

# Scenery - Wire Form Trees

One of 100 ways to make trees

‘Hands On’

# Overview

- Pictures
- Supplies
- Samples
- Steps
  - The 'How To'
- Summary

# A Couple Pictures

- On the layout
- Start to finish (evolution of wire form)
  - Tree
  - Stump
- Samples (circulate)



## **On The Layout – Tree & Stump**

Compare to Scenic Express



## On the layout - Stump

A closer view





## **Evolution of wire form tree**

Bare wire, Coated wire, Painted tree, Tree with Foliage



## **Evolution of a Stump**

Bundle, Soldered , Coated, Painted

# Samples

- Telephone cable
  - 24ga (.020”), 24 pairs – light grey
- White Bare Tree
  - .021”, painted, 24ga, 28 wires, ~12” trunk
- Brown Bare Tree
  - .029”, painted, 21ga, 24 wires, ~ 18-20” trunk



# On to Construction

## --You Need--

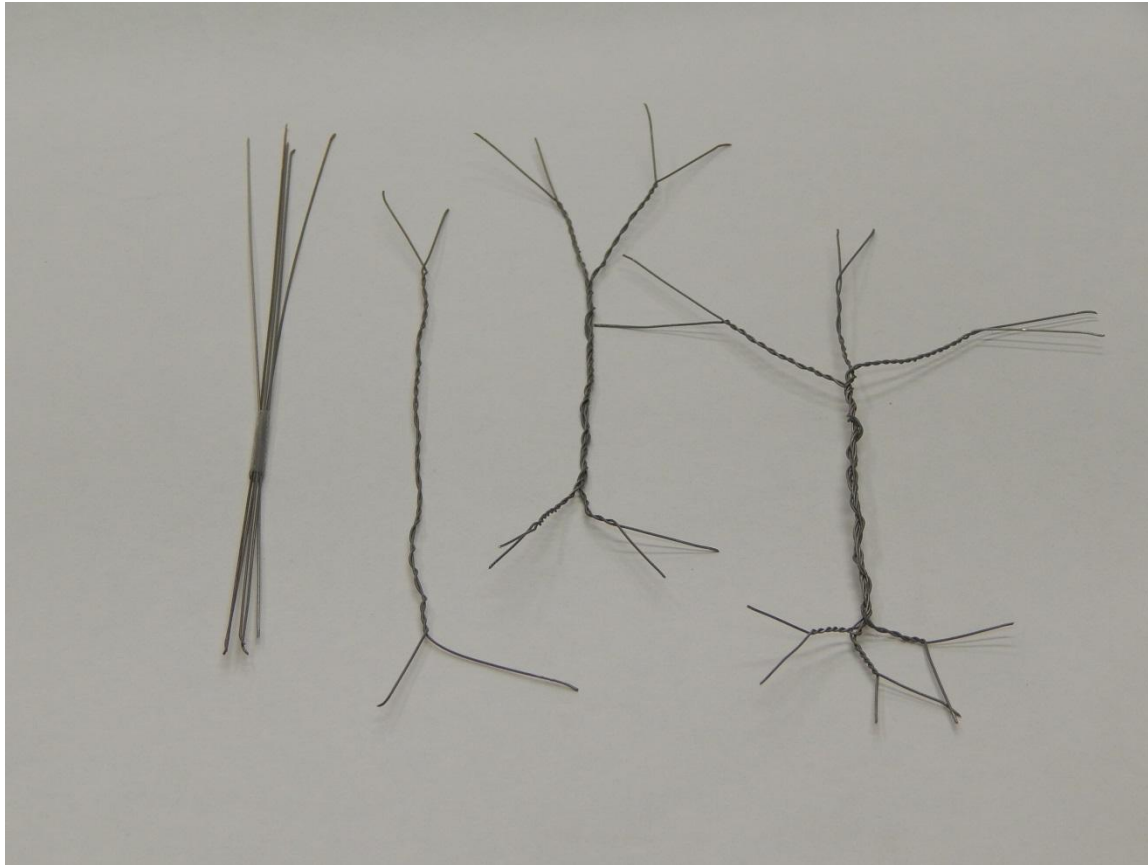
- Scrap telephone wire, 24 or 25 pair
- Cut into 6 – 6 ½” lengths
  - (~40 - 45’ in HO w/roots)
- Strip the wire and stretch (yield)
- Group wires in 16 – 18 count bundles

# How to steps

- **Strip**
- **Twist**
- **Coat**
- **Spray**
- **Foliage**
- **Plant**

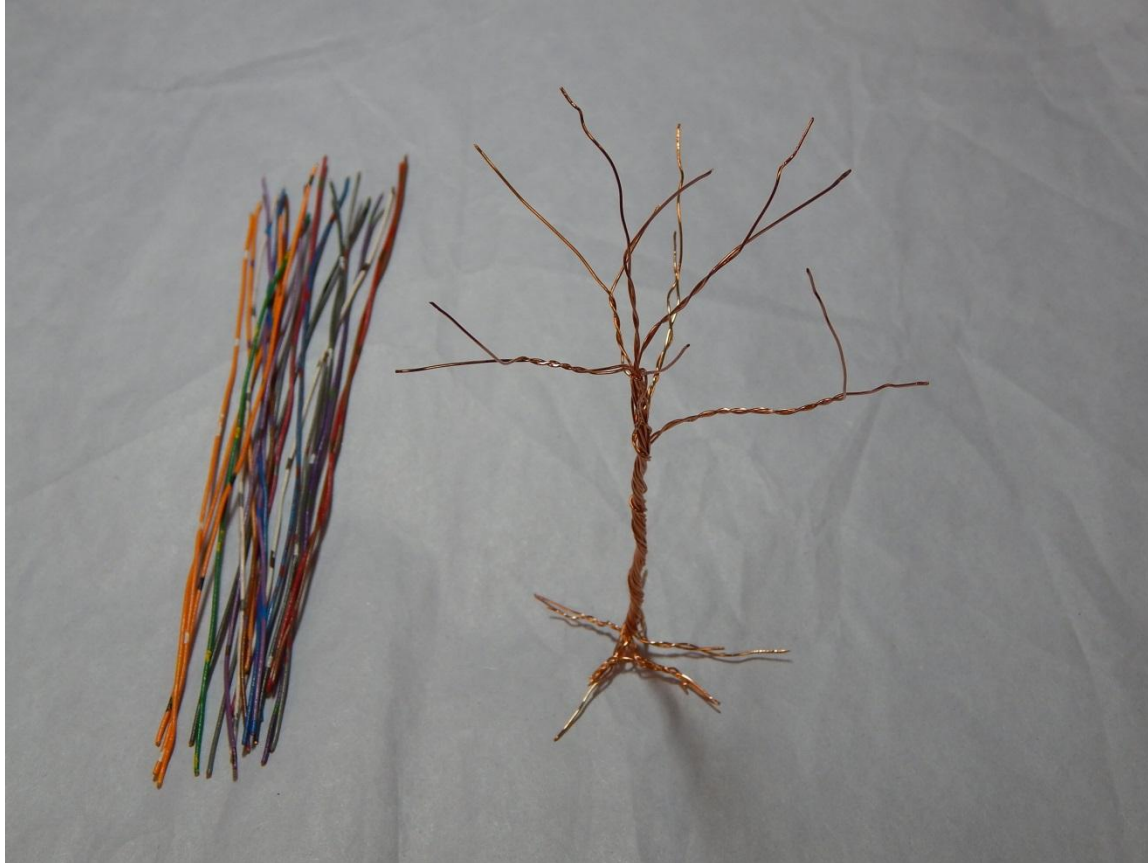
# Twist – The ‘Hands on Step’

- Take 2 wires from bundle (pre-stripped)
  - Make ‘X’, hold  $\sim 1/2$ ” from one end, twist.
  - Leave  $\sim 1/2$ ” at other end.
- Take 2 more and twist. Then twist around 1<sup>st</sup>
  - This will be the tree core.
- Do 2 more and do same as before
  - Start leaving 1-2” at one end – this will be the branches.
- Form branches & roots – free form



## Starting the Tree

Bare wire, 2-wire twisted, 4-wire twisted, 6-wire twisted



## **Wire form tree – 24ga**

Wire from bundle – to - twisted wire form tree

# Finishing Steps



# Coat

- Coat all wires with water putty or spackle
  - Note: not flexible when dry.
  - Use Crafter's Pick Ultimate Glue for flexibility.
- Use popsicle stick/skewer or similar
- Re-coat to suit and let dry

# Alternate Coat

- Using Crafter's glue:
  - Paint all with acrylic after dry (clear)
  - Re-coat branch ends with glue
    - or --
  - Block off trunk and spray adhesive on branches

# Spray

- Spray base coat and let dry
  - Valspar brown satin or flat or similar.
- Alternate – Stop here - no foliage
  - Mount on layout as bare/dead tree

# Foliage

- Spray/dust branches with adhesive (Elmer's)
- Sprinkle Woodland Scenics over branches
  - Clump foliage and/or coarse turf.
  - Colors: dark green, medium green, light green.
- Re-coat to suit
- Mount on layout

# Supplies

- Scrap telephone wire – 24 or 25 pair
- Wire cutters/strippers
- Vise
- Durham's water putty or DAP vinyl spackle  
– or Crafter's Pick Ultimate Glue.
- Spray paint  
– Brown, dark green, medium green, light green.
- Woodland Scenics  
– Clump Foliage or Coarse Turf (colors to suit).
- Artist acrylic paint – raw umber & burnt sienna

# Summary – Key Points

- Use scrap telephone cable
- Twist trunk, freeform the limbs & roots
- Coat the twisted wire
- Add foliage
- Color accents
- Plant/Mount