

THE MIDWAY NEWS



Inside this issue:

- Chairman's report.
- Club News.
- May's meeting: Wiring and Shaping Bonsai.
- Editors Letter

Chairmans Report



Hi all,

I hope this letter finds you all well.

Thanks to all who attended our meeting on the 17th May25, and the topic of the day was a wiring workshop, by Pieter, and it was as usual very detailed. Those who attended were treated to a hands-on experience, hopefully this will help the new people.

We also had a design discussion about Sunil's juniper, and the ideas and interpretations were varied with some good ideas, thank you to Sunil, involving other members of the club also helps you and them get to grips with designing.

Minute of silence in remembrance of the late Johan Espach, who was a founding member of the Midway Bonsai Society, and long-time treasurer, his patience and deep understanding of bonsai will be sorely missed.

On Saturday the 31st May25, BRAT will be hosting the next meeting and demo's, the venue has been confirmed for the Aloe Farm, and the New Talent Competition for 2025 is taking place there.

The next meeting will be 21st Jun25, and the topic will be a presentation by Jonathan of his trip to India, really looking forward to that, guys lets make a day of it with as many as can make it.

A reminder, that in June we will be having the raffle table, R10.00 a ticket, please bring some goodies as well.

Thanks all and keep those scissors sharp



Mack

(John Hecht)

Club news

You're Invited to our next meeting!

Join us on **21 June 2025**, as we gather for a presentation by Jonathan to tell us more his trip to India. The South Asia Bonsai Federation, BLISS 2025 and World Bonsai Friendship Federation AGM.

Here's the agenda:

- 12:00-14:00: Work on your own trees
- 14:00: Talk and workshop on BLISS 2025 in India.

Please bring your favourite trees to display on the show table.

Everyone is welcome!

If you have a specific topic, you would like us to cover, please let me know and I'll pass it on.

Looking ahead to our upcoming **workshops**, please note that these are interactive, hands-on events that may require some preparation in advance.

We'll share more details through our Newsletter and WhatsApp group, so stay tuned!



Membership fees

R350.00 for Single

R510.00 for Family

You can pay into the Club
Account, state your name
as reference to:

FNB

Heinrich Crystal

Account No: 63021469689

Branch: 250063

Program for 2025

21 June 2025:

Our next meeting will feature Jonathan sharing highlights from his recent trip to India, where he attended the South Asia Bonsai Federation events, BLISS 2025, and the World Bonsai Friendship Federation AGM. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about his experiences and insights.

19 July 2025:

Ella will teach us the art of Kintsugi, a Japanese technique that beautifully repairs broken pottery with gold, embracing imperfections rather than hiding them. I was initially hesitant to spend money on repairs for a cheap pot, thinking it wasn't worth it, but Kintsugi can transform a simple piece into a stunning work of art. Join us to learn this unique skill and give new life to your broken ceramics.

May's meeting: Wiring and Shaping a Bonsai

Wiring is a key bonsai styling technique to shape branches and trunks. This presentation covers the correct methods to wire bonsai effectively and safely.

Tools for Bonsai Wiring

- Wire Cutters: For cutting and removing wire.
- Wire Pliers: For precise wrapping and adjustments.
- Raffia/Tape: Protects bark on thick or brittle branches.
- Jin pliers for detailed work, rubber tubing for guy-wires
- Bonsai-specific wire cutters prevent damage to branches during removal.



What is Bonsai Wiring?

Wiring involves wrapping anodized aluminum or annealed copper wire around bonsai branches or trunks to bend and reposition them into desired shapes.

Purpose: Create aesthetic movement, mimic mature trees, and guide growth.

Process: Wire holds branches in place for 1–4 months until they set.

Fact: Wiring allows precise control over a bonsai's form, unlike pruning alone.





Midway Bonsai Society
May 2025

When to Wire a Bonsai

Timing:

Most Species: Can be wired year-round, but some might be too brittle during some times of the year.

Deciduous Trees: Best in late winter (no leaves, easier to see structure).

Conifers: Late summer to winter (less sap, more flexible branches).

Caution: Monitor during growing season; branches thicken quickly, risking wire scars.

Check wired branches every 4–6 weeks to prevent wire bite.



Types of Bonsai Wire

The Two Main Types:

- Anodized Aluminium: Soft, beginner-friendly, ideal for deciduous trees (e.g., maples, elms)
- Annealed Copper: Stronger, hardens when bent, best for conifers (e.g., pines, junipers)

Aluminum: Flexible, reusable, less likely to scar

Copper: Strong hold, single-use, blends with bark

Avoid galvanized or electrical wire; they can damage trees.



Selecting the Right Wire Thickness

Rule of Thumb: Use wire $\sim 1/3$ the thickness of the branch (e.g., 9mm branch \rightarrow 3mm wire).

Common Sizes: 1mm to 5mm for most bonsai; thicker for trunks

Test: Press wire against branch; if wire bends, it's too thin; if branch bends, it's suitable

Keep a range of sizes (1mm, 1.5mm, 2.5mm, 4mm) for versatility.



Tools for Bonsai Wiring

Wire Cutters: For cutting and removing wire.

Wire Pliers: For precise wrapping and adjustments.

Raffia/Tape: Protects bark on thick or brittle branches.

Jin pliers for detailed work, rubber tubing for guy-wires

Bonsai-specific wire cutters prevent damage to branches during removal.



Wiring Techniques - Single and Double Wiring

Single Wiring: One wire wrapped around a branch/trunk for simple curves.

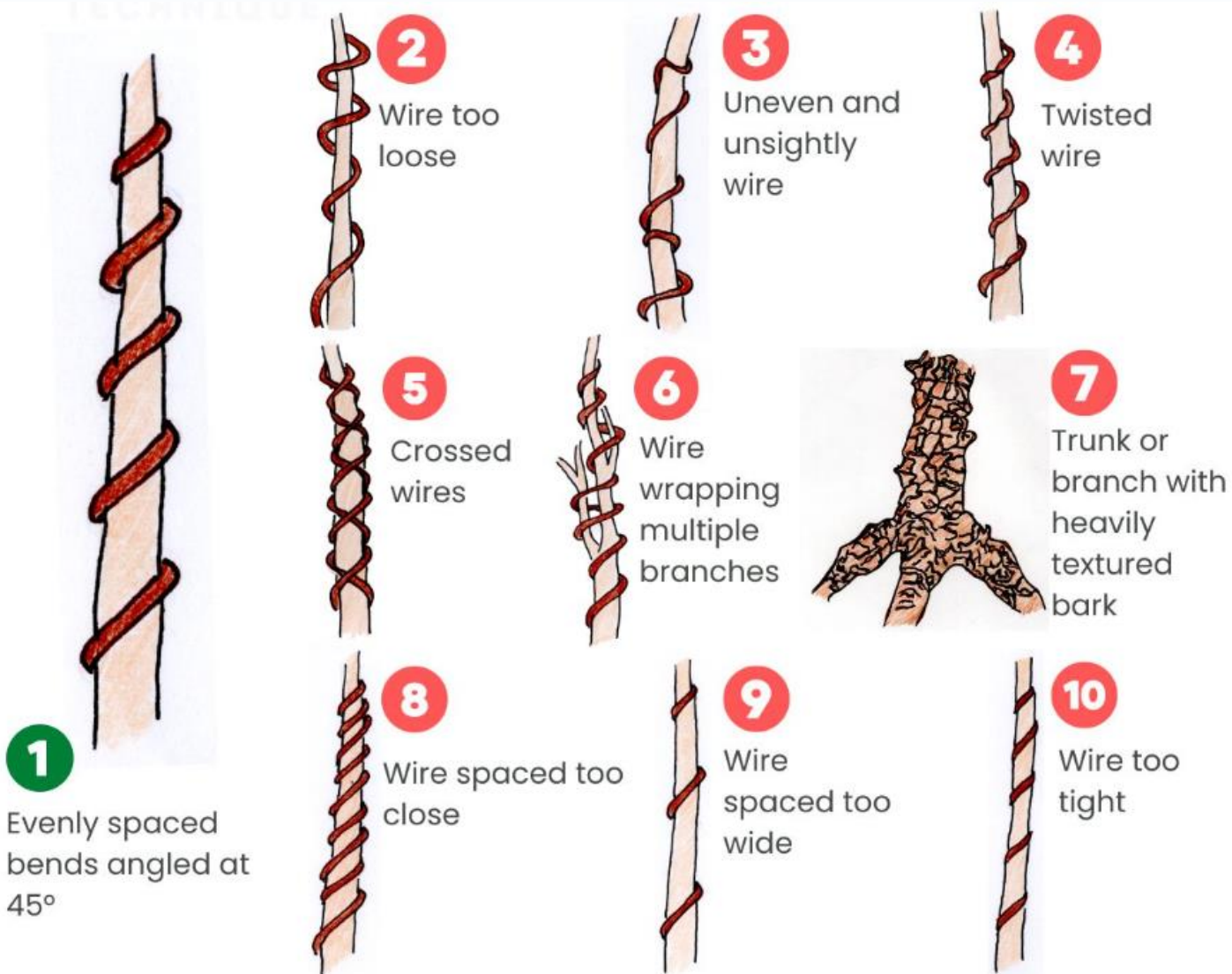
Double Wiring: One wire wraps two similar-sized branches for stability

Anchor wire to trunk (2 turns).

Wrap at 45° –55° angle, avoiding gaps.

Bend gently to desired shape.

Wire from base to tip, keeping coils neat and parallel.



Correct Wiring Application

Wrap wire at 45° –55° for optimal hold and aesthetics.

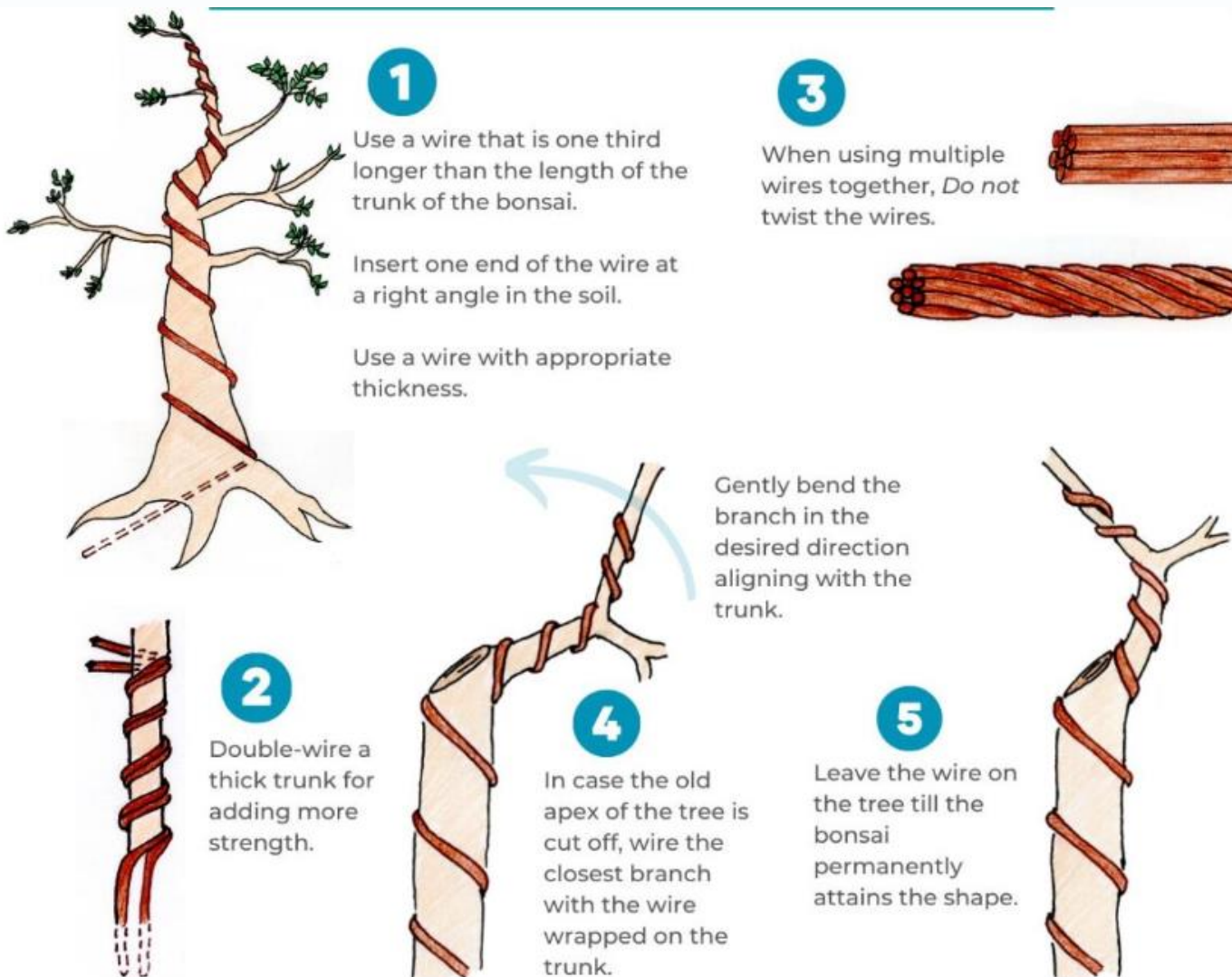
Avoid crossing wires to prevent pressure points.

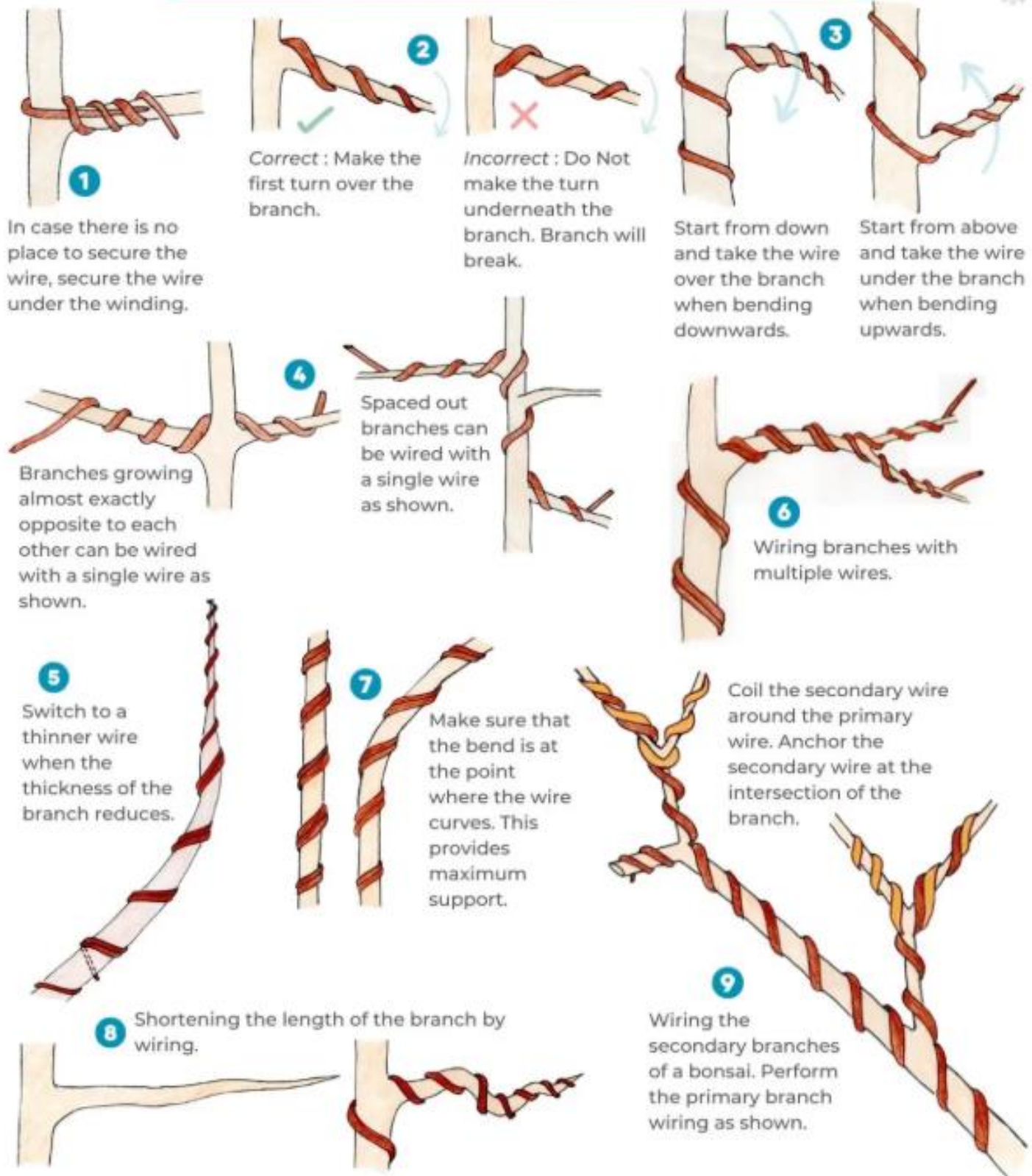
Use supporting hand to guide wire, applying hand to leverage.

To bend down: Wire from below branch.

To bend up: Wire from above branch.

Consistent spacing prevents sap flow restriction.





Guy-Wiring for Thick Branches

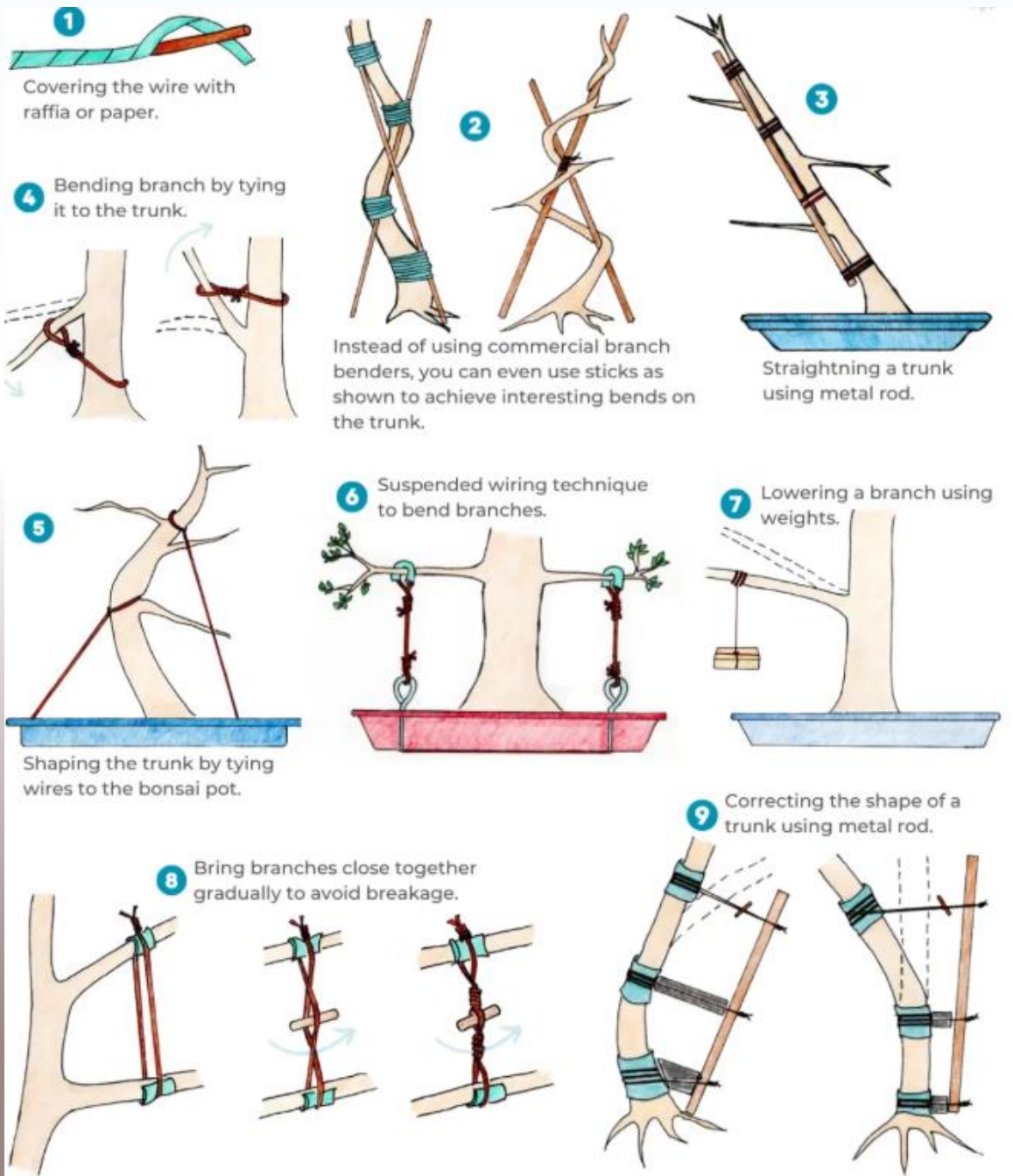
Purpose: Shape thick, brittle, or old branches without coiling.

Wrap protective material (e.g., rubber tubing) around branch.

Attach thin wire (1mm) to branch and anchor to pot, root, or screw.

Gently pull to desired position.

Guy-wires cause less trauma but take longer to set.



Common Wiring Mistakes to Avoid

Wire Too Tight: Restricts sap flow, causes scars.

Leaving Wire Too Long: Leads to wire bite and permanent marks.

Wrong Thickness: Too thin (no hold), too thick (bark damage)

Crossing Wires: Creates uneven pressure

A sheet of paper should fit between wire and bark.





Removing Wire Safely

Timing: Remove when branch sets (1–4 months) or before wire digs into bark

Cut wire at each turn with wire cutters; do not unwind to avoid damage

Start from tip and work toward base

Aftercare: Fertilize lightly to support recovery; monitor for stress

Minor wire marks fade in a few years.



Practice and Patience

Wiring is essential for precise bonsai shaping but requires practice

Use correct wire, timing, and techniques to avoid damage

Monitor regularly and remove wire promptly

Practice on small trees, study species-specific needs, join bonsai workshops

Bonsai is not a race, nor a destination. It is a never-ending journey.



Indigenous Bonsai at the G20

Jonathan's bonsais made a prestigious appearance at the G20, proudly showcasing some of our unique indigenous species.



Editors Letter

Dear Readers,

I hope you've enjoyed this month's issue of the Midway News!

If you have any questions, comments or would like to share your own tree photos, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

I extend my gratitude to Arnold for his stunning photography. If you would like to showcase your trees in our newsletter, please send me your photos.

Best regards,

Pieter Bosch

