

ORIGAMI TREE DESIGN INFORMATION

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THEME

SELECTION OF TREE TYPE

NUMBER AND SIZE OF MODELS

COLOR/MATERIALS FOR FOLDING

SUPPLIES FOR SET-UP

THEME

The theme will establish a “look” of the tree. Once a theme is selected, colors and models can be decided.

SELECTION OF TREE TYPE

The selection of the tree is a major factor in how the tree will be designed. In general, a live tree requires some clever engineering of rigging of models for a balanced appearance of models on the tree (to compensate for flaws in tree’s shape). Also, the size and weight must be considered as the tree branches will gradually droop over time.

I recommend an artificial tree if possible. One can easily adjust the branches and the overall shape is reliable. Weight of models is not an issue since the artificial tree branches can normally support much more weight than a live one.

NUMBER OF MODELS

The number of models is determined by the size of the tree. Also, it is important to understand how FULL you want the tree to appear. If you want a FULL tree but little time to create the models, go for LARGE models. They will fill up the branches quickly.

Placement of the tree is also an important factor. The distance from viewer to tree will affect the effectiveness of tree design. If tree is to be viewed from afar (more than 20 feet away) it is best to select simple design with few color and select models. The overall appearance will be pleasing to the eye.

If the tree will be viewed close-up, it will be more interesting if multiple models are featured on the tree. Spacing and positioning of individual will be critical. (No upside-down models, please!)

6 ft. tree - About 300 6" finished size models for FULL look. Adjust for individual sizes of models and how much space you want to appear between. NOTE: If you want individual models to be discernable, it is important to give adequate space between pieces.

For larger trees – Adjust number of models by adding 50-100 models per foot. Increase number by 50% as tree gets higher as the lower branches require more models to fill spaces.

If sizes of models vary, place larger models on lower branches and smaller ones towards the top where space becomes narrower. This also makes your tree appear larger.

COLOR/MATERIALS FOR FOLDING

The color of the tree and background should be considered when selecting the colors of the models. Obviously, dark colors will not show up as prominently as light colors on the branches.

Foil paper is reflective so is not best material for models that you want to discern on the tree. However, it is great for stars and such. I recommend that stars be placed within the inner branches of the tree to give dimension to the tree to avoid a flat appearance.

Also, check with authorities if fire-proofing is necessary for the tree. If so, the paper used for folding must be able to withstand the dipping process.

It is recommended to have outside lights focused onto the tree from afar to highlight the models. If lights are added to the tree, the origami models will appear in shadows and be more difficult to discern. Outside lighting is imperative if tree lighting is used or you will only see outlines of models in the shadows.

SUPPLIES FOR SET-UP

Each model will need to be wired or strung for attaching to tree branches. I recommend wiring if possible to ensure precise positioning on branches. String relies completely on gravity which is not always in ones favor. Dark green flocked wires can be purchased from florist supply stores. These wires are soft and flexible enough for attaching and removing from branches.