

# Learning about Bonsai: Focus on our Beginnings

## Bonsai is wiring – wiring is Bonsai (traditional Japanese Bonsai)

>> Wiring is used to accomplish specific goals within the development and maintenance activities of the practice of Bonsai.

### Structural Wiring (plant is in Development)

#### A. Initial wiring steps using seedling/nursery material:

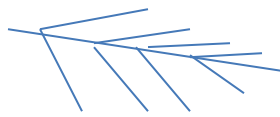
- When movement or a specific direction is desired in the trunk
- When primary branch movement/direction is augmented to:
  - Compliment the trunk movement
  - Properly orient in relation to the design
  - Correct overlapping
  - Give the impression of age
  - Accentuate natural growth characteristic of the genus/species
- Orientation of roots; equal distribution

#### B. Repeat Wiring – second season, after initial wiring:

- **Re-wiring the primary branches to:**
  - Reinforce the angle
  - ...the movement
  - ...the direction
  - extending the length of any branch will require extending the wire

#### “To Create Definition”

- **Wiring the secondary branches to create definition/perspective:**
  - Complete the branch structure by, in most cases, creating a fish-bone effect – “flattening-spreading-opening”; wiring is different for growth patterns of...



...Opposite

versus



Alternating – branch structure

- This also focuses on the contour of the branch, the silhouette of branch

### Refinement Wiring (Plant is in refinement/style is maturing with time and growth)

- **No rewiring needed for primary branches or only minor corrections**
- **Rewiring the secondary branches to:**
  - Correct the branch pattern and definition (as above)
- **Wiring the Tertiary branches to (this will be needed throughout the plants life):**
  - Create a natural and evenly distributed “pad” of growth
  - Focus is on interior buds/density; the overall contour of the branch, the silhouette of branch/tree; the “Design Triangle” is emphasized