

# BUTTON TREES

NBS encourages "no harm" button jewelry and crafting. Buttons and buckles will not be damaged in the creative process.



## TOOLS

- Needle nosed pliers (to hold small buttons & beads)
- A short awl, ice pick or toothpick (for loosening old threads and tucking ends)
- Sharp TIPPED scissors to cut those threads from old buttons

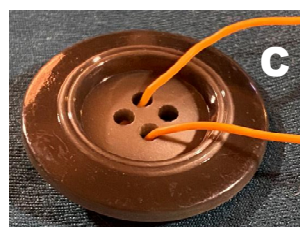
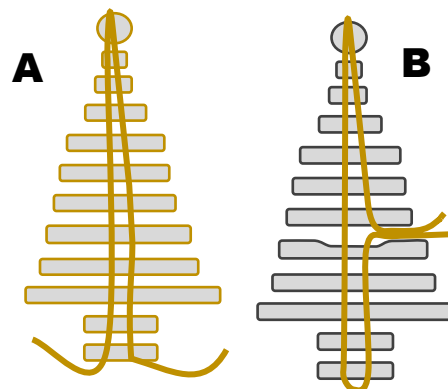
## FOR EACH TREE

- 10-20 flat sew through buttons in descending sizes, per tree
- Optional – for the tree trunk, 2 to 6 buttons of the same size
- 6 to 8 inches of small wire (strong thread may be substituted)
- (Optional) Little buttons or beads to decorate your tree.
- A sew through button for the top, or a decorative bead
- **HANGING TREE:** A wire ring for hanging.



## ASSEMBLING YOUR TREE

1. Select buttons for a stack that gets smaller and smaller, forming a fir tree shape (a cone shape).
2. If you want a trunk, select smaller buttons of the same size. If your tree is going to stand up, you probably won't want to add a trunk. If you do, then you will need a broad sturdy trunk to keep your tree balanced.
3. Using your string, you can tread the buttons together
  - a. going up from the bottom and back down,
  - b. from the center going towards the top, then all the way to the bottom and back up to the center.
  - c. If you thread from the center then you can hide your knot. Choose to knot by a button with a well (depression) so the knot has a place to tuck in.
4. While you put your thread through your stack of buttons, pull it snug and see if any of the buttons are wobbly. If two buttons don't rest well against each other, then remove one or both and replace them so your tree will stand tall and not fall over.
5. When you have your string through all the tree, tighten it up and tie your knot. It is really helpful to have a button with a hollow, depression or well like (C) for the base of your button if that is where you tie your knot.



## MAKING A HANGING TREE

To have your tree hang as a necklace or ornament, thread a metal ring at the top or make a loop with your string.

