



This creative project was shared by the National Button Society.

# WIRE & BUTTON TREES

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

## SUPPLIES

- Wire – green, silver, gold; aluminum is easy to work
- 15-30 buttons. This tree uses small shirt buttons. Heavier buttons need a heavier base.
- Base – wood spool, old glass insulator, vase, salt shaker, ???

## TOOLS

- Tough old scissors or wire cutters to trim your wires
- Needle-nose pliers to twist and work with the wires



Be careful with the ends of the wire. Getting poked HURTS!

On the pattern page are ideas for branch layout. Or you can make a Christmas tree, and the buttons would look like ornaments.

Your tree will need to balance so it won't tip over. Bend the wires to get the weight balanced if needed.

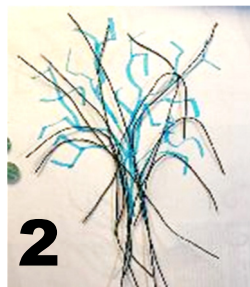


**Step 1: Decorate your spool** with paper, paint, lace, fabric, string, ribbon, whatever you can think of. If there are labels on your spool, you can leave them as part of your design or soak them off in warm water and scrub with a nail cleaning brush or scratchy.

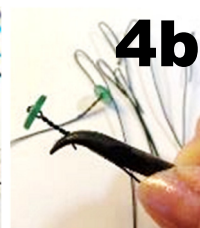
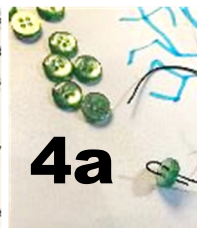
**Step 2: Cut your wires.** Cutting each wire an inch or two longer than you think you need. This allows for the loss in length as the wires twist around each other. Small spools can hold 20 wires.

**Step 3: Bend an inch** or more back on one end of each wire.

**Step 4: Wire a button on the bent end** of each wire and twist the ends tightly together. It really helps to use small pliers.



**Step 5: Twist your wires together.** Start with three wired buttons. Lay them on your drawing and see where they need to join. Twist them together. Lay three more wire branches down and arrange the length and placement of your branches. Then, twist the bottom ends together. Keep twisting groups together, then twist the groups together to form branches.



**Step 6: Repeat for another branch.** Once your branches are twisted, join your branches together by twisting the bottoms of the wires.

**Step 7: Bend your tree until it pleases you.** It looks neater to not have branches crossing over each other. Push the wire "trunk" of your tree down into the spool. The bent wires should bind and hold your trunk in place. If it needs more bulk, you can wrap the trunk base with wire.





This creative project was shared by the National Button Society.

## ANOTHER WIRE TREE IDEA

I wondered if it was possible to make spirals into a tree. So I tried! If you think of something different, TRY IT!

For this tree, I had 24 black glass ball buttons that I knew would dangle, so the end of my branches each needed to bend over. And, the spiral meant I needed to cut really long wires.

**Step 1:** Cut wires 2-3 times longer than the branches need to be. I cut these wires a foot long.

**Step 2:** Bend 3/8" to 1/2" inch back on one end. This is shorter because on this tree the branches aren't wired together so there is no place to hide the wire ends.

**Step 4:** Wire a button on the bent end of each wire and twist the ends tightly together. It really helps to use small pliers to hold the wires while you twist the button. Don't twist too tight

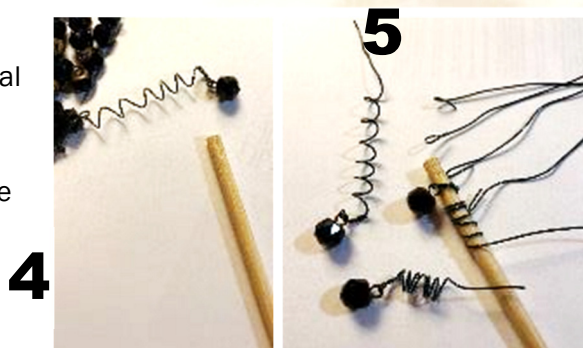
**Step 5:** Wrap every wire around a little stick, wire or dowel! One at a time. Leave 1-1/2" straight at the end away from the button on each wire. I used the dowel from the picture frame kit. Not too tight or it can be hard to gently pull off without wrecking the spiral. Pull the spiral off and set aside.

**Step 6:** Connect your branches into groups. Lay 3 or 4 spiral wires beside each other and twist the straight ends loosely together. Continue with the rest of your buttons on spiral wires.

**Step 7:** Connect your groups together to form the tree trunk.

**Step 8:** (OPTIONAL) For my tree, I made three long spiral arches of silver wire as a kind of decoration. I cut them 18 inches long and left both ends straight. After the tree was in the spool, then I pulled out the spirals a bit on the silver wire and then tucked their ends in with the trunk.

*I was starting to arrange my branches and my cat wanted to check it out. The first time the buttons wiggled, he took his paw and knocked it off my desk! Silly cat! His name is Buttons!*



4

5



8



6



7





This creative project was shared by the National Button Society.

