

Making a Dreamcatcher

Materials Needed:

6 in. embroidery hoop (one hoop makes two finished dreamcatchers)
6 ft. embroidery cording or filament for the web
14 ft. lion chenille yarn for wrapping hoop
13 ½ ft. lion chenille yarn for decorating hoop (if using the fringe method - see below)
4 ft. lion chenille yarn decorating hoop (if using feather method - see below)
feathers
tape
pony beads (at least 3)
smaller beads in the following amounts and colors:
1 white
1 red
1 black
1 yellow
8 silver (or gold)

Step 1: Starting.

Cast on a series of 8 loops using the half-hitch knot (see illustration 1) evenly spaced around your hoop - just over every 2 inches. The thread should connect with the hoop at 9 different points, the last point being about an 1 inch from the your starting knot. I've found it helps to secure the loops in place by fastening the connecting points with a piece of tape. And if you use the outer half of the embroider hoop, decide before hand where you want the screw to be in the finished piece. I put mine at the top and make them part of the hanger - or at the bottom and hide them with the decorations.

Tension is important here, as you want to pull the loops snug, but not tight against the hoop. You don't want them really floppy either. The tension shown in the pictures is actually too loose for your dreamcatcher.

Step 2: Second Row.

Start your second row by bringing the thread down from the last point made on the hoop and make a half-hitch at the mid-point of your first loop in the beginning row (see illustration 2). Continue around the hoop in this manner until the second row is finished.

Step 3: Adding Beads.

Now we get to add the beads (illustration 3). Start the third row in the same manner as in Step 2. After making the first half-hitch string on three beads in the following order: silver, white, silver. Continue string beads on every other loop so the sequence is like this:

Loop 1: silver, white, silver
Loop 3: silver, yellow, silver
Loop 5: silver, red, silver
Loop 7: silver, black, silver

Step 4: Finishing Webbing.

Continue making rows around the hoop until you have the center hole the size you want. You may want to run the thread around the last row of loops a couple of extra times to give it a more finished look, weaving the thread around the half-hitches. When satisfied, make a small knot then move the thread over a half-hitch and make another knot. Put a small dab of glue on your knot if you wish. You're now done with the web-weaving! (See illustration 4.)

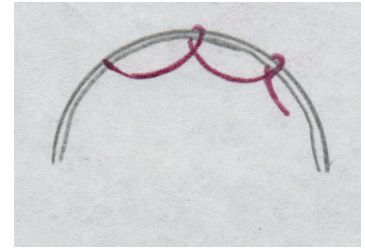


Illustration 1 - The Half-Hitch

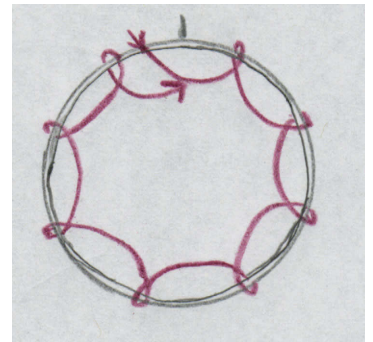


Illustration 2 - Starting 2nd Row

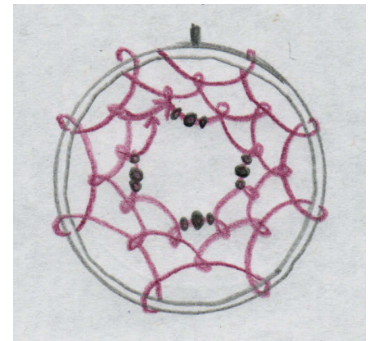


Illustration 3 - Adding Beads

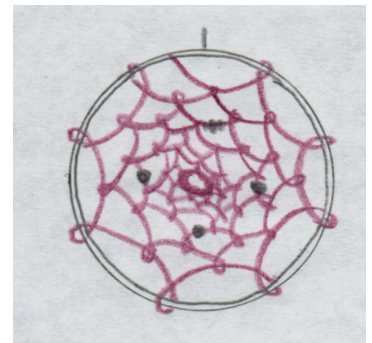


Illustration 4 - Finished Web