

CHRISTMAS

with a twist

Break out the tools and bring a whole new look to your home this Christmas by creating a tree that's way more style than substance

Put a twist on your Christmas this year by making a spiral tree. It looks complicated, but setting out the spiral is actually the easiest part. A bit of jigsawing, painting and setting up later, then it's time to decorate your bespoke tree with all of your best baubles.

When the festive season is over for another year, storing your tree couldn't be easier. It folds up flat so you can stash it under the bed. Perfect for apartment dwellers!



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DECORATE TO IMPRESS

When there's not much tree to speak of, your ornaments will steal the show.

EASY STEPS TO YOUR SPIRAL TREE



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3

Gather your supplies

- 800 x 800 x 4mm marine ply
- Fishing line
- 2400 x 1200 x 12mm plywood
- 1800 x 25mm dia. dowel

You'll also need

Straightedge; short 15mm dowel; 20mm button screws; stringline; pencil; jigsaw; drill; 2.5mm drill bit; sandpaper; paint; painting equipment; 30mm nails; PVA glue; 25mm spade bit



Here's how

STEP 1 Use a straightedge to draw diagonals across the plywood to find its centre, then drill a hole through it. Attach 15mm dowel to the ply using a 20mm button head screw. Make sure the dowel is tight so it can't rotate.

STEP 2 Wrap a length of string around a screw driven into the bottom of the dowel. At the other end, create a loop so a pencil will sit inside it at the edge of the plywood.

STEP 3 Move the pencil around the ply keeping the string taut until you reach the centre. As the string wraps around the dowel it reduces its length by an equal amount on each revolution, creating the spiral.

1 TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR

Every tree has to be crowned with a star! Hold yours in place with a few invisible bits of Blu-Tack.

2 LESS IS MORE

Don't go over the top with decorations. Stick to a couple of simple colours to fit in with your minimalist theme.

3 BRIGHT NIGHTS

To highlight your handiwork at night, wrap fairy lights around the spirals of the tree.

4 GO MODERN

Non-traditional decorations enhance the look of your tree.



STEP 4



STEP 5



STEP 6



STEP 7



STEP 8

STEP 4 Loosen the dowel and rotate it 180°. Repeat Step 3 to draw a second spiral on the inside of the first one. Remove dowel.

STEP 5 Use jigsaw to start cutting spiral. For a fine cut, fit your jigsaw with a laminate cutting blade and set it to a slow speed. Cut both spirals at the same time working your way around the board. To access the second spiral, do a square cut to it from where the first spiral meets the edge of the board. To start cutting, cut 1 spiral from the edge of the board. At centre do not completely cut through so the 2 spirals are still joined.

STEP 6 Along the diagonal lines drawn across the board, drill pairs of 2.5mm holes on each of the segments of the spiral it crosses. Favour the holes towards the inside part of each segment.

STEP 7 Lightly sand the spiral to remove rough edges and cutting marks. Remove dust, then apply 2 coats of paint. Here exterior paint was used that does not require undercoat.

STEP 8 Use scrap 4mm plywood to make a compass. Drive a small nail through it towards 1 end. From here, drill holes 100, 200 and 300mm from the nail. Make the hole big enough so your pencil will fit through it. Use

“ When Santa sees the effort you’ve gone to, he’s bound to leave something extra in your stocking ”



STEP 9



STEP 10



STEP 11



STEP 12

the compass to draw three different sized circles on the 12mm plywood.

STEP 9 Use a jigsaw to cut out each of the circles then sand cut edges smooth.

STEP 10 Glue and nail the 3 circles together to make the base. Use a nail or drill bit to align the centres of the circles. Leave for glue to dry.

STEP 11 In the centre of the smallest circle, use a 25mm spade bit to drill a hole 25mm deep.

STEP 12 Insert pole into hole in stand then paint.

STEP 13 Place spiral on top of stand and screw through centre of spirals into stand using button screws.

STEP 14 Tie fishing line through holes at top of spirals. Continue down the tree tying off each of the spirals through the pairs of holes. Stand back occasionally and eye the tree to make sure the tree looks even. ■



STEP 13



STEP 14

Stockists

Bunnings bunnings.com.au

1220 x 810 x 4mm marine plywood, \$20. Grunt 0.8mm fishing line, \$7.50. 2400 x 1200 x 12mm plywood, \$55. 25mm Tasmanian oak dowel, \$17.38.