

Family Tree Strings

Graphic designer Carla Delgado recently created a project she had long dreamed of.

The inspiration

Two of my favorite creative outlets are woodworking and infographics (the visual translation of an objective set of data that conveys the information in an accessible and interesting way). Trees have also been a special symbol in our family since the first time our first born smiled at something other than his family. Leaves on a tree blowing in the wind caught his eye and prompted a big grin during one of our walks. Our unofficial family mantra is “sometimes you have to stop and watch the leaves blow.”

About the project

Titled “Family Tree Strings,” a series of threads are strung on a ring of hooks, spelling out the names of family members.

Within a hollowed-out circle at the center of a tree slice (or *end-grain disk*), a series of 26 hooks are screwed into the wood, each representing a sequential letter of the alphabet, beginning with the letter “A” at the top of the circle.



Names are “spelled out” using colored cotton string, threading one letter at a time around the ring of hooks. Each name is spelled out in a different color, and names are added by birth order.

This inaugural *Family Tree* represents my family:

- Carla (myself)
- Alejandro (my husband)
- Brodie (our dog)
- Daniel (son, age 6)
- Xavier (son, age 3)



“In the same way that a tree’s concentric rings are a picture of its life and growth, the colored strings, layered on top of one another, are a picture of a family’s lineage.”

Carla Delgado,
creative director
at Page 33 Studio
in Austin



This end-grain disk is from an eastern red cedar tree, harvested by local sustainable lumber company, Harvest Lumber Co. The company sells lumber harvested from Austin city trees that might otherwise be disposed of through chipping.