

How to Make Cording For Your Needlework Smalls

Before beginning you will need:

- ❖ 1 skein of floss
- ❖ Choose one of the following: 1 hand held crank by Kreinik, 1 electrical crank from your local hardware store, your hand held electric mixer or a pencil. For myself, I prefer to twist my cording by hand.
- ❖ A choice of: 1 clamp or a knob on your kitchen cabinet, a dresser drawer.
- ❖ An extra pair of hands (family, friend or stitching buddy), last choice husband.

Next step:

The usual method when you make a cording is to measure three times the desired length. Measure around the piece and account for any loops (that are approximately 4 to 6 inches when making an ornament). Better safe than sorry, add a few extra inches, it's easier to cut off than to start over. ☺

- ❖ Cut however many strands of floss you want to achieve the desired thickness of the cord. I use 3 full strands of floss when finishing my ornaments.
- ❖ Fold the floss in half and make a strong tight knot with the cut ends.
- ❖ Place the folded end on the stationary object, knob, hook, pencil or family/friend.
- ❖ Step back far enough to allow the floss to be snug but not too tight.
- ❖ While twisting, you will feel the cord pulling toward the stationary hook or knob. Keep threads taut while continuing to twist, but do not pull tightly. If you allow the cording to sag it will cause the cording to knot. The knots will distort the look of the cording.
- ❖ With a helping hand, you can check the twist by grabbing the cording a few inches away from your hand and carefully allowing the cord to twist a short ways, but still keep the rest of the cording taut.
- ❖ Once the twisting is complete, with that helping hand again, start in the center of the cording. While keeping the rest of the cording taut, begin by twisting a small portion at a time all the way up until complete.
- ❖ Carefully remove the cording from the knob or hook and secure the complete cording in place by making an over hand knot.
- ❖ If needed carefully rub out small bumps with your hands towards the end of the cording.
- ❖ Do not be discouraged if you need to twist the cording again. Practice makes perfect.
- ❖ Congratulation, your cording is complete! Now you can attach it to your stitched piece.

Happy Stitching!