

Tutorial for Coiling on a Gourd

Grace Swanson • Sunday, October 4, 2020

Holes for coiling

Use needle shoe compass if you have one to mark off where holes will go. Use a ruler or marks on a piece of paper if you don't have one. About 1/2 inch apart and no less than 1/4 away from edge of rim of gourd.



Use an awl to make little starter holes for the (1/16 inch) drill bit to seat into. Don't try to use the awl to make the holes go all the way through since there is a chance you

will crack your gourd.

Don't try to make holes without the starter awl holes or the drill will probably skitter on your gourd.



Normally I drill the holes FIRST and then paint the inside, but this takes hours to dry so I have done it ahead of time for you. When you drill your holes you will expose the "white" of the gourd. A tiny dab of acrylic paint in each will fix this. Use your heat setter to dry those little bits of paint.

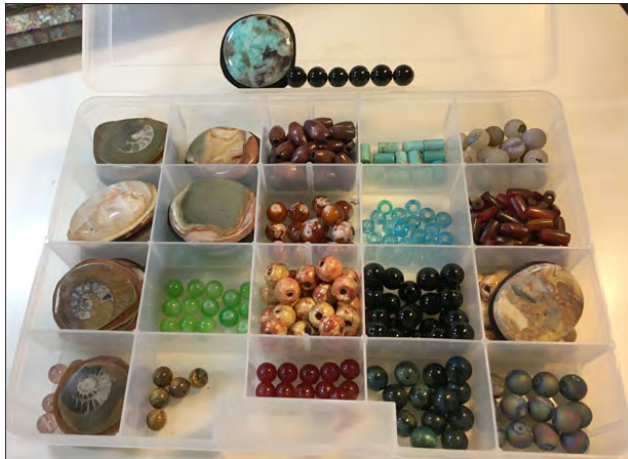
Dye the outside of gourd with color of your choice.

Use glove on right hand (if you are right handed).

Use small piece of felt pad to apply dye. It will be streaky. Use a paper towel to smooth out the dye and to remove excess dye.

Heat set. The dye is heat set when it is no longer shiny.

Spray with 2 coats of Krylon UV-Resistant acrylic. USE A VERY LIGHT FIRST COAT and let dry for 10 minutes. Add a very LIGHT second coat. You may need a third coat if your gourd is very dry. Keep the gourd moving for a few minutes after applying each coat to prevent runs.



Choose your stone for the center and between 5 and 7 beads for this project. Make SURE your needle **AND** thread can go through EACH bead **TWICE**. Sometimes beads are not consistent.

We are using 1.5 ounces of Montezuma pine needles (from the collection of Vickie Echols). I do not know of anywhere else to get Montezumas. You can use Canary Island (grow in California) and Long Leaf (which do not grow in California).

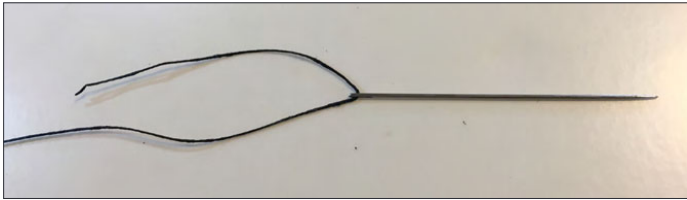
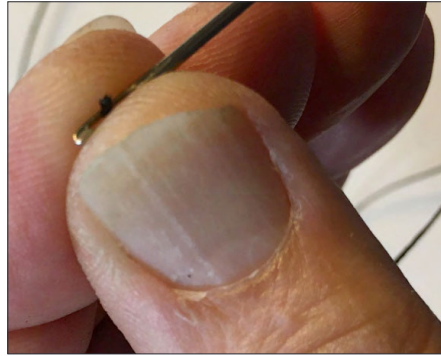
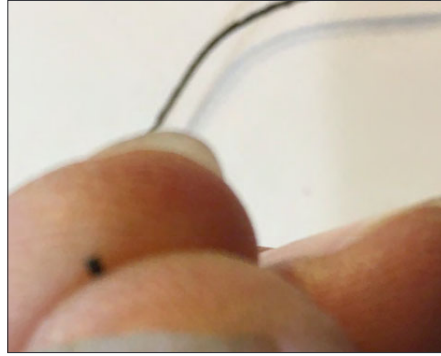
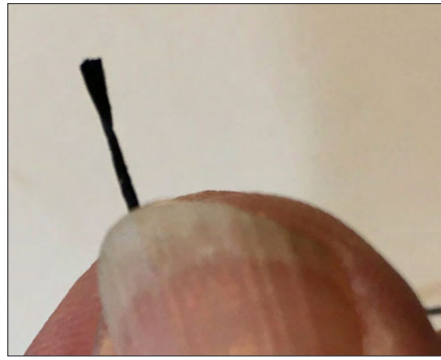
Go online to find the Long Leaf needles.
Try basket making suppliers.

Cut the whitish tips off about 10 needles ONLY. Not all of them. These we will use at the start.



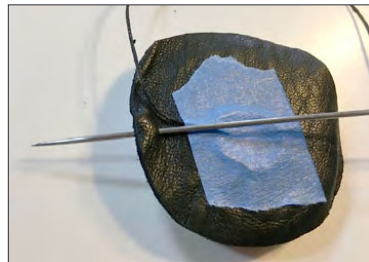
How to thread your needle easily

1. Flatten the thread (we are using 3-ply Crawford waxed Irish linen which can be ordered on line) with your finger nails.
2. Slide the thread down until just the tiniest piece sticks up between your thumb and forefinger.
3. Slide the needle down onto the thread.



Leave small tail instead of pulling the thread way down on the needle -- so you don't strip the wax off the thread.

Start the weaving on your stone



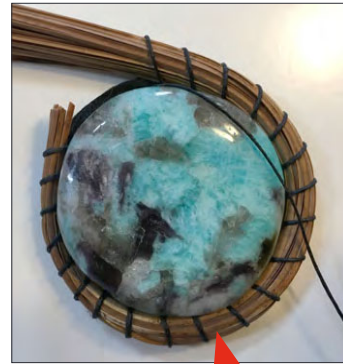
Make several loops in the thread and secure to the BACK of your stone (which has been glued to leather with E-6000) with a piece of blue tape.

Start your stitch from the BACK and come out the front.

Add the pine needles that you have cut the tips off of.

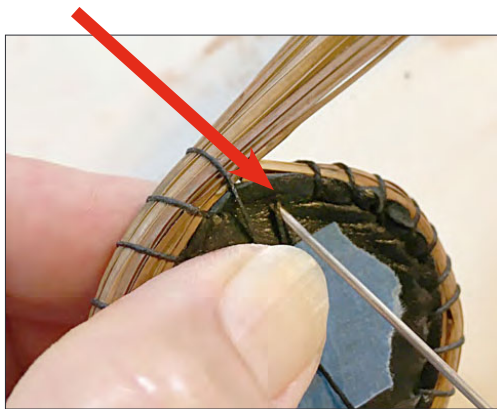
Tape the ends of the pine needles to keep them in place as you work.

When you get all the way around and back to the beginning of your weaving you will need to remove the tape.



This is called "the bundle"

You will need to add pine needles as you go along. This is an art — not a set formula. Try adding 3 needles each time to you take a stitch for the first few stitches. Add each pine needle by putting it into the CENTER of the bundle (or coil) and gently shoving them in as far as you can make them go. At the very beginning your bundle is very small so this is not easy. The needles tend to fall out as you try to make the next stitch. Just shove them in again. Aim for a bundle that is about the same diameter as a chop stick or the inside of a straw or a skinny pencil. There are gauges you can purchase or you can actually use a small piece of a plastic straw for a gauge if you need to.



When you get all the way around put your needle back into the FIRST hole where you started.

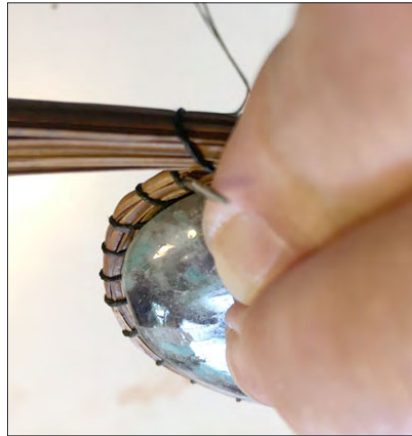
Second row

Enter from the back. Go to the RIGHT of the stitch as seen on the back and make sure

you come out on the RIGHT of the stitch as seen from the front. **THIS IS IMPORTANT.** If you don't do this stitch right, the coils will not hold together.



Back



Front

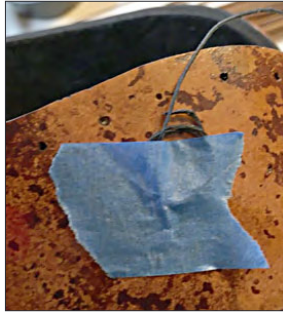
Use the second row to go over and cover up your first few stitches from the first row.

Stop here until you have woven on your gourd. You will need to see how the stone fits and whether you need to continue with any more rows (or not).



Coiling on the gourd

Wind up a little bit of the waxed Irish linen and secure it with blue tape. Start on the “shoulder” of the gourd.



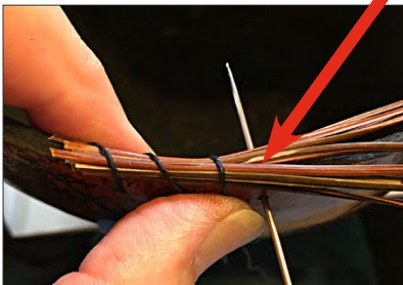
Make loop



Insert the pine needles with ends cut off



Add pine needles a few at a time, pushing them into the center of the bundle



By the time you reach here you need to have your bundle full



At the end of the first row go back into the first hole you have thread through




Then for the next stitches, push your needle through the RIGHT hand side of your next thread picking up all the coil.



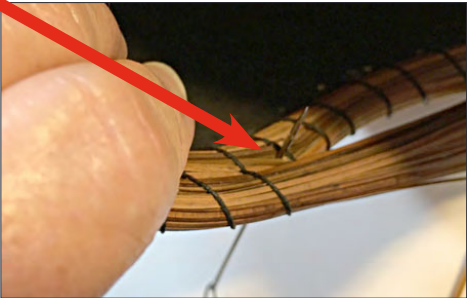
Make sure your needle comes out of the RIGHT side of that same stitch AS SEEN FROM THE INSIDE.

How to add thread when you run out


Bury the end of the thread you are running out of in the coil and trim off.



Make a knot in your new thread and trim off tail



Enter here

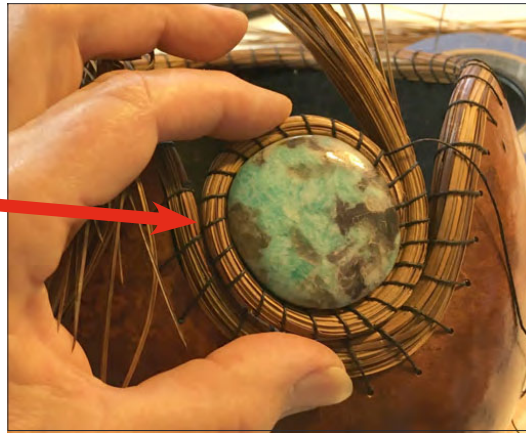


Make sure you come out here on the INSIDE. Note which side of the stitch you are to be on

Pull knot slowly and **GENTLY** into the bundle to hide it.



Use blue tape to get the pine needles out of your way



Check the fit of your insert and plan where to end your second row (at the red arrow).



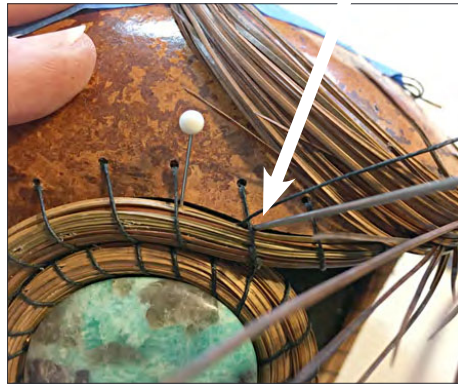
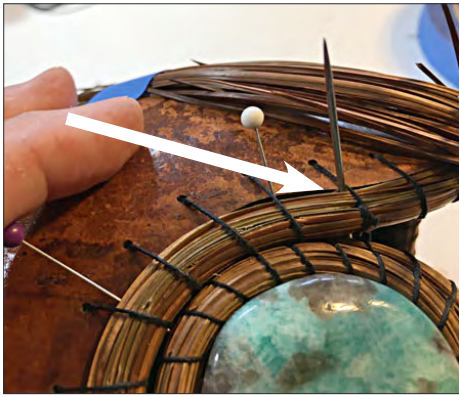
Pull second row gently to the back of the insert where you are ending that second row.



Trim off ends of pine needles and **KEEP THE ENDS YOU JUST CUT OFF** to use later.



Pin the insert into place



Sew the insert to the coil on the gourd.
 Come up between gourd and coil on ONE side of stitch, loop around that stitch and come down on the OPPOSITE side of the stitch to secure it.
 Do this all around where the insert coils touch the gourd coils.



Remove the blue tape to let the gourd coils go free.

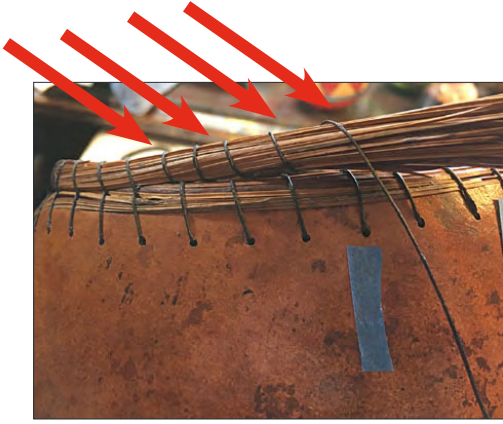


Decide where your beads will be attached. Mark those stitches with blue tape. You can skip one stitch or skip 2 stitches as seen in this sample.

Loop the Irish linen thread around the coils as many times as it takes to reach the top of your insert. Stitch at least 2 stitches at the top to secure it.

Again loop your thread around the bundle until you can attach to the other side.

Remember to keep adding pine needles so your coil does not get skimpy



After you have attached the second row and you are approaching where you are going to attach your first bead, loop the thread around the bundle several times until you are right ABOVE the stitch where you plan to add the bead.



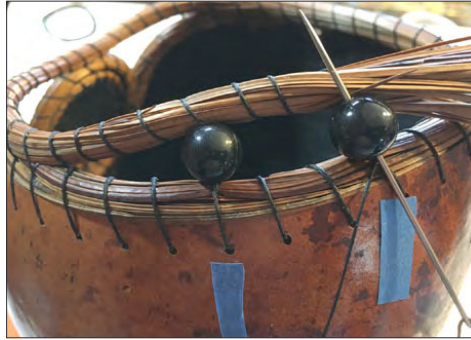
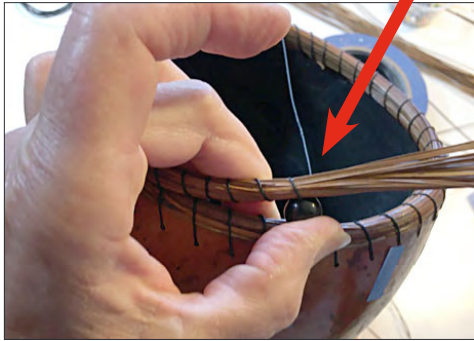
Put needle through bead and pull up tight entering the center of the first row's bundle on the RIGHT side of the stitch as you have done before.



AFTER you have sewn through the coil, bring thread to outside of gourd and go up (again) through the bead.



Remember to keep adding pine needles so your coil does not get skimpy



THIS IS IMPORTANT. This is where I have seen students mess up.

After you have come up through the bead (for the second time) bring the thread around the BACK of the coil.

Then come up over the TOP of the coil to loop a couple of times before adding your next bead.



Loop the thread around the coil enough times so you have enough to push the whole bundle through the first gap.

Pull needle and thread through first gap. GENTLY coax the bundle through the gap. Go slowly and ease them through so you don't break or bend your pine needles.

PLAN AHEAD. DO NOT RUN OUT OF THREAD DURING THIS LOOPING. It is really tedious to add thread in the middle of this long loop run. Add thread BEFORE you begin this step if necessary.

Remember to keep adding pine needles so your coil does not get skimpy

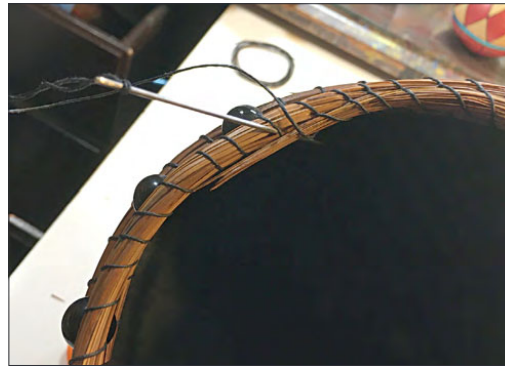
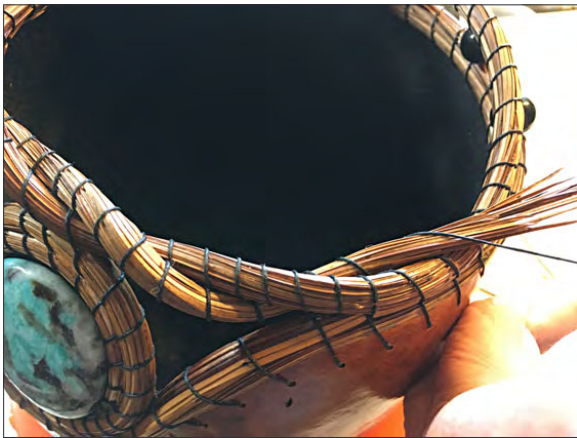


Clip coil in place while you figure out how much more you will need before you end.



You want to end your weaving with all the ends being pointy and not just whacked off blunt.

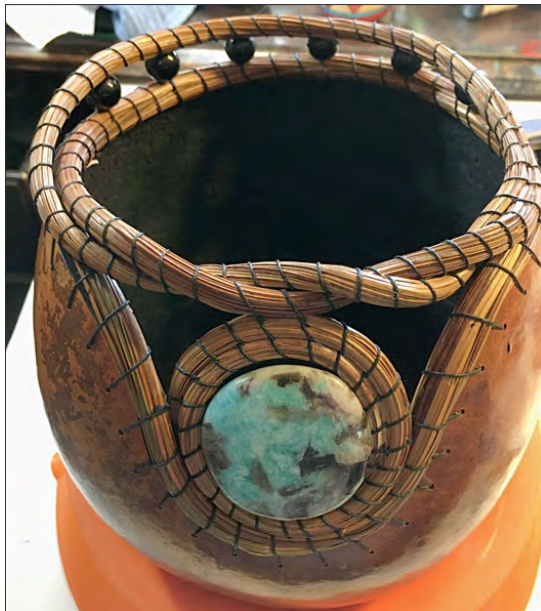
To do this choose the pine needle that will be at the end of your project. Any needles that are longer than this one(s) can be cut off shorter and then used as you finish up. Don't cut all the needles (the ones that are too long) in the same place. Stagger your cuttings.



You should have fewer and fewer pine needles at the end so you can taper off. Try to tuck this finishing row a little inside the row you are attaching to instead of right on top. Makes a better look. When you get to the last stitch, bury your thread anywhere in the coils and cut off.



Re-thread your needle and thread it into that first tail that you taped to the gourd where you began. Go back through the hole and then bury the end securely anywhere inside the coil and cut off.



Gently heat set your pine needle coils to melt in any bits of wax. Check for any ends sticking out., Sign the bottom of your artwork and you are DONE.