



SEE THE BEE? IT'S FREE!

A Miniature Fall Tree

Turn a fall floral pick into a freestanding tree for your 1:12 scale autumn scene.



A PHOTO TUTORIAL BY DEB ROGERS

Let's Make It Mini | letsmakeitmini.com

Gather your supplies

Reuse the pick's stem, fabric leaves, and plastic leaf supports. Wire roots will form the standing base - no separate platform is needed.

You will need

- Fall floral pick with bendable wire branches and removable fabric leaves
- Bendable craft or floral wire for roots
- Hot glue gun and compatible glue sticks
- PVA craft glue and water
- Black, brown, and gray craft paint
- Scissors, wire cutters, and needle-nose pliers
- Paintbrushes, mixing cup, and shallow catching tray
- Protected work surface and heat-resistant nonstick mat

Size and scale

Aim for a finished height of 12–18 inches. In 1:12 scale this represents a tree 12–18 feet tall. Shape the canopy to fit your scene.

Plan your time

Allow several short making sessions, plus drying time for paint and foliage glue. Check your glue and paint labels for drying guidance.

Work safely: Hot glue can burn. Let it cool before handling. Use wire cutters for wire, and cover or turn in sharp ends. Choose root wire stiff enough to support the tree and soft enough to bend with pliers.

STEP 1

Take the pick apart



Save every useful part. Remove the fabric leaves, then separate the fabric from the branching plastic supports underneath. Slide the supports off the wire where the pick allows.

Keep the main stem and its wire branches together for the trunk and limbs. Collect the plastic supports, and sort the fabric leaves by color.

Mini tip: Choose a pick with detachable supports like the one shown. Floral picks vary in construction.

Build the wire roots

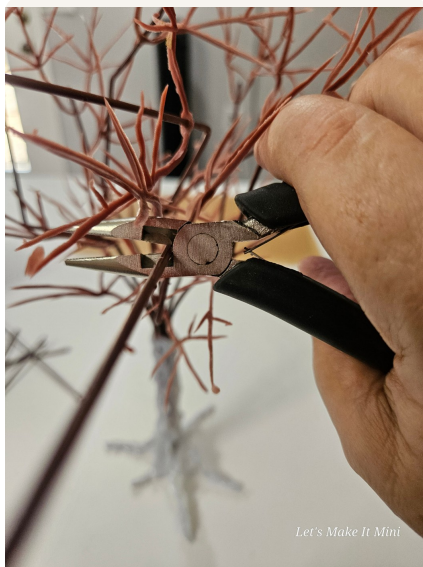


Wrap lengths of wire securely around the bottom of the original stem. Leave ends extending outward, then bend them into roots that spread around the trunk.

Stand the tree on a flat surface. Adjust the roots so they contact the surface in several directions and hold the trunk upright. Trim excess wire and turn sharp tips inward.

Mini tip: Test the balance now. The roots should support the tree before the hot-glue coating is added.

Arrange the branches

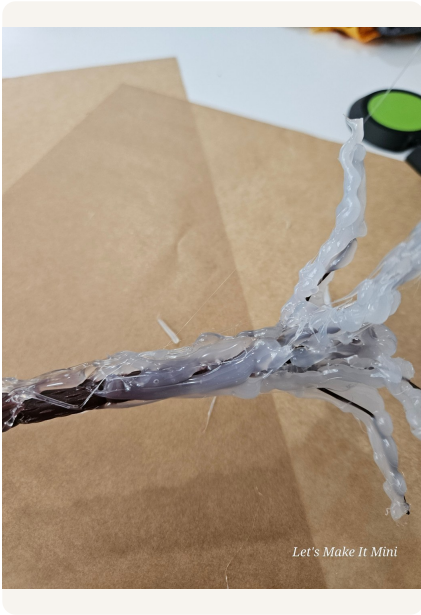


Slide, arrange, then secure. Slide the saved plastic supports back onto the wires. Turn them and position them at different heights to form a tree-shaped crown.

When each support is in place, secure its connection with a small amount of hot glue. Let it cool. Gently bend the wire limbs outward and upward, and trim unwanted wire extensions with wire cutters.

Mini tip: Rotate the tree as you work. Leave open spaces between branches so the crown has depth.

Create bark texture



Apply hot glue over the main stem and wrapped root connections in small sections. Build uneven ridges and lines to suggest bark rather than a smooth coating.

Extend the glue along the roots, tapering toward the ends and covering sharp wire. Keep the fine plastic twigs uncovered. Let each section cool before rotating or handling the tree.

Mini tip: Remove loose glue strings once cool. Recheck that the coated roots sit flat and the tree stands.

Paint the bark



Paint the trunk and roots with a dark base coat, working into the grooves. Let it dry, then add brown and gray to bring out the bark texture.

A simple highlighting option: Wipe most of the paint off your brush, then lightly brush the raised ridges. Leave dark color visible in the recesses. Build the color gradually.

Cover visible glue at branch connections with a suitable bark color where needed. Allow the paint to dry before adding foliage.

Mini tip: Use paint suitable for your glue and plastic surfaces. Test a small area first.

Cut the fall foliage



Snip the saved fabric leaves into small, irregular pieces over a tray. Mix the orange, yellow, red, and green colors. Intricate leaf shapes are not needed.

Cut a small batch first and check a few pieces against a branch. As an optional scale guide, 1/4–1/2-inch pieces suggest real leaves 3–6 inches long in 1:12 scale. Vary the pieces for a natural effect.

Mini tip: Save spare cuttings for fallen leaves around the roots or a tiny leaf pile.

Add leaves to the tree



Mix equal parts PVA glue and water. For example, stir together one teaspoon of each. Brush the mixture onto a small section of the plastic branches over the catching tray.

Drop leaf cuttings over the wet glue. Place individual pieces where you want extra color or need to fill a gap. Work a section at a time, rotating the tree to distribute the foliage.

Mini tip: Let a test section dry and check that the leaves hold before covering the whole tree.

Finish and check



Allow the foliage glue to dry fully. Gently tap away loose cuttings over the tray.

Keep some bare twigs for a late-fall look, or add more leaves for an earlier autumn scene.

Check that the roots sit flat and the leafy tree remains balanced. Make small adjustments carefully without cracking the glue coating.

Scatter spare leaf cuttings around the roots when you place the tree in your scene.

Mini tip: Carry the finished tree by the trunk, supporting the roots. Avoid lifting it by its leafy twigs.

Welcome to the patch



Deb's finished tree brings fall color and height to her Pumpkin Patch. Try yours beside a garden gate, a tiny farm stand, or a dollhouse path.

Every tree will have its own shape. Enjoy arranging the branches and finding the balance of leaves that suits your miniature scene.

Your final checklist

- Tree stands without being held.
- Wire tips are covered or turned safely inward.
- Branch supports are secure.
- Loose hot-glue strings are removed.
- Paint and foliage glue are fully dry.
- Leaves stay attached when the tree is moved.
- Height and width fit your scene.

Printing your booklet

This PDF has 12 half-letter pages (5.5 × 8.5 inches) in reading order. For a folded booklet, use your PDF reader's **Booklet** print setting on US Letter paper. It arranges two pages per side, using three sheets. Use both sides and left binding; booklet duplex printing commonly uses short-edge flipping. Test one sheet and follow your printer's booklet instructions.

If Booklet is unavailable, print one page per sheet, scaled to fit, and staple the pages together. Do not use ordinary two-pages-per-sheet printing for a folded booklet: it does not arrange the pages in booklet order.

Share your miniature fall tree!

We'd love to see your version in the Let's Make It Mini community.



letsmakeitmini.com | See the bee? It's free!