

Instructions for Making Your Own Custom Cording

Supplies needed:

1. Drill (hand drill or electric drill with reversible direction)
2. Size 4 ceiling hook (fits 1/4", 3/8" and 1/2" drills)
3. Three hand clamps for anchoring work to table (i.e., Quick-jaw 1" Spring Clamp)
4. Block of wood (approx. 1" by 2" by 6", with 1 1/2" cup hook attached)
5. Six-ply floss (six strands per length)
6. Cellophane tape

Each cord in the three-cord twist is made from four six-ply floss lengths. Each cord is twisted clockwise individually, and then the three are twisted together in the opposite direction. Color variations can be made within each four-unit cord.

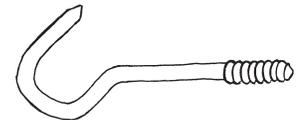
Personal note from Posy: The procedure may seem a little intimidating. I carefully tried to document the exact process so you can be successful. The custom-made cording is beautiful and makes your finished project very elegant. I recommend that you give it a try, because you will be able to use the cording in many other stitching projects as well. However, if you decide not to make the custom cording, use appropriately colored premade twisted cording that you can purchase from any craft supply store, such as Jo Ann's.

Step 0. Optional Practice

You might practice first with four six-ply floss lengths, maybe 12" long.

Step 1. Clamp the the block of wood with cup hook attached to your work table.

Step 2. Place the threaded end of the ceiling hook into the drill bit and tighten the chuck. The hook end should be facing out.



Step 3. Assemble the floss for each four-unit cord and tie a knot in each end. In general, the final cord length is half the initial floss length.

Step 4. Place the knotted end of one four-unit cord over the cup hook and the opposite end over the drill hook.

Step 5. Operate the drill to twist cord clockwise until the cord begins to pull away from you. When you start to feel this pulling, STOP TWISTING IMMEDIATELY so that you do not overtwist. Maintain tension on the cord and carefully remove the floss from the end on the drill. Clamp it to your work table, **leaving the other end in the cup hook**. Repeat for the second cord.

Step 6. Twist the third cord in the same manner. However, leave this cord on the drill. Maintain tension as you carefully unclamp the first and second cords and place their ends over the drill hook.

Step 7. Pulling the drill toward you to keep the cords taut, TWIST IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. When the cord begins to shorten or pull away from you, STOP THE DRILL.

Step 8. Continue to keep the twisted cord taut while wrapping cellophane tape around each end close to the knot. Remove the finished cord from the hooks and handstitch to your project.