

Colin's Recommendations (1)



- Avoid iron or steel wire (too hard)
- Copper must be heat-annealed (**red** hot)
- Copper on conifers, aluminum on deciduous
- Use the right size wire for each branch
 - Too small, and it won't bend the branch
 - Too big, and it will be hard to apply and can damage the branch
- Use a single wire of the right diameter instead of multiple of smaller diameter



Colin's Recommendations (2)

- Bonsai wire cutter has long handles for leverage & flattened tip to get close to branch
- Bonsai wire pliers has long handles for leverage & tapered tip for precise manipulation
- Aluminum wire comes in diameter sizes in mm
 - From 1 mm to 6 mm in ½ mm increments
- Copper wire comes in “gauge” sizes
 - From 20 gauge (thickest) to 6 gauge (thinnest)



Colin's Recommendations (3)

- “Clean” the tree to get rid of unwanted foliage
- Wire entire tree with largest wire first, from bottom to top
 - Then wire entire tree with next size down, from bottom to top
 - Resist the urge to wire branch by branch!
- Whenever possible, use each end of a wire to wire a different branch, proceeding fork by fork



Colin's Recommendations (4)

- Anchor each wire by overlap with the previous, larger size one that you brought at least one turn past the fork
- Leave an open loop at the tip of each branch to prevent wind from blowing off wire
- On conifers
 - Pines should have tips pointing upward
 - Junipers should have tips pointing slightly upward
 - Spruces should have tips pointing straight out



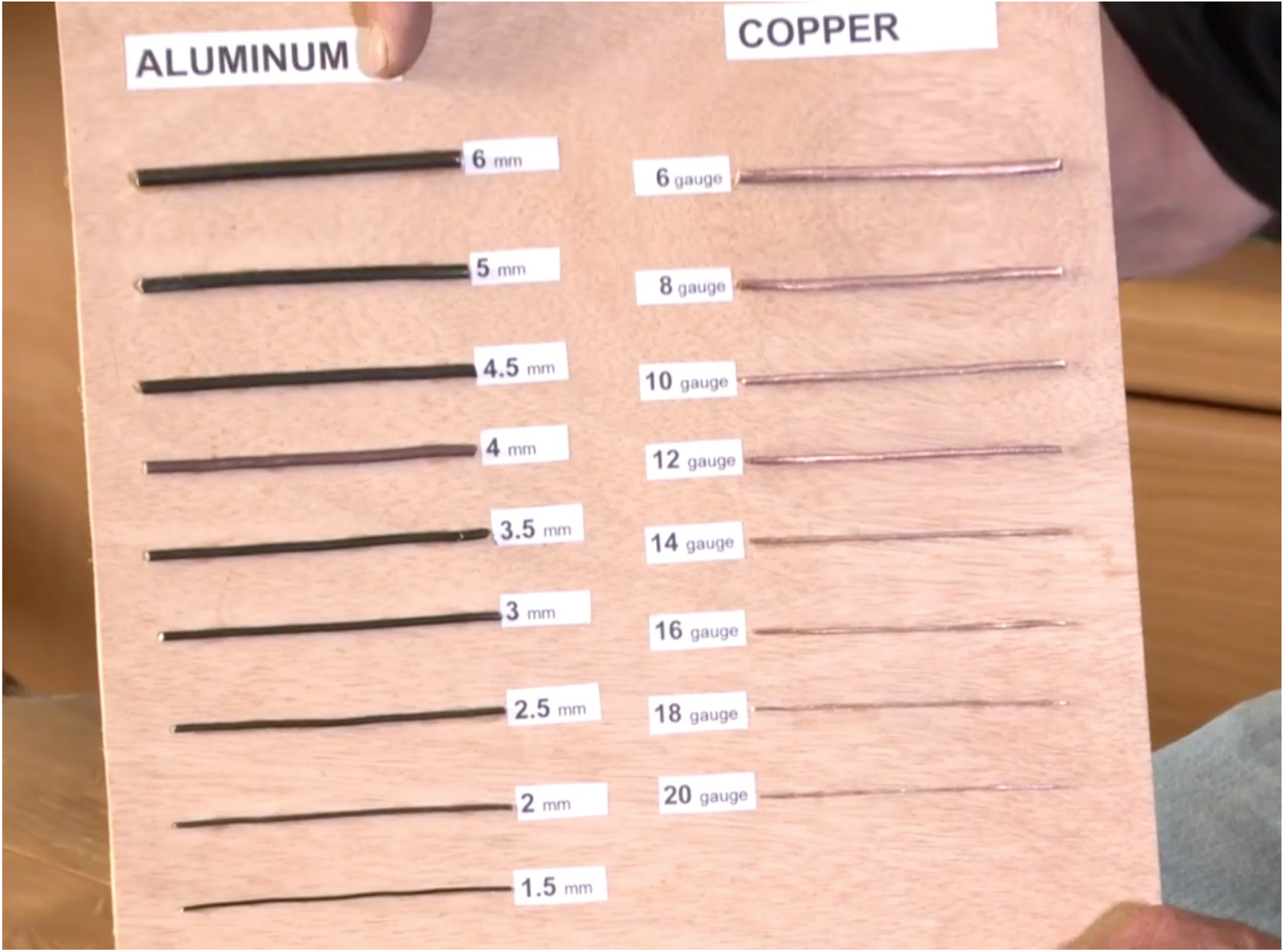
Colin's Recommendations (5)

- Minimize crossing wires, but when you have to, always smaller over larger, not vice versa
- Keep wire close to the branch to maximize positioning ability & minimize damage to fork
- Avoid see-saw wiring
- **Remove wire before it cuts into bark much!!**
- Always cut off wire, never unwind!

Aluminum Wire

- Best for deciduous trees
- Consistent toughness
- More gentle control





Copper Wire

- Best for coniferous trees
- Must be annealed
- More control & strength



Heat Annealing

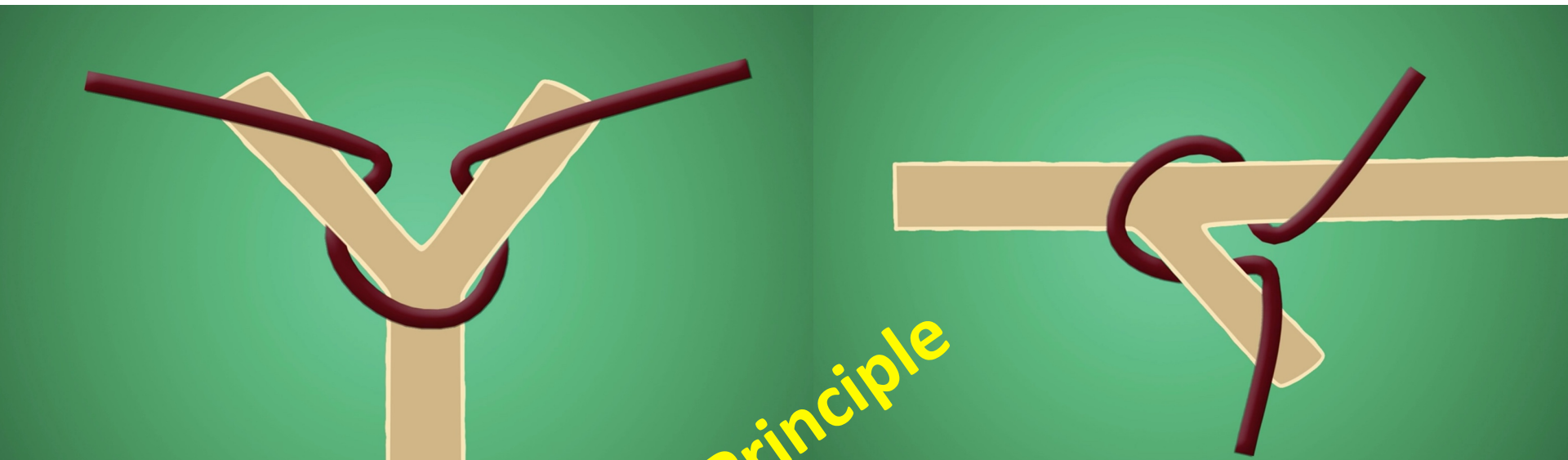


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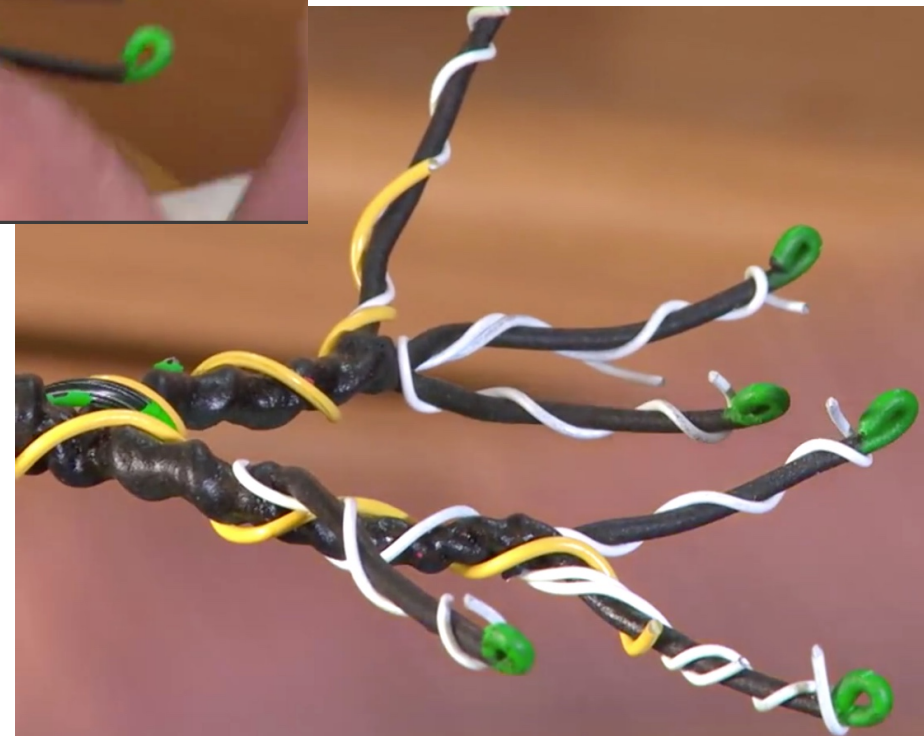
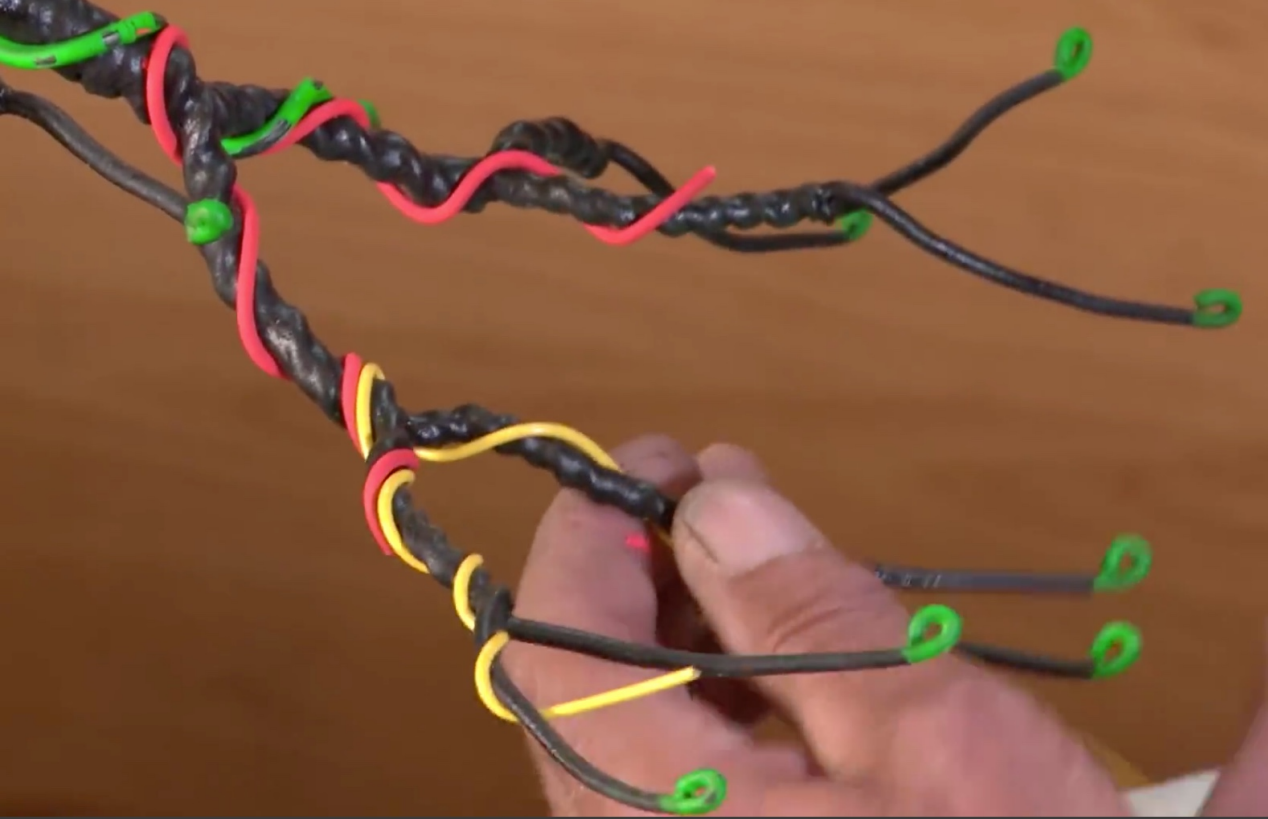
Proper tools



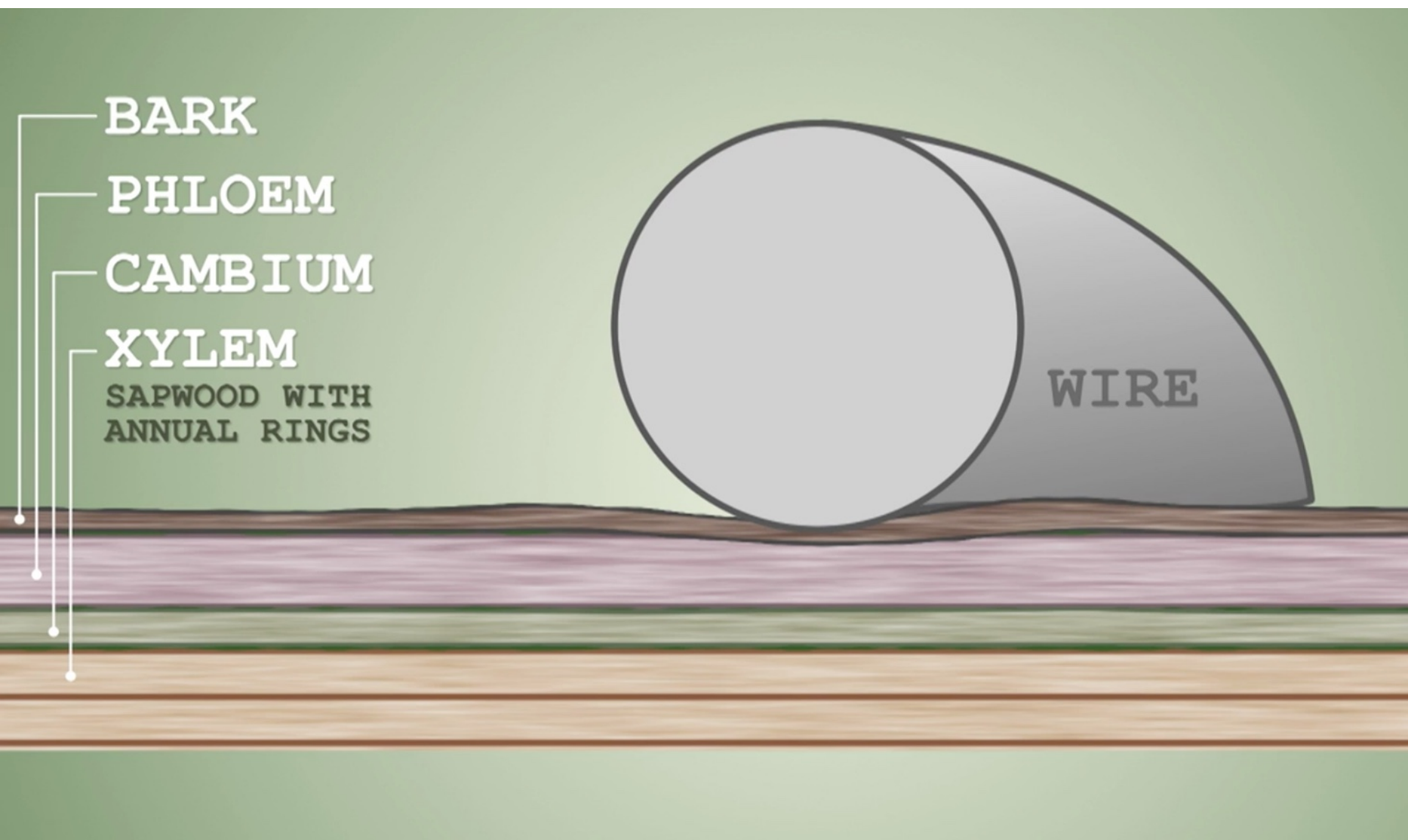


Slingshot Principle

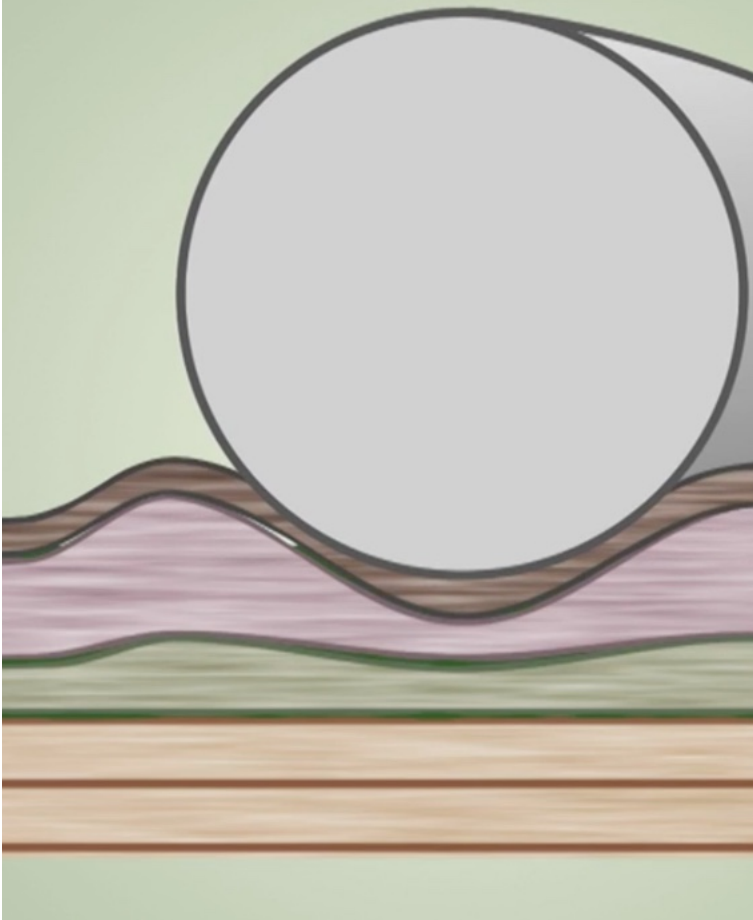




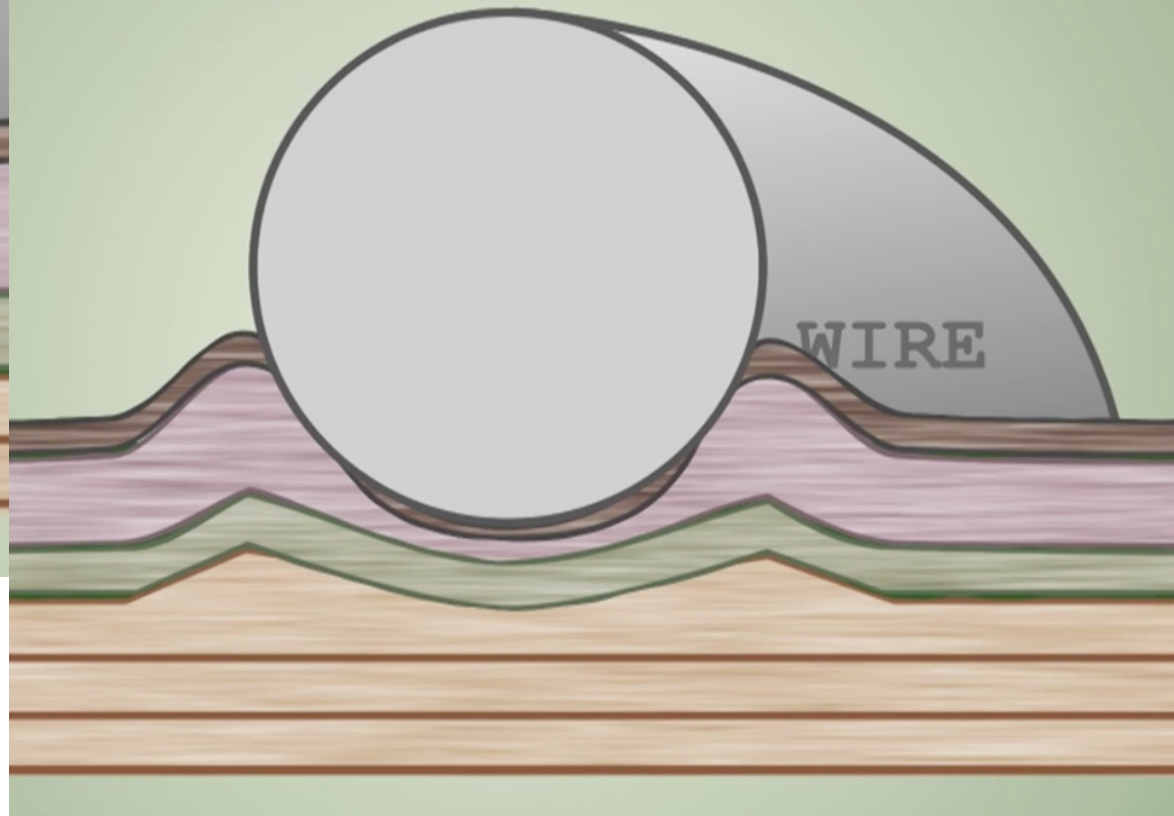
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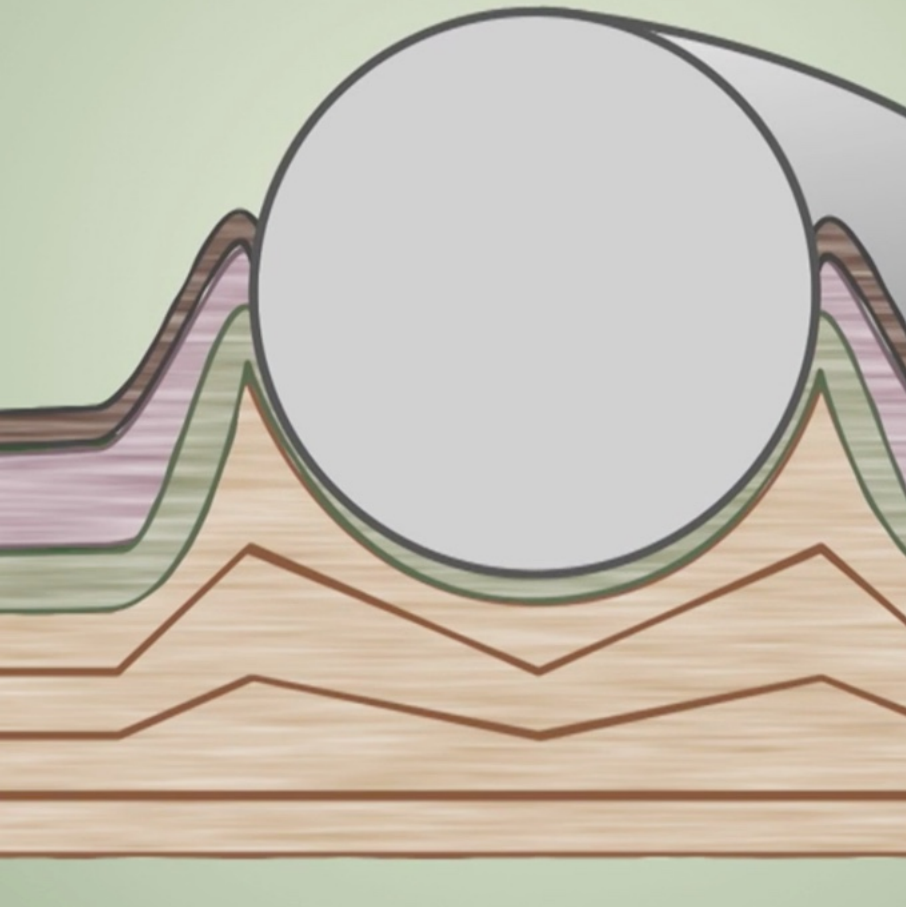
Normal Damage



Waited too long



Permanent disfigurement



Unrecoverable wire

