



How To Make Twisted Cord

Learning to make twisted cord from embroidery floss or yarn is a great way to add a professional finished look to your needlework items such as scissors cases, needle books, decorative boxes and the list goes on and on. To begin, measure around the area you intend to cover with twisted cord and add three times the diameter to the measurement. Then determine the number of lengths you wish to use for the thickness of the finished twisted cord. Usually two, four or six lengths are used. You can purchase a drill for making twisted cord at your local needlework shop.

Sample Measurement:

The area you wish to cover on the sample project measures 30 inches. Take 30" x 3 which gives a total of 90 inches. For this sample we will use four lengths of DMC 6-ply floss. Take the 90 inches x 4 lengths, which equals 360 inches of floss needed for the sample measurement.

Cut four pieces of DMC 6-ply floss 90 inches long. Tie the 4 pieces of floss together at each end and place one end on the hook of the drill and the second end over a suction cup hook or small knob. I prefer the suction cup hook and they can be found at any fabric store or hobby shop. Once you have both ends on a hook, pull the floss taught and twist floss with the handle on the drill until the cord kinks slightly when the tension is released from the drill. At this point you might want a second person to assist you. Remove the drill from the end of the cord holding the cord taught as you continue. Place the hook that is on the end of the drill at the center of your cord, allowing the drill to hang on the center of the cord. Next, bring the two knotted ends together having someone hold the drill at the center while you tie all ends together with a knot. Hold the tied ends upward allowing the cord to twist back on itself. Once the cord finishes twisting, remove the drill. (Note: using the drill at the center of your cord provides a weight so the cord twists evenly.)

The twisted cord will now have a knot at one end and a loop at the opposite end. Begin attaching the cord starting with the loop end. Leave the loop unattached until the cord is attached all around. Blind stitch the cord to the edge of your piece by stitching through each dimple of the twisted cord. Use matching floss run through bees wax or sewing thread. Once the cord is almost attached and you can determine the amount needed to complete coverage, you will need to remove the knot at the end. To do this, thread a second needle with floss or sewing thread and stitch through the twisted cord above the knot several times in all directions to completely secure the twisted cord. Fasten off the securing thread and cut off the knot. When the cord meets end to end, tuck the cut end of the cord under the loop end and finish attaching to your piece. Always try to attach the twisted cord where the overlapped ends are least noticeable.

If you are working on a box lid or ornament where it is impossible to attach the cord with needle and thread, use quick drying craft glue suitable for fabrics. On some projects you can tuck the end where you removed the knot into a seam or between the front and back pieces if working on an ornament or pin cushion.

Hope you will find all sorts of uses for twisted cord. Enjoy!