

There are many styles to emulate or use your own imagination. I found these by googling framed jewelry Christmas tree. I store mine upright year to year in a garbage bag.

Step 1: Round up all the jewelry you want to use. I used a large five-sided brooch of my mothers as a tree top.

Step 2: Buy a new frame or search garage sales/flea markets for one with the look and size you like.

Step 3: Cut a piece of plywood to fit, but not snugly – you need to allow for whatever fabric you choose as a background to wrap around the plywood.

Step 4: Use a large piece of paper folded in half to sketch out the shape of your Christmas tree. Cut out and unfold. This may take some trial and error to get it the way you want it. Place on plywood to be sure the size is pleasing. Place the frame over and be sure there is clearance on all sides.

Step 5: Trace your template onto the plywood.

Step 6: Use a set of lights with about 20 lights. Tip: staple a little baggie with the extra replacement bulbs to the back of the plywood when project is finished.

Step 7: Mark on the plywood where you want your lights. Keep in mind the length of wire between lights and make sure you're able to reach all the holes comfortably.

Step 8: Drill holes where you marked the light placement. You want a hole big enough to just fit the largest diameter of the light assembly. Big enough to fit without wobbling too much. Start small – you can always make the hole bigger if needed.

Step 9: Glue your fabric to the plywood and wrap around pulling taut. Staple fabric to plywood all around. You can choose whatever color you want for the background. I used a black velour fabric.

Step 10: After glue dries, use sharp scissors to cut out the fabric where the holes are.

Step 11: Place your template on the fabric and lightly trace the outline of the tree.

Step 12: Start with the beginning of your light strand at the top of the tree and work your way down and across until all the lights are through the plywood. It helps to place it face down with the four corners resting on cans to let the lights hang down.

Step 13: On the back side, glue the base of each of the lights to the plywood. The snugger your fit the less glue it will take to hold them. Let dry thoroughly.

Step 14: Flip over. You will need small faceted beads – your choice of color. Glue beads to the traced outline of the tree. Let dry.

Step 15: Sort your jewelry into various sizes. Start with the larger pieces and most sentimental ones that you definitely want to use. Dry fit these to get the look you want. Pick things that will work for the treetop and trunk. When you're satisfied, glue those pieces. If it's a pin, cut off the pin fastener. Let dry.

Step 16: Follow the same procedure with medium and small pieces of jewelry. It's a personal choice how much of the background you want visible showing through your tree. I filled mine in with various loose beads.

Step 17: I used various chains as garland, crisscrossing from light to light. Glue at certain places but allow chains to drape freely if you wish.

Step 18: Fit the frame over, gluing all around.

Step 19: I used 2 eye hooks and wire on the back for mounting. You can also glue small pieces of Styrofoam on the back – both sides at the bottom to rest against the wall when mounted.



