









intermediate level

number 200

Linkoloon Christmas Tree

INTRODUCTION

The LINK-O-LOON® Christmas tree is designed to be enlarged or reduced in size to suit your particular requirements. Utilizing LINK-O-LOONS® and a star-shaped foil balloon, this tree can stand in excess of 2m (6'5") tall. The instructions below describe the method of constructing a five-sided, green Christmas tree with red balloons trailing along the length of each edge.

Materials & Equipment

- •20 x Crystal Green LINK-O-LOONS® 15cm (6")
- •65 x Crystal Green LINK-O-LOONS® 30cm (12")
- •5 x Crystal Green 12cm (5") round balloons
- •45 x Crystal Red 12cm (5") round balloons
- •1 x Metallic Foil 48cm (19") Star-shaped balloon

Optional extras:

To give the tree a "solid" appearance the following balloons can be inflated and inserted into the tree:

- •2 x 46cm (18") Crystal Green round balloons
- •2 x 28cm (11") Crystal Green round balloons

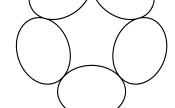
Preparation

Inflating:

- 1. Making/sizing the LINK-O-LOON® rings of five balloons to build the tapered girth of the tree: Using the 15cm (6") LINK-O-LOONS®, make two LINK-O-LOON® rings with the balloons inflated to 9cm (3½") and 11cm (4¾") respectively. Using the 30cm (12") LINK-O-LOONS® make a further 7 x rings with the balloons sized to: 13cm (5¼"), 15cm (6"), 17cm (6¾"), 19cm (7½"), 21cm (81/4"), 23cm (9"), 25cm (10").
- 2. Making / Sizing the LINK-O-LOON® Chains of 10 balloons to build the height of the tree:

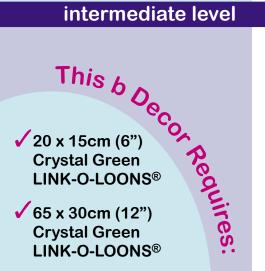
Starting with a 12cm (5") crystal red balloon inflated to 10cm (4") tie it to the neck of a 30cm (12") crystal green LINK-O-LOON® inflated to 23cm (9").

Continue the chain with 5 x 30cm (12") crystal green LINK-O-LOONS®, tving them neck to tail. Inflate them respectively at 21cm (8¼"),19cm (7½"), 17cm (6¾"), 15cm (6") and 13cm $(5\frac{1}{4})^{\circ}$.



Continue the chain with 2 x 15cm (6") crystal green LINK-0-LOONS® inflated to 11cm (4\%") and 9cm (3½"). Finish the chain with a 12cm (5") crystal green round balloon inflated to 8cm (3").

Repeat this process until you have five separate chains.



- √ 5 x 12cm (5") **Crystal Green Round Balloons**
- √ 45 x 12cm (5") **Crystal Red Round Balloons**
- ✓ 1 x 48cm (19") **Metallic Foil** Star

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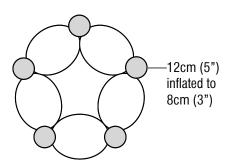




Use:	Sized to:
12cm (5") Round	O 8cm (3")
12cm (5") LINK-0-L00N®	9cm (3½")
LINK-0-LOON®	$()$ 11cm (4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ")
30cm (12") LINK-0-L00N® (13cm (51/4")
	15cm (6")
	17cm (6¾")
	19cm (7½")
	21cm (81/4")
	23cm (9")
12cm (5") Round	0 10cm (4")

3. Adding the Connectors to the LINK-O-LOON® Rings:

Inflate the remaining 40 x 12cm (5") crystal red round balloons inflated to 8cm (3") and attach on the joining points of the LINK-0-LOON® on each "ring." EXCEPT FOR THE LARGEST RING INFLATED TO 25cm (10").



Construction

4. Putting it all together:

Holding the crystal red 12cm (5") balloon on the end of the LINK-O-LOON® chain, wrap (connect) it at the joining point on the 25cm (10") LINK-O-LOON® Ring.

Progressively moving along the chain add each LINK-O-LOON® ring at the next joining point using the red connectors. Be sure to remember to attach the chain to the rings from the outside and do not attempt to attach them from the inside of the ring. Repeat the process with the remaining four chains. You should now have a five-sided cone shaped cylinder.

Adding the extras

Either helium or air-fill the foil star and position on top of the tree. Attach a balloon weight to the foil star with fishing line and drop through the center of the structure for stability.

The tree is now presentable as a stand-alone piece of room decor. For extra effect drape tinsel or ribbons around the tree securing it at each (red balloon) connector.

Lights can be added on the tree or for a more subtle effect a single light can be placed inside the tree allowing the glow to escape from between the LINK-O-LOON®.

A further option is to add weight to the LINK-O-LOON® chains by filling red 28cm (11") round balloon inflated to 10cm (4") at the base with fine sand, thus enhancing the stability of the structure even further.

If you choose not to use lights, you can inflate the 46cm (18") and 28cm (11") crystal balloons inside the tree to give a more solid and filled effect.

