Nose Pliers** – Pliers with ridges can be used, but use caution when twisting as the wire can break.
7. **Mini clamps (optional)** – These can be found at any major hardware store.
8. **Rubber bands** – Once you have used the rubber bands to secure your tree to your base, those rubber bands should not be used again as they become fragile with exposure to the glue.
9. **Base rock or Dish & Sand**—Base rock should compliment the gemstones that you have chosen for your tree and be size appropriate. For example a small rock base would not be appropriate for a larger tree as it would become unstable.

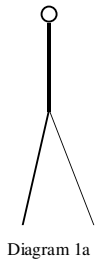
### **Prepare your table:**

Ready all of your supplies and lay them out in an orderly way.

# Mini Gem Tree Instruction

## Branch with 3 Gems

Cut your craft wire to 36" for each branch. String your first stone on one wire, folding it in half with your stone(s) at the folded end. Hold the wire in between thumb and forefinger of one hand in the shape of a V and the stone in the other hand. Twist the stone 5 half twists for approximately 1/4 inch. Be sure to keep the end wires separated and to hold your hands away from your face as the loose wires can poke you in the eye if you are not careful. See *Diagram 1a*.



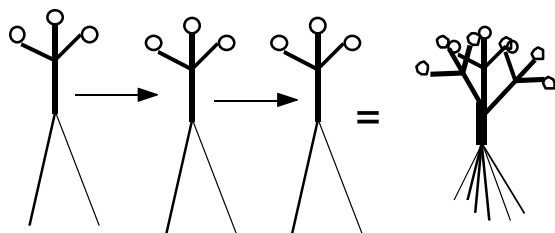
String your next stone on the longest wire approx. 1/2 inch away from the twisted center. Fold the wire in half with the stone at the folded end, holding the stone in one hand and the wires in the other hand at the center, twist the stone until the two twisted wires meet. String your next stone on the longest wire and leave approx. 1/2 inch away from the twisted center. Fold the wire in half with the stone at the folded end, holding the stone in one hand and the wires in the other hand at the center, twist the stone until the all twisted wires meet. Finish off this branch by twisting the open wires approx. 10 to 15 half twists. Finished branch will resemble *Diagram 1*. Make 15 branches.



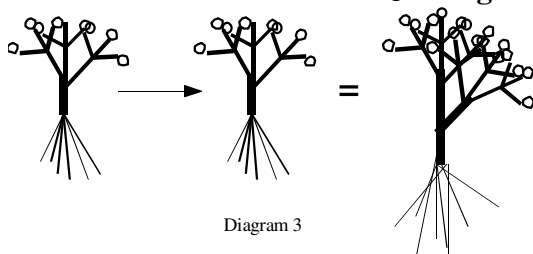
## Joining Branches to Limbs

Separate out all your branches into sets of 3. You should have 5 sets. Twist three branches together at the open wire end by stacking all three. Hold the stones in one hand, splay out the leg wires to create a V shape and with your other hand twist the wires all together 10 half twists, as in *Diagram 2* to create a limb.

Continue joining branches to make limbs until you have 5 sets that look like the finished *Diagram 2*. Please remember to keep your end wires separated into leg like structures, otherwise they will tangle and not twist well.



## Joining Limbs to Make Trunk



To put your mini tree together, take 2 limbs as in finished *Diagram 2* and twist together 5 to 10 half twists as show in *Diagram 3*. Take another 2 limbs & twist together as shown in *Diagram 3*. Twist both double sets (*Diagram 3*) together at least 3 to 5 half twists to start your trunk. Add your limb (*Diagram 2*) to complete your trunk by twisting down 10 half twists or as tall as you want

your tree.

### **Making Roots of Tree**

Finish off your tree by dividing the loose end wires into three or four sets and twist to make roots 1 ½ to 2” long. Clip off excess wire with wire cutters. Spread tree branches until you have your desired shape.

### **Joining Tree to Base (Dish)**

Roughly place your tree, roots down onto your base, spreading the roots out enough to make the tree stable. (If placing on a rock, use the rubberbands to secure the roots prior to gluing.) Place some glue on the roots and set in dish (or secure rubberband around the root onto the rock). Mini clamps work well also when gluing to rocks. Glue all roots using the same method. Allow at least 2 hours to dry before taking the clamps or rubberbands off. Clean up any glue messes with fingernail polish remover on a Q-tip.

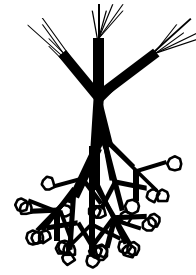


Diagram 4

Arrange tree limbs and branches to your satisfaction and you're done.

## **Care And Cleaning Of Tree**

### **Dusting**

The best way to clean your completed tree is to take a micro fiber cloth or dust wand and gently remove the dust particles.

Air in a can is another way you can get dust out of the rock base without damaging the tree.

### **Tarnish Remover**

As the wire used to make the tree is just a craft wire, it can tarnish over time. If you do not like the look and would prefer it to be bright and shiny again, TarnX a tarnish remover found at the grocery store can be used on the wire trunk and branches only. Do not get this solvent onto your tree base or anywhere you have glued your tree to the base as it will dissolve the glue. Pour a small amount of the solvent into a glass dish and using a Q-tip gently run it over the wire. To ensure that you do not get this solvent on the rock base or glued roots, you may want to hold the tree upside down while cleaning the wire. Rinse with clean water every so often so that the solvent doesn't dry on the wire as it will leave a white residue.

## **Clean up**

All small pieces of snapped wire should be gathered and thrown away. Clean up any spilled cement glue immediately as it will adhere to all surfaces. Store tools, glue, clamps, etc. out of the reach of small children.