Instructions

Listed below are the materials and instructions to make a miniature twisted tree for your Halloween decor. If you have any questions, I would love to answer them. You may leave a comment on my blog under the twisted tree blogpost or email me at Lucy@paperglitterglue.com

Materials

• Wire - I used 20g jewelry making craft wire, but even floral wire on a paddle will work
• Paper - brown packing paper, newspaper work well
• Wire cutters
• Glue - Ranger Collage medium is nice, but you can use any white glue. It does work better if you put it in a bowl or small container that you can reach into to spread the glue on the paper with your fingers. I guess you could use a brush.
• Paint - spooky shades for me - black and grey and browns with some white highlights

Cut the wire to size

Cut the wire to the size you like for your little twisted trees. The trees for my little houses are about 5-7 inches high so I cut wire about 9-10 inches long to make the branches and roots. Also cut some smaller pieces for extra branches and roots. I use about 3 long pieces and 6-8 shorter pieces per tree.

Tear strips of paper

Tear multiple strips of paper from the brown packing paper or newspaper. It's okay if some are thicker than others. Very thin strips work too. All you are trying to do is add texture to the wire to form the tree bark. If the paper isn't long enough when you twist around the wire, just add an additional strip of paper with some overlap.

Get your glue ready

If you are going to use regular white glue, then dilute it a little bit with water and put it in a bowl or a shallow jar so you can dip your hand and get a little bit of glue on your fingers. I really like the collage medium for this because it is not too thick, dries really fast and adheres well.
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Make the twisted strands of paper-covered wire

Smear some glue on one end of the paper. Starting at one end of the wire leaving a little wire visible, twist the paper around the wire. Continue along the wire until you have it all or almost all covered. If a little wire is left uncovered that’s ok. You may need it to make either the roots or a branch a little longer. You can cut off the excess.

Wind the paper-covered wires together to make tree structure

Now wind two-three strands together to form the basic structure of the tree. Leave enough room at the bottom to make roots. The photo below shows 3 strands woven together with an extra branch or two.

Add extra branches with the shorter pieces of paper-covered wire.

Leave room at the bottom for some of the paper-covered wire to form the root structure.

Add extra paper-covered wire to fatten up the tree trunk

Add extra wires the length of the trunk to make the trunk of the tree more substantial. Or you could just add extra layers of paper. Either way works well. But for the root system to be sturdy enough to support the twisted tree I usually add more twisted wire here.

Cover an exposed wire with extra paper.
Cut off any excess wire

Cut off the excess wire with your wire cutters. Try to cut the wire so it doesn't make a sharp point.

Paint your spooky miniature twisted tree

Paint your tree in the colors of your choosing. I generally paint the first layer either white or black. If I am making a light colored tree, I paint it white. If I am going for a seriously spooky, dark vibe, then I paint the first layer black. Black definitely makes it spookier. You can always lighten it up later.

The trees in the photo below are for Halloween so they are very dark - just painted black with some white highlights. Oh, and you can bend the limbs and roots to make them more realistic or a little creepier.

That's it! If you have questions, you can leave a comment on my blog or email me at Lucy@paperglitterglue.com. Have fun.