

## Realignment of Branch or Trunk by V-cutting

This activity should take place during a period of active growth and not disturbed for up to twelve months if possible. If the operation is carried out, then try to locate the activity in the vicinity of a growth bud, which will probably help the flow of nutrients to the injured site.

First, cut a piece of paper to a rough profile of the branch or trunk you are going to alter. Then cut out a V three quarters of the way through the paper in the rough area you intend to cut on the branch or trunk, and fold the paper so the cut edges come together. Once you have the right angle of cut, you can then apply those measurements to the branch or trunk, mainly to ensure that you don't remove too much material and ruin the tree.

Now you have your measurements, cut into the site (make sure the tool used is sharp or it will drag and tear) where the redirection is to take place, on the outside of the undesired bend, stopping just over three quarters of the way through. Make another cut above the first one, angled down to join up with the deepest part of the first cut, forming a V cut.

### REMEMBER!

The distance between the open ends of the two cuts is dependant on the degree of direction change required. The open ends of the resultant gap should then closed together and held with a smear of superglue on the heartwood only. The glue must not come into contact with the cambium – the lifelines as it were. Make sure that the cambium layers on each side of the gap come into contact with each other. There must be no further movement between the two sides.

Bind a splint made of two pieces of thick wire across the wound, leaving the middle bit open until it has been smeared with Lac Balsam to seal it. A second pair of hands to hold it together would be useful as it can be awkward.

It has been suggested that grafting wax would be the best choice here but if you don't have any then Lac Balsam (or similar) will do. A further binding with raffia should then be wrapped over the entire site in three layers and held in place with a normal spiral wire pattern.

Materials used:

- Paper and scissors
- Sharp saw (clean and free from bacteria)
- Superglue
- Wire
- Raffia (allow soaking time before stating cut)
- Cut paste (Lac Balsam /grafting wax)