

### Apple Tree-TRUNK

I purchased a **long sleeve shirt and trousers** in the size of the tree actor. If you are fortunate enough to shop in the right season to find a good tree branch brown for both pieces, great! If not, dye them with **Rit dye** to match. Any irregularities in the dyeing process make your tree bark look better.

I used one of the existing **Biblical costume patterns to make the trunk**. Find one of the patterns that have the King overlay piece worn over another garment. (I think Simplicity or Butterick makes this pattern in adult sizes) I wanted to disguise the actors body shape, so I cut one each of the pattern pieces out of **medium upholstery foam** and one each of the pattern pieces out of **brown felt**. (Try to match the felt color to your purchased shirt and trouser color)

I used the foam pieces as “lining” to the felt pieces and flatted the felt to the foam and then sewed the seams together per the pattern instructions. (approx. 4 seams) You should end up with a boxy tree shape trunk. I painted the “bark” lines on the trunk using **black and brown acrylic paint**. I also used some of this paint on the sleeves of the shirt to match the pieces.

### Apple Tree-HAT

The hat or “tree top” is a little trickier. I found a **straw sombrero** that fit the head of the actor. Paint the straw green on the inside and outside. I bought approx. **2 yards each of wide netting and tulle fabric in different greens**. I think light, dark and medium green. Here’s the tricky part. Cut square shapes of the netting/tulle fabric layered on top of each other. Before cutting too many of these squares, make sure you are getting the right effect of these net pieces. This is difficult for me to explain so please forgive me if this is not very clear.

When you have a square of many layers cut, fold the netting square into a smaller square so that all the pieces meet in a common corner. Use a **rubber band** to secure the common corner so that when you open the square out, it’s tied together in the center of the square. This should give you a sprayed out effect of the different nettings. (Picture wedding rice bags tied at the top and the way the excess net looks at the top) This is what you want it to look like.

Make a lot of these netting shapes. The amount is up to you. It depends on how covered you want the hat base to be. Start placing/hand sewing these netting pieces onto the hat. I started at the bottom of the hat in the brim area and worked my way up. It seemed to be easier, although, you will probably have to go back and “fill in”. You are trying to get the tree top silhouette. Think roundish!! After you are satisfied with the shape, add some **artificial branches** to the hat. I could not find tree branches to use, so I used **ivy vines** and let the net shapes support their weight to make them look like branches. Place the branches where you want them to be. I tried to make sure I balanced the weight of the hat so the actor could perform in the hat without too much trouble.

I attached **artificial apples** to the branches by sewing through the stem on the apples and tying them to the branches. Again, place apples to make sure that the hat stays balanced. Fit the hat back on your actor and I added a chin strap (**shoe lace**) inserted through the straw of the hat. This helped the actor keep the hat on while he animated the costume. The tree **gloves** are white gloves dyed green. I used smaller versions of the hat net shapes and placed them on the top side of the glove to look like leaves. I also added some of the branches used on the hat. I added an artificial apple on one hand and the actor held a real apple in his other hand to be used as part of the story as Eve removes the apple off the tree. Done!