

# Moyogi style for beginners

In this new series we give bonsai beginners a simple step-by-step guide to creating their own *moyogi* style tree

First of all, search for its root base, and select the front. This should be where the movement of the trunk looks its best

From the top, remove the heavy branches that obstruct the view of the trunk line using concave cutters. Mark the new front to avoid mistakes (see drawing opposite).

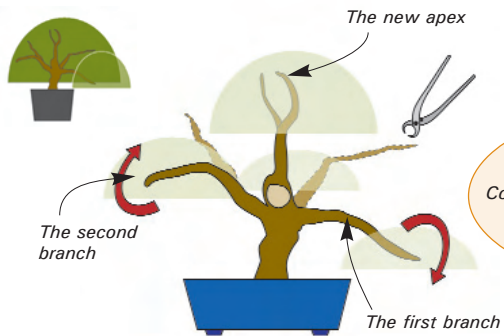
Now the trunk line is more visible. Next remove this thick branch to open up the branch structure

*Cotoneaster melanotrichus, before the work starts*

Here the structure of the tree is visible. Small shoots in the axels are removed

*Cotoneasters* are suitable for many bonsai styles; in this example we demonstrate how to make a *moyogi* style. There are numerous varieties to choose from, either deciduous or coniferous, and most of them are suitable for use. This tree is very easy to grow and will forgive many mistakes — an ideal shrub for beginners. Although you might think this tree is already a bonsai, it isn't. It hasn't the structure necessary for growing into a good bonsai. We're going to show how to make this shrub into a bonsai. □

START



Cover wounds with cut paste to encourage them to heal over more rapidly

### What to remove

It is always difficult to decide which branches to remove, but if you have chosen a front, aim for a thick low branch as the first one, the second should be slightly shorter and at a higher level; then you will need branches for the apex. Leave some spare just in case.

A well-rooted plant can be repotted in spring leaving a third of the original root ball

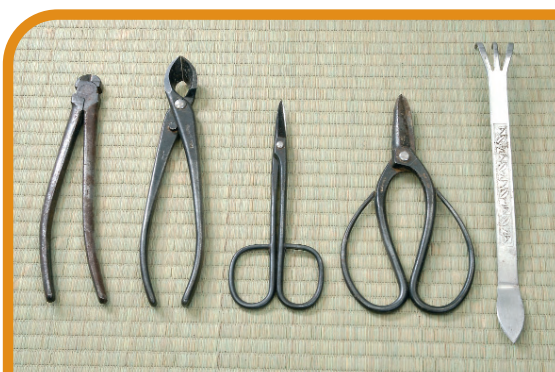


The change is quite dramatic, the first and second branches are in one line; wire will solve this problem

The branches are wired carefully with aluminium wire, then bent into place

The tools we used here are: jin pliers, concave cutters, twig shears, root shears and a root rake

The structure is set, but the tree needs to grow more densely



**FINISH**