3D Christmas Tree User Manual

iPhone and iPad

Version 1.2 | Build 41

Decorate a tree and make a card

Choose a 3D tree, hang ornaments and set the scene. Turn it into a still Christmas card or a video with falling snow, twinkling lights and optional music.

Device orientation

iPhone: portrait only. **iPad:** portrait and landscape. Both devices offer both card layouts. Choose your card layout in the **Card** tab.

Requirements

iOS 18 or iPadOS 18 and later. Tree editing and card rendering work offline. The demo background download and online support links require an internet connection.

Stratakernel.nl



A Snowy fir with warm lights, a classic finial and an oak star stand on iPad.

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Quick start

1. Open **Trees** and pick a tree and base. Use **Clear tree** to start over if you already have a design.
2. In **Decorate**, choose an ornament and tap near a branch tip to hang it. Add a topper from **Tree top**.
3. In **Atmosphere**, choose a background and adjust the tree's position and lighting.
4. In **Card**, choose **Image** or **Video** and a layout, then fill in **Title**, **Message** and **From**.
5. Tap **Preview card**. Review the result, then save, share, email or print it.
6. Use **Card > Save design** to keep an editable copy you can reopen later.

The studio and tree controls

Find your way around

The five tabs are **Trees**, **Decorate**, **Tree top**, **Atmosphere** and **Card**. On iPhone the scene sits above the controls. On a wide iPad layout, the controls sit to the left of the scene. Swipe up in the controls panel to see more options.

Choose a tree and base

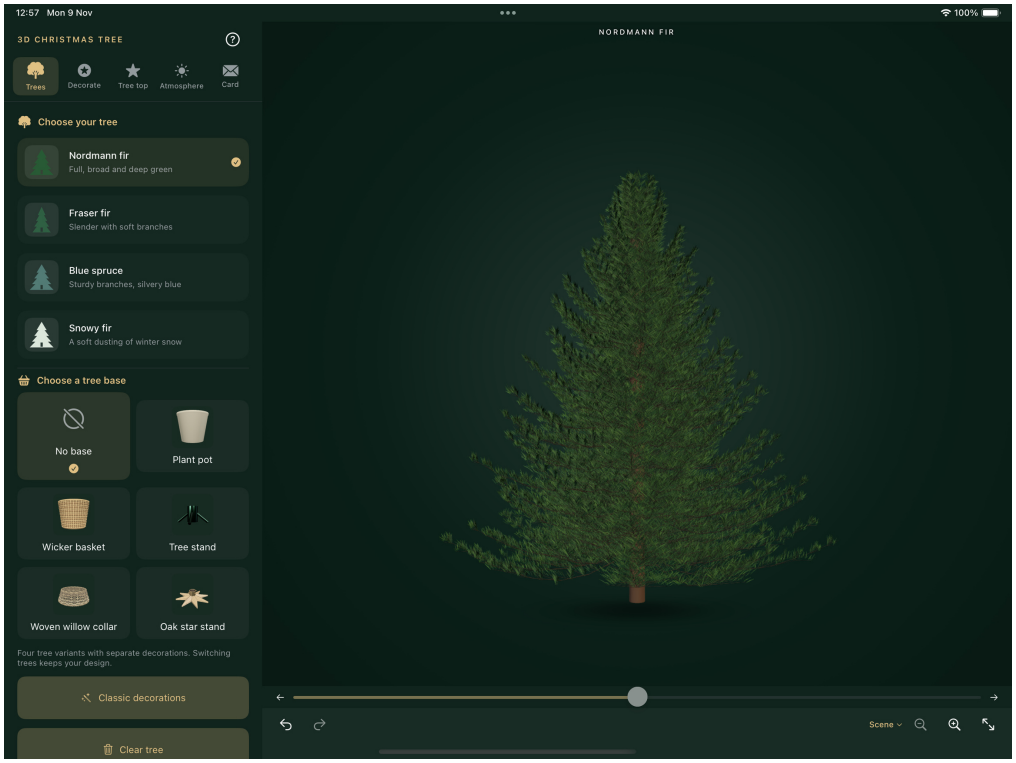
Choose **Nordmann fir**, **Fraser fir**, **Blue spruce** or **Snowy fir**. Each tree keeps its own hanging ornaments when you switch. Under **Choose a tree base**, pick **No base**, **Plant pot**, **Wicker basket**, **Tree stand**, **Woven willow collar** or **Oak star stand**.

Position the tree

Drag one finger sideways to rotate the tree. Drag with two fingers to move it. Under **Atmosphere > More position controls**, choose **Tilt** to use the vertical two-finger gesture to tilt instead. The sliders let you fine-tune the pose; **Reset position and tilt** restores it.

Zoom the scene or resize the tree

Choose **Scene** or **Tree** below the preview, then pinch or tap a magnifier. **Scene** zoom and the horizontal pan slider change the editor view. **Tree** zoom changes the tree's size in the finished card. Tap the diagonal arrows to fit the scene; the curved arrows undo or redo design edits.



Trees on iPad in landscape. The scene toolbar runs below the tree.

Ornaments and effects

Place and change ornaments

In **Decorate**, tap an ornament tile, set **Decoration size**, then tap near a branch tip. To replace a hanging ornament, choose a different tile and tap the ornament. To resize one already on the tree, select its matching tile, tap the ornament, then adjust the size slider. Double-tap an ornament to remove it; **Undo** restores it.

Add presents and a topper

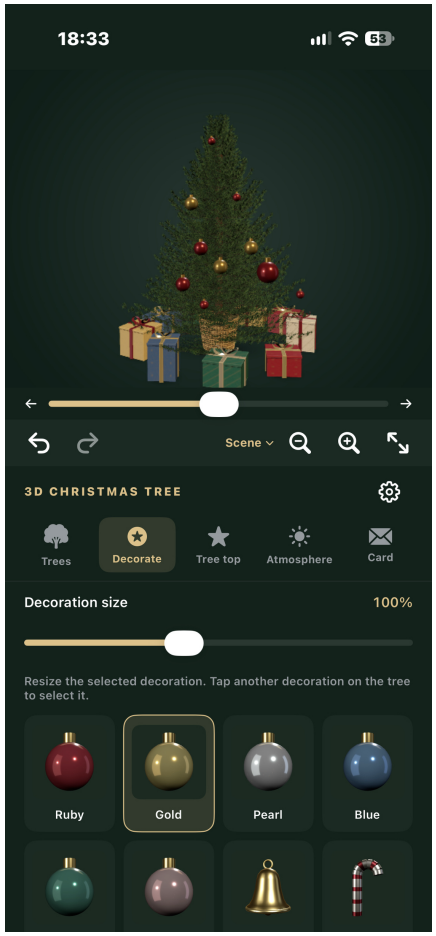
Under **Presents under the tree**, choose **None**, **5 presents** or **9 presents**. Gifts follow the tree as you move it. In **Tree top**, choose a **Golden star**, **Classic finial**, **Large red bow**, **Snowflake** or **None**. The app places the topper for you.

Turn on the lights and snow

Turn on **Tree lights**, choose **Warm white** or **Multicolor**, and adjust the brightness and number of lights. **Twinkling lights** gently varies brightness. **Golden garland** and **Let it snow** are separate switches. When **Reduce Motion** is enabled on your device, the lights stay steady and the snowflakes stay still.

Start from a preset or reset

Trees > Classic decorations replaces the hanging ornaments with a preset. **Clear tree** resets the entire design, including the background, effects and greeting. Save an editable copy first if you want to keep it.



Decorate on iPhone. Pick an ornament, then tap the tree.

Backgrounds and scene lighting

Choose a background

In **Atmosphere**, choose **Forest**, **Winter night**, **Warm cream** or **Winter blue**. To use your own image, tap **Choose from Photos** or **Choose from files**.

Download the demo backgrounds

1. Tap **Download Stratakernel demo backgrounds** and save the ZIP to **Files**.

2. Open **Files** and tap the ZIP once. An extracted folder appears in the same location.

3. Back in **Atmosphere**, tap **Choose from files**, open that folder and select a PNG. See the demo background gallery.

Match the tree to the photo

Use **More position controls** to place the tree on a believable patch of ground. Adjust **Shadow** to help it look anchored, or slide all the way left to switch shadows off. Under **Ambient light**, set the brightness and adjust from **Cool** to **Warm** to match the photo.

The app keeps a resized copy of the photo locally. It appears in the finished card when selected. An editable design file can still contain the imported photo after you switch to another background.



An imported photo on iPad, with background and lighting controls on the left.

Writing a Christmas card

Choose an image or video

In **Card**, pick **Image** for a still PNG or **Video** for an MP4. A video can capture animated snow and twinkling lights when enabled. Under **Card music**, pick a tune or choose **None** for a silent video. This menu appears only when **Video** is selected. See the full music list.

Choose a layout

Card with scene frames the tree on portrait stationery. Swipe sideways through **Card design** for all eight styles. **Text on scene** puts the greeting straight over the scene without stationery. See the card design gallery.

Write and style the greeting

Edit **Title**, **Message** and **From**. Each field has a typeface, alignment, size and colour. Tap minus or plus beside **Example** to browse the 16 standard messages. If you have written your own message, the app asks before replacing it with a preset. See the English greeting examples.

Set the card language

Choose a language under **Card language**, or select **System language** to follow the app language. Standard greetings and the selected preset follow this choice. Personal wording and names are kept as typed. Tap **Restore the standard title** to replace your title with the default in the chosen language.

A winter card to try

Start with **Snowy fir** and **Oak star stand**. Add a few ruby and pearl ornaments, warm white lights and a classic finial. Set **Atmosphere** to **Winter night**, then choose **Card with scene** and the **Winter Night** stationery.

Give the card a short title and a personal sign-off. For a video, turn on snowfall and add **Silent Night**. For a card you can post, select **Image** and print it on A4.

Try the other layout

Try the same tree with **Text on scene**. Place your title in a clear area of the background and keep the greeting away from the branches and lights. Preview both versions to see which is easier to read.

Preview and placement

Preview the complete card

Tap **Preview card** and wait until **Your Christmas card** opens. Scroll inside the sheet to check the entire card and find **Save…** below it. The **Card type** menu in the preview lets you change the export format; wait for the new render before sharing.

Move elements on portrait stationery

In **Card with scene**, tap **Move elements** in the preview. Drag the title, message, sender or picture frame. Tap **Apply positions** to keep the changes, or **Cancel** to keep the previous placement. A video renders again with the updated layout.

Move text directly on the scene

With **Text on scene** selected, drag the title, message or sender in the main scene while the **Card** tab is open. For an image, you can also use **Move elements** in the preview. For a video, position the text in the main scene before rendering.

Play and listen

Use **Play** and **Pause** to check a video. The preview sound control only changes what you hear while previewing. To remove the soundtrack from the MP4, select **None** under **Card music** and render the video again.



Card with scene on iPhone, using Winter Night stationery.

Card export and printing

Open **Preview card** and let it finish. Use the controls in **Your Christmas card** to make the copy you want to send or print.

Control	What it does
Save…	Save the finished PNG or MP4 to Files. For a video, Save picture saves a still PNG.
Share image or Share file	Open the Apple share sheet. Available destinations depend on the apps installed and the file type.
Email	Open an Apple Mail draft with the card attached. If Mail is not set up, share to your preferred email app or attach the saved file there.
Print	Open the system print options with a still card, even when the preview is a video.

Send a finished card

Choose **Image** for one still picture, or **Video** to include movement and optional sound. The recipient's app controls playback and sound. If a chat app cannot prepare the attachment from the share sheet, use **Save…** to save the file to **Files**, then attach it from inside the chat.

Print and fold on A4

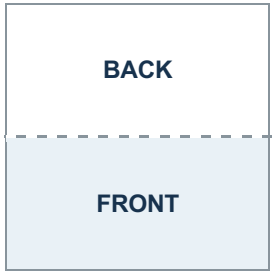
Card layout	Paper and fold	What goes where
Card with scene	Landscape A4 • vertical fold	Front on the right half. The "Made with …" credit is on the left half.
Text on scene	Portrait A4 • horizontal fold	Front on the lower half. The credit is upside down on the upper half so it reads correctly after folding.

In the print preview, check the paper size and front panel before printing. Print one-sided, then fold along the grey dashed line. The inside is blank for a handwritten note.

Card with scene



Text on scene



Design files and support

Save a design for later

The app automatically keeps your current design on the device. To keep a separate, editable copy, scroll to the bottom of **Card** and tap **Save design**. Save the JSON file in **Files**. Use **Open design** in the same tab to reopen it.

Opening another design replaces the current working design. Save a copy before switching if you want to keep both. A design file can contain your greeting, settings and imported photo. Send a PNG or MP4 when you want someone to see the finished card.

Find the version and support

Tap the **?** button beside the app name to see the app version and build and to find **Legal**, **Privacy** and **Manual**. If you contact support, include your iPhone or iPad model, system version, app build and the steps that led to the issue.

Email support | 3D Christmas Tree support

Troubleshooting

An ornament did not appear. Tap closer to a branch tip. Rotate the tree to make that branch easier to reach.

The view is too close. Tap the diagonal arrows to fit the editor view. To make the tree smaller in the finished card, select **Tree** and zoom out.

A demo background will not open. Extract the ZIP in Files first, then select an image from the extracted folder.

The card looks cut off. Scroll inside the preview. If it still looks wrong, check the saved file before sending.

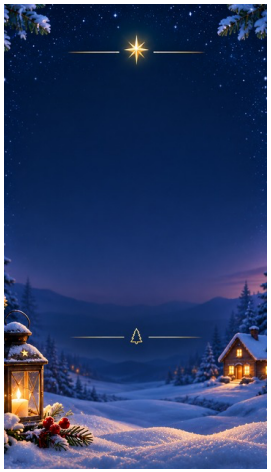
The video has no sound. Check that **Video** has a track selected, then check the preview sound control and your device volume.

Appendix A Card designs

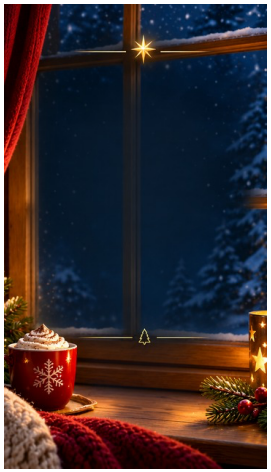
In **Card > Card with scene**, swipe sideways under **Card design** to select one of these eight portrait designs. The tree scene appears in a frame over the selected artwork.



Classic Green



Winter Night



Cozy Christmas



Aurora Lake



Snowman Sunrise



Santa's Sleigh



Christmas Village



Moonlit Forest

Appendix B Background gallery

The four built-in scene colours are **Forest**, **Winter night**, **Warm cream** and **Winter blue**. The demo ZIP contains the landscape images below. After extracting it in Files, use **Atmosphere > Choose from files** to select one.



Christmas Carol Singers



Christmas Tree Nostalgic Interior



Christmas Tree Snowy Landscape



Church and Nativity Scene



Modern Christmas Living Room



North Pole Polar Bears



Riverside Christmas Village



Rockefeller Center New York



Santa's Collection Kettle



Swiss Alps



Tropical Christmas Island

The extracted ZIP includes the artwork credits. See the Legal and Copyright Notice for use in finished cards.

Appendix C Music and languages

The **Card music** menu is available when **Video** is selected. The seven tracks are instrumental music-box recordings by ButtonBass, supplied under CC0 1.0. Choose **None** for a silent video.

In the menu	Tune
None	Silent video
Deck the Halls	Deck the Halls
Jingle Bells	Jingle Bells
Joy	Joy to the World
O Christmas Tree	O Christmas Tree
Of the Bells	Carol of the Bells
Silent Night	Silent Night
We Wish	We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Card languages

Nederlands, English (UK), English (US), Deutsch, Français, Español, Norsk (bokmål), Svenska, Dansk, Português (Portugal), Italiano and Polski. Choose **System language** to follow the app language. The numbered examples are available in each of the 12 languages.

Card typefaces

Choose **Lora**, **Nunito**, **Dancing Script** or **Lobster Two** separately for the title, message and sender. Lora is the default for the title, and Nunito is the default for the message and sender.

Appendix D English greeting examples

These are the **English (UK)** texts as shown in build 41. Tap minus or plus beside **Example** under **Message** to browse the matching numbers in the selected card language.

01 A touch of winter, a glimmer of light.
A new year of happiness shining bright.

02 Where stars shine and dreams awaken,
may the new year warm your heart.

03 A little warmth, a little light.
And a thousand lovely dreams on the horizon.

04 May Christmas fill the silence with light,
and the new year with wonders.

05 A star in the sky, a wish in the night.
May the new year bring all the joys you hope for.

06 Between starlight and winter dreams,
may the very best still be to come.

07 A Christmas full of little wonders,
a new year full of great happiness.

08 Where little lights dance in the night,
a new beginning quietly comes into sight.

09 A little sparkle, a little light.
And all the love your heart could wish for.

10 May Christmas bring you a gentle glow,
and the new year give wings to your dreams.

11 A touch of wonder, a spark of joy.
And beautiful moments throughout the coming year.

12 Beneath winter skies, bright with stars,
I wish you warmth and light through the night.

13 A little magic, a little snow.
And happiness wherever you go.

14 May every star that appears tonight
bring you lasting hope and dreams.

15 Softly the Christmas snowflakes fall,
carrying a thousand wishes for us all.

16 A Christmas full of wonder, a heart full of light.
And a thousand beautiful moments still to come.