

THE LEARNING CIRCLE

by Loren Woerpel, Noc Bay Trading Company

Yarn and embroidery floss can be used to decorate feather quills, dance wands, and any other round, cylinder shaped objects. A recent trend is for bustle makers to use several colors of yarn on each feather quill to form a design pattern when the bustle is complete.

Embroidery floss is a good material to use on small work like hair ties, single feathers hung from dance items, wall hangings and dance wands or sticks. The varied colors and shades open up a wide variety of design opportunities.

Craft or rug yarns can be used on items where you have to cover a rough surface and don't want the unevenness to show. There are more color shades, however, in the finer texture yarns, which can be used where the surface to be covered is fairly smooth.

There are a few tricks to know to make yarn or floss wrappings look their best, and to give you the design flexibility of multi-color wrappings.

To make sure that the wrappings stay in place, it works best to coat the item being wrapped with contact cement. Cover the area to be wrapped with a thin coating of the cement and let dry until it is tacky, before starting.

To start the wrapping, lay the first thread color in place and begin by covering the starting end as shown in Figure 1 and 2.

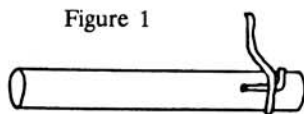


Figure 1

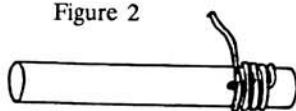


Figure 2

WRAP DESIGNS

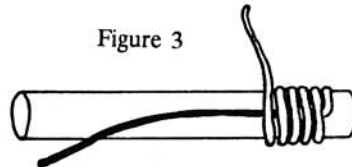


Figure 3

At least four wrappings before you plan to change colors, lay in the next color threads; on the underside of the object being wrapped, if there is an underside. The starting end needs to be covered, as shown in Figure 3, by the time you are ready to switch colors.

To switch the colors, cross over the new colored thread to be used next, and then lay it parallel as in Figure 4. Pick up the new color and begin to wrap in the same direction as the first wrappings as shown in Figure 5.

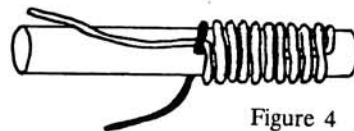


Figure 4

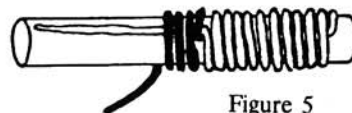


Figure 5



In the same way as shown in Figure 6, you can switch colors as you wrap along the object, as long as you go around the object at least once. As you finish using a color in the design, cut off that thread after it has been covered by 2 or 3 wrappings. Plan to cut off all of the threads except for the last color at least 3 wrappings before you are ready to tie the ending knots.

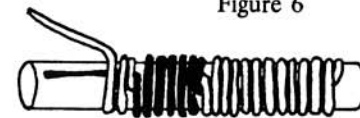


Figure 6

The last two wraps are used for the knots. They hold best if they are done where there is some contact cement on the surface of the item being wrapped. Sometimes we add a little cement with a toothpick in the knot as we make it. The knot is really just a cinch knot tied in the same direction as the wrapping, as shown in Figure 7. Pull it tight, preferably down into the cement, and then tie a second knot. Cut off the end close to the last knot. Dab a little contact cement on the end and press it down when tacky.

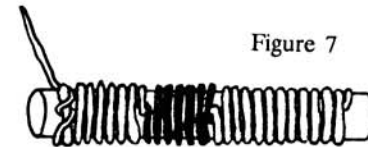


Figure 7

Practice with some simple wrapping designs using two colors, before getting fancy with a lot of colors.

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Noc Bay Trading Company
315 South 5th Street
Escanaba, MI 49829