



**Tutorial booklet by**

**Christmas Shack**



# Create a Centrepiece

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**[www.christmasshack.com.au](http://www.christmasshack.com.au)**



# Basic Techniques

## Lesson 1 - Things to consider for all creative pieces.

### Select a colour scheme:

*Selecting a colour scheme will make your item look cohesive and complete. You may wish to choose something that doesn't clash with your room's colour scheme, or perhaps complements for example, a feature wall. Matching your piece to your Christmas tree helps build a design story.*

### Popular colour schemes:

#### ◆ Classic Christmas

Red and gold, using your greenery as the green. Warm white lights work best with this style.

#### ◆ Wintery Colours

Blue, white and silver. Create that icy winter feeling. Cool white lights are perfect for this theme.

#### ◆ Warm & Earthy

Gold, copper and silver. If gold is the main colour use warm white lights, however if silver is used, re-enforce it with cool white.

#### ◆ Classic White

By using white with a hint of silver you can create an elegant look.

#### ◆ Modern & Colourful

The combinations are limitless...

- Red and Silver
- Bright Green, Pink and Purple
- Pink and White
- Blue and Purple
- Pink and Silver
- Red, Pink and Gold

### What is the purpose of your creation?

*Will it be going on a door? Over a door? On a fire place or table? Is it your Christmas tree?*

### Things to consider:

- Security screens
- Curtain rails
- Sunlight and wind
- Walls – hooks and a way to affix it
- Location of power supply
- Measurements
- Safety
- Storage
- If it's a table centerpiece will people see around it?
- Handrails - can people still grip the rail
- Surrounding colours and decorations
- Practicality of proximity to food
- Other fixtures that might be in the way – candelabra and light
- Flames – are you incorporating candles?
- Children and pets – is it safe for them if it's in reaching distance?
- Will it be moved at all? (E.g From table to buffet)

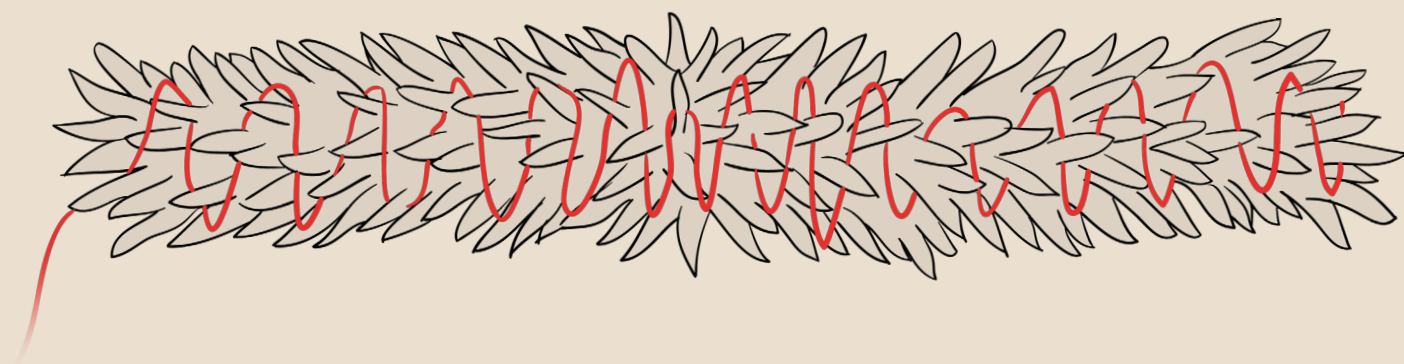
# Making a table centrepiece

## STEP 1 - Fluffing and shaping a piece of plain garland

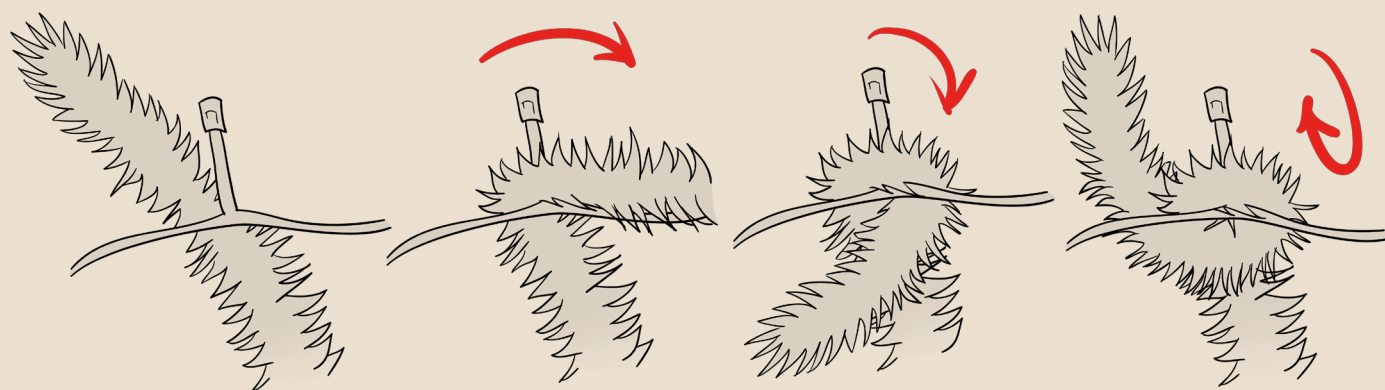
Establish the base shape. (E.g. Straight line or curved.) Then pull each bristle out at a different angle, taking into consideration it's purpose. For example will it lay flat on one side or be viewed 360 degrees hanging from a ceiling?

## STEP 2 - Wiring in the lights

Consider number of bulbs and length of string, as weaving back and forth can very quickly absorb the overall length of your lights. You can use a wired or battery-operated style of lights.



If your lights have a control box offering different functions, we recommend either 'steady' or 'twinkle'. Flashing settings can be distracting. Review the location of a power point or select a battery-operated set when using lights.



## STEP 3 - Statement piece

We recommend that you create a focal point on your creative piece. These can be attached using florest wire. Placing it off-centre can create a different point of interest.

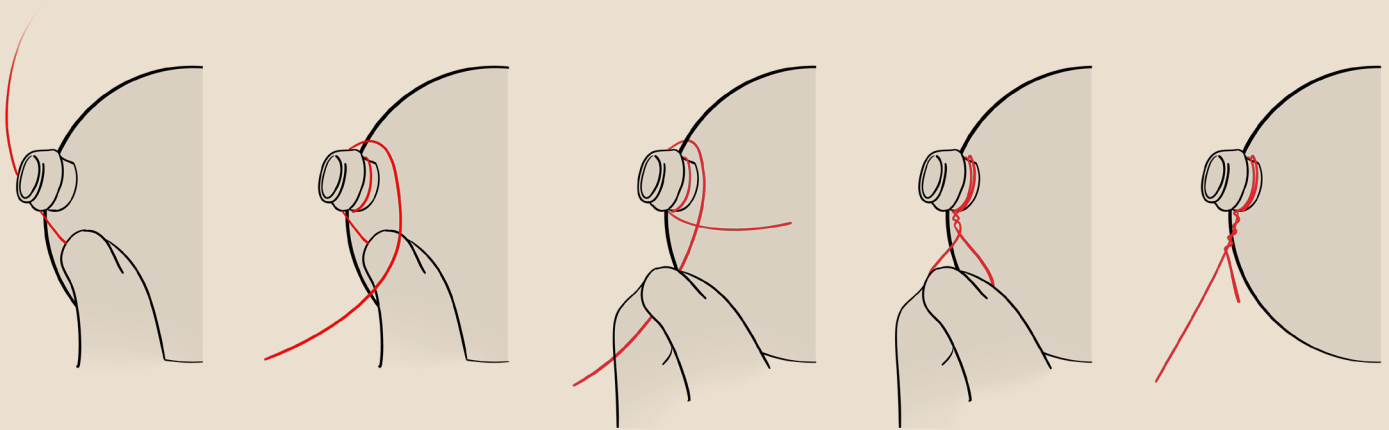
Other options may include:

- Flowers
- Candles
- Birds
- Butterflies
- Or a Christmas charater (E.g. Elf or squirrel.)

Eliminating your statement piece tends to make it look more generic. Limit your statement piece to only one or two items, as too many will make your centrepiece look cluttered.

#### STEP 4 - Baubles

A mix of matte or shiny baubles will add depth. while decorative baubles can be added to create texture. Keep your baubles around the same size. (60mm to 40mm). We recommend plastic baubles if you have small children or pets. Baubles are a cost-effective fill item.



\*We opt to remove the plastic 'crown' off our plastic baubles.

Next, attach thin florist wire to the top of your bauble, then attach the bauble to the base of a selected bristle. The use of wire allows the baubles to sit tightly into the foliage, but still lets you easily remove them if you wish to change the colour scheme in the future.

#### STEP 5 - Floral enhancement

Foral and beaded accents can help set your piece apart from others. This is where your imagination and thinking outside the box can pay off. Don't doubt your choices, as this is a unique piece created by you. Using the bristles, secure any floral sprays into position.

#### STEP 6 - Hidden treasure

A hidden treasure is a special little something selected by you, this is almost like your creative signature.

Whether it be a small bird perched on the end of a twig, or a single star. It doesn't need to be big and bold like your statement piece. Perhaps a little item hidden in the bristles for children to try and find.



***Think of the process as though you're building a story.  
Add those extra twists and bits of interest that  
keep your eye traveling and looking for more.***

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**Notes:**