

# Essentials of Effective & Intelligent Wiring

- **Plan your wiring (“wire mapping”)** - study the tree, bending direction, structural v. secondary, connecting branches
- **Prepping your tree** - prune vertical/downward growth\*, clear first  $1/8" - 1/4"$  on each branch, crotches, identify alternating branch structure
- **Function v. Aesthetics**
- **Styling v. Health**
- **Structural** (trunk & primary branch) - wire parallel to branch
- **Secondary & Tertiary** (pad design) – wire towards you
- **12-3-6- 9 (clock) / “push-pull”** (thicker wire)
- **Anchor 1½ - 2 Turns** (single wire) structural and secondary
- **Supporting hand v. Wiring hand** (dominant hand)
- **3 Point Contact** (supporting hand)
- **Full Contact** – No gaps between the branch and wire
- **55°-60° Angle Wrap** – use thumb and finger to help with spacing
- **Even Spacing**
- **No more than 3 wires in any location**
- **Wire ahead** (provides leverage and helps maintain wiring angle and branch contact)
- **Twist/roll the wire** (using thumb/finger of wiring hand)
- **Wire thickness 1/3 width of Branch (Aluminum) / ¼ width Copper or sufficient to move branch without wire bending. “when in doubt, go bigger”**
- **Wire Bottom to Top / trunk outward to end of branch**
- **“Over the Shoulder”** (start underneath branch) v. **“Armpit”** (start on top) “consider function”
- **Protect /support branch collar** (secondary / tertiary branches)
- **2 Branch Rule** (paring combinations / similar thickness and vicinity)
- **Opposing rotation** (2 branches (clockwise/counterclockwise)
- **“Follow the leader”** (double wiring)
- **Bending v. Coiling**
- **Wire entire tree before styling /setting pads**
- **Add minimum 1/3 length of wire to branch length**
- **Avoid crossing wires**
- **Single thicker wire is stronger than 2 smaller wires** (heavy bends)
- **Protect bark**
- **Be conscious of arm/body contact so as not to damage branches/foliage**
- **Close end of wire “under and up” to control and support the branch tip/foliage**
- **Practice, Practice, Practice – ‘Perfect Practice Makes Perfect’**