

Beaded Wire Ornaments

These are easy to make and add some sparkle to your Paradise Tree! We like bugle beads, gold for the Shepherd's Crook or Shepherd's Cross, and silver for the Christian Fish; but any delicate, elongated bead works well. We recommend craft wire of 20 gauge or finer, which also comes in gold and silver. To secure the beads in place, simply crimp the wire over the end beads of each strand in an ornament.

To make the **Shepherd's Crook**, feed beads onto an eight-inch length of wire, bending the wire into a "candy cane" shape, with an upturned curl at the end of the "cane's" hook.

If you wish to make the shepherd's crook into a **Shepherd's Cross**, feed beads onto a wire about two inches long and twist this second beaded wire into place (between beads on the crook's staff), making a cross bar about two inches from the top of the crook.

The Shepherd's Crook or Cross may be placed over a tree branch, just as candy canes are; no hanger is necessary. The cross bar may swivel a bit, depending on the gauge of the wire and how tightly it was twisted into place, but that just adds to the charm and the shimmer!

To make the **Christian Fish**, feed beads onto an eight-inch length of wire. Pinch to a point in the center and shape the wire into a double arc, allowing the ends to cross about an inch from the ends. Twist the wire (between beads) to secure it where the ends cross. You should have a fish outline like that in the ICHTHUS ornament.

A four-inch single strand of embroidery floss, tied at the center of the fish sign's upper arc, works well as a hanger – or simply make the ornament large enough to slip over a branch end.