

Grape Vines by Barry Jack

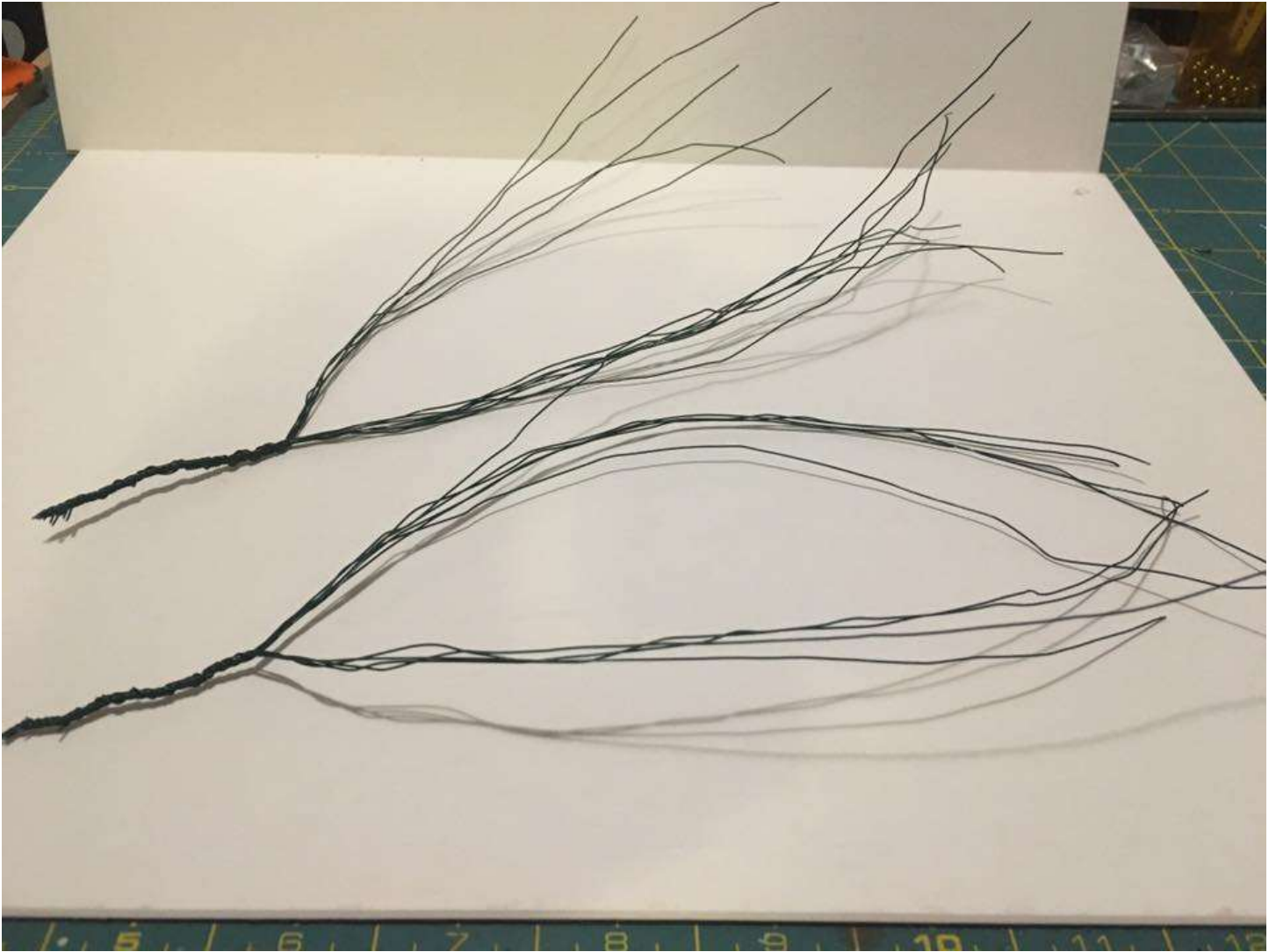
I couldn't find any grape vines that didn't require leaving your right arm being left behind, so decided they could easily be made. Steps included with each picture.



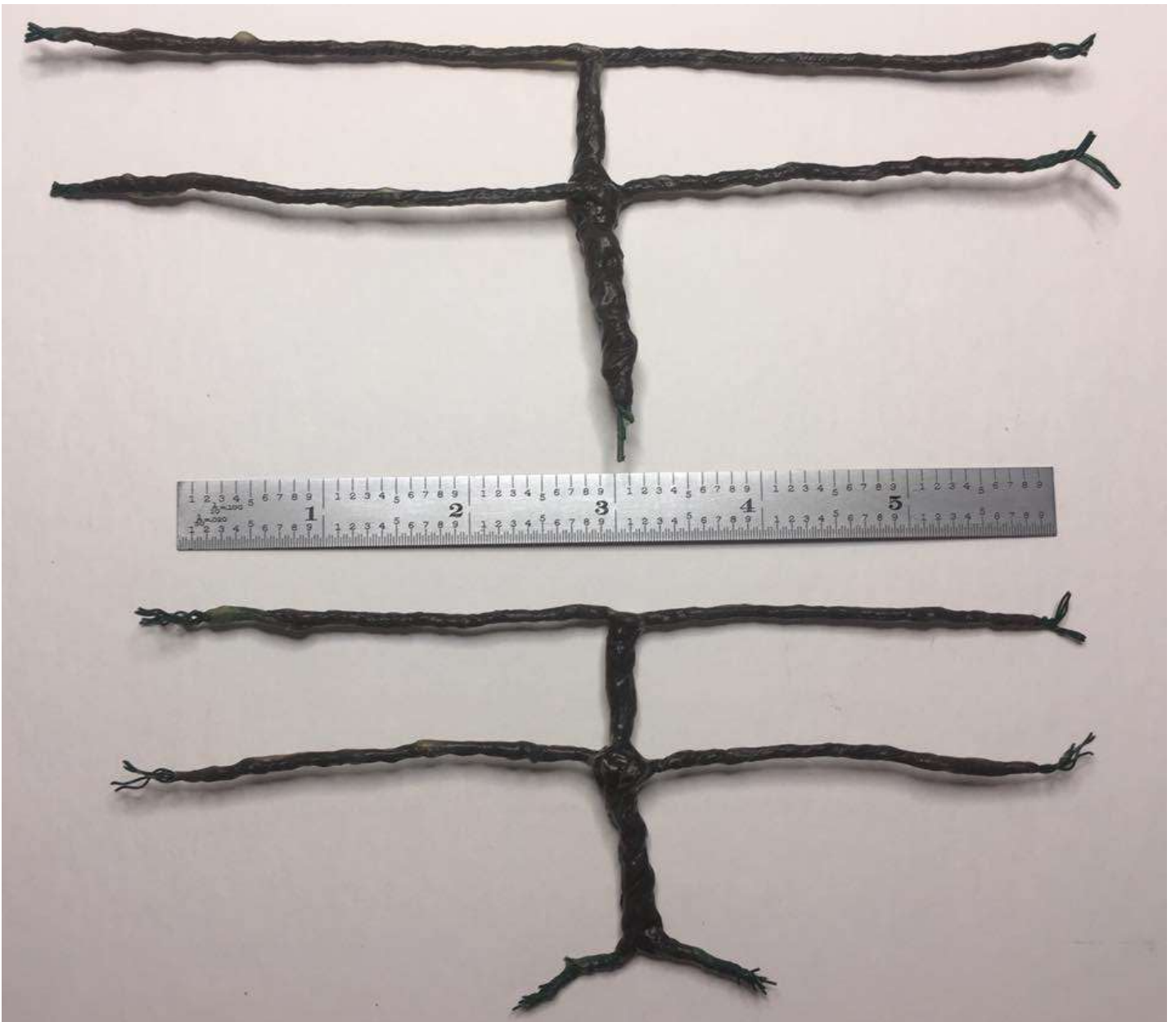
Just a few key ingredients. Vine bouquet and flower display were found in Michaels or your local Dollar Store, along with the floral tape and the 22ga wire, not sure where the 28ga wire came from. The material used for the stakes was sisal wrapped wire. The sisal wrapping gave texture to the stakes. The latex rubber was the only expensive item. Needle nose pliers, wire cutter and tweezers we all have access to??



Starting with 2 partially twisted groups of floral wire for each vine. The partially twisted groups will be combined and twisted together to form the bottom portion of the vine. The untwisted section can now be twisted to form the 4 branches of the vine.



The end product. The left one was made with (16) pcs of 22ga wire about 8" long, the one on the right used (24) pcs of 28ga wire, 8" long. Trim off the excess and wrap the wire in floral tape, I used black so no painting is required. The floral tape conceals the wire wrapped surface.



Painting each vine with latex gives you a flexible structure, holds the floral tape in place and allows the creation of a lumpy vine surface, just like the real thing. The latex dries clear so the tape colour shows thru.



This base is 8" long with the stakes 2 1/2-3" tall. Leave a good 1" between the two horizontal wire trellises, this trellis isn't really necessary since the vine obscures the structure, the end stakes and wire tie downs add realism. The same wire used for the vines was used here.



Start gluing on your vine with hot glue just be prepared, in the end, to spend a bit of time removing all those hairs you get when using hot glue.



Finishing off gluing the vines.



The red material from the flower display, all synthetic, spayed dark blue for my grapes.



Add any extra leaves, vines to fill in any voids.

