

Creating a Simple Easy to Store 4 color 4 zone Tree
Texas Christmas Light Workshop
September 2006

Outline

- I. Animated lighting has some 3 color 4 zone Christmas trees that just blew me away last year. However, so did the price. Animated Lighting was very helpful in talking about different ideas that would allow me to build them myself.

I started searching for different ways to build the trees. In search for various ideas, my concerns were:

Storage-

I wanted to do three of these trees like Animated lighting. Therefore, they had to not take up much storage.

Put up & Take Down-

I wanted the lights to be permanent.

I wanted 4 color 4 zone-

I really liked the blue, but also wanted to have white so I decided to do 4 color 4 zone.

- II. In searching the internet, I found several pull up Christmas Trees.



- III. Ordering

A. Tree Sizes: The trees shown above come in 4 foot and 6 foot. I also was able to find several 5 foot ones last year. I have built 2 five foot trees and 1 six foot trees.

B. Keep the box that the tree comes in for storage.

- IV. Putting new lights on the Tree:

A. Do not bother with taking off the existing lights. First there are so few. Second, they are built into the design of the tree. So I just cut off the outlet end.

B. I divided the tree into four zones. I put together, using zip ties, a string each of red, blue, green and white lights. The lights for each zone (top to bottom) are as follows:

Zone 1-	50 lights per color
Zone 2-	100 lights per color
Zone 3-	100 lights per color
Zone 4-	200 lights per color on 6 foot and 100 lights per color on 5 foot.

C. Again using zip ties, I attach the lights to the tree. I lined all of the outlets in the back of the tree. When I plugged them in I let the outlets go through the middle of the tree and that way they were not visible.

D. I also recommend marking each plug with its color. This will save a lot of time during the connection phase.

E. After all of the lights are installed on the tree, you will find that you have increased the weight on the trees by around 400%. Therefore, I recommend that you reinforce the supports already on the tree with fishing line. This can be rather time consuming.

V. Set up

A. The pull up trees come with stakes for use outside. However, with the additional weight, there will be a stability problem. You can use support lines, but I did not have much success with that. However, I found a solution that worked really well. In fact, after using this I never had a single problem again.



B. This is an outdoor umbrella/flagpole stand. The pole holder is too big for the pole of the tree, therefore, I made a pvc sleeve to fit over the pole and to go into the stand with the tree pole. It worked well.

C. The Finished Product.

A four color, four zone 6 foot tree that can be stored back in the box that it came in and can be set up relatively quickly.



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Pull-Up Christmas Tree

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