

# How to make a #leafmotif!

**Step One:** Choose a still day, without much wind. Go for a walk around your urban trees – whether they are in your local park or along a street.

**Step Two:** Collect together as many interesting leaves, petals, seeds or sticks. Making mandalas or motifs is a lovely way to slow down and appreciate the trees around you. Duplicates are good for symmetry. Try not to pick too much from one single tree, or from young trees. Instead, spread out your harvesting or look for fallen or damaged twigs and leaves.

**Step Three:** Find something unusual – a tree seed, a flower, or a fruit. This will form your centrepiece.

**Step Four:** Check out our Gallery and video tutorial at [saveourstreettrees.org/leaf-motif](http://saveourstreettrees.org/leaf-motif) for inspiration. Making your mandala outside on a path or pavement will mean everyone can enjoy it!

**Step Five:** Organise your finds by type, size, colour or shape. Place your interesting object in the middle, and add your natural objects at 12, 3, 6 and 9 as if working around a clockface. Work outwards from this first pattern. You could create a spiral, making each spiral bigger as it extends, or experiment with squares. 'Motif' simply means a repeated pattern.

**Step Six:** Now for the important bit! Once your #leafmotif is finished, take a photo and send it to us at [leafmotif@saveourstreettrees.org](mailto:leafmotif@saveourstreettrees.org) before May 10, so we can share it in our virtual Gallery during the Urban Tree Festival. Tell us your first name, location, and your age (if you are under 18).

**Step Seven:** During the Urban Tree Festival (May 15-23) follow #leafmotif and #urbantreefestival on social media to see some of your amazing creations and share with friends and family. Go to the Gallery at [saveourstreettrees.org/leaf-motif](http://saveourstreettrees.org/leaf-motif) for all the #LeafMotif artwork!

