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The Wirral Ship Fellowship – Wirral Vikings

# Woven Fishing net

Construction of a weaved fishing net  
using netting needle and net a gauge

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**This guide will show you how to weave a fishing net using a net gauge and fishing needle.**

This is a guide to show one way to weave a fishing net. There are other ways to do it but we find this is a good, easy to understand guide.

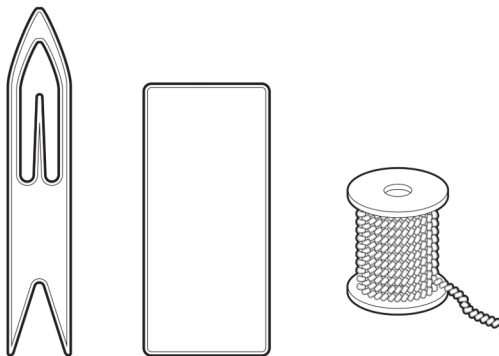
## contents

To make your fishing net you will need:

- Cordage, string or Jute.
- A net size gauge
- A weaving needle

## net components

This is a breakdown of the elements you will need



## cordage

The material you use to make your net will depend upon the authenticity you wish to portray with your net.

The usual advice we suggest is to start making your initial nets with cheap, cost effective cordage. You will make mistakes to begin with so don't use to best cordage.

Jute is a good substitute for traditional cordage and can be obtained easily from hardware stores.

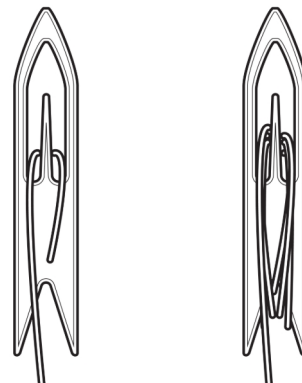
## net gauge

Your net gauge is a smooth flat piece of wood.

The gauge is used to measure each section of the net. The height of the nets sections is measured using the gauge. The gauge height when doubled makes the full section of each net loop.

## weaving needle

The weaving needle holds your cordage when you make your net.



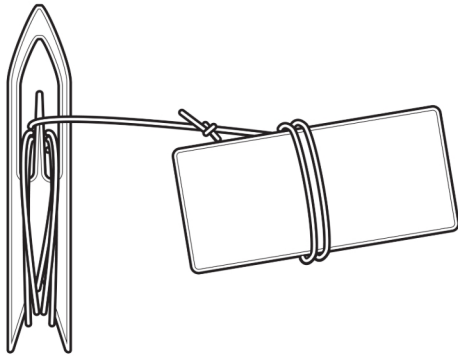
The cordage is wrapped around the netting needle. With each wrap, turn the needle over and wrap the cordage over the top pin and down underneath the needle as you turn it round again and up over the pin.

The needle and cordage has to fit through some small areas so don't wrap too much cordage round the needle. You will have to restock this needle a few times depending upon how large you want to make your net.

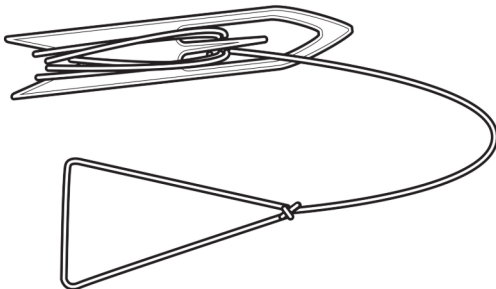
# making your net

To begin making your net you need to make an initial loop for your net.

Wrap the cordage over your netting gauge once and then twice. Then tie it off to make your initial loop.



This initial loop is what we use to start the fishing net.

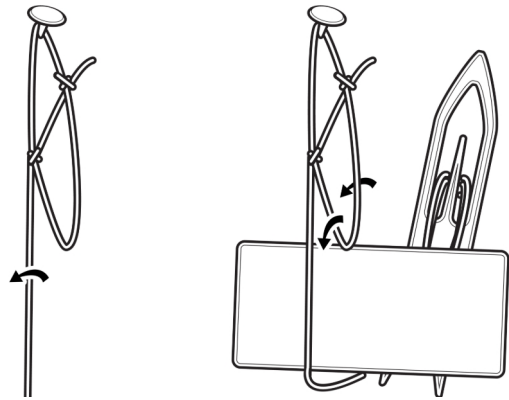


Turn the loop around so the knot is pointing to the left. In this demonstration the net is woven right handed. Secure the top of the loop with a nail or metal loop.

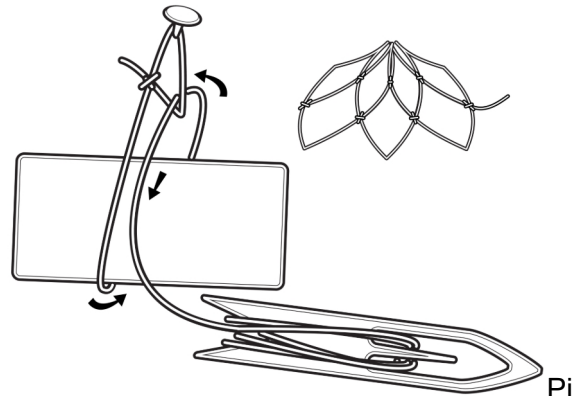
A karabiner is good to use if you are not on the wic and making a net at home. It allows the loops to be turned easily.



Place the net gauge Under your cordage then take the needle underneath the gauge and up through the first loop.

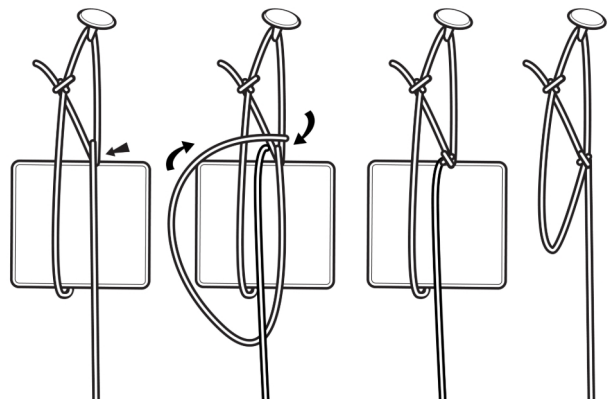


Pull down gently and then pinch the cordage and the top of the board.



Pinch the cordage and the top of the gauge, you then make a loop of the cordage up and over your left hand in a circle motion. Take the needle round the back of the first two cords and then up between those the furthest to the left and pull down gently.

The cordage at this point will close and form a knot. Make sure the knot holds the cordage tightly otherwise it could form a slip knot and the cordage could pull through.



This diagram shows the stages in one illustration.

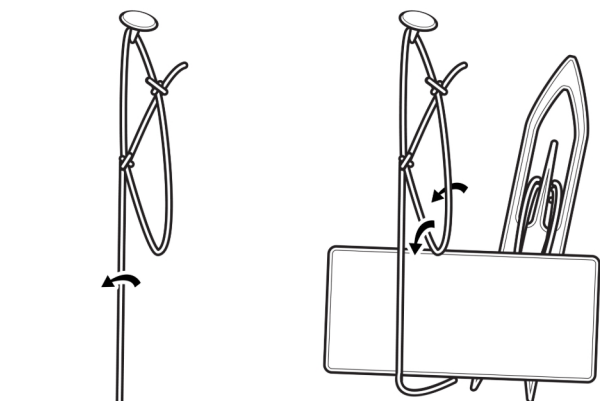
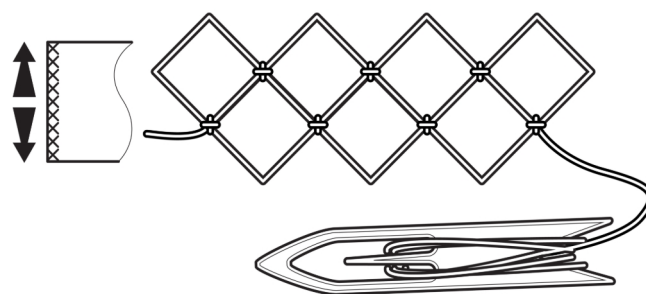
## making the net length

At the moment you are making a series of loops with the cordage. These will eventually be the side of the net. When you have made the length you want for your net remove it from the holding nail and spread it out on the floor or table like in the diagram below.

You have been making the net length at the moment.

Take you net and spread it out on the table or floor. We are now going to gather the top loops together. This may be quite tricky until you get the hang of it.

Once the new knot is made remove the gauge and you will see you now have made a new loop. We will continue this process to make a series of loops that will become the nets side.



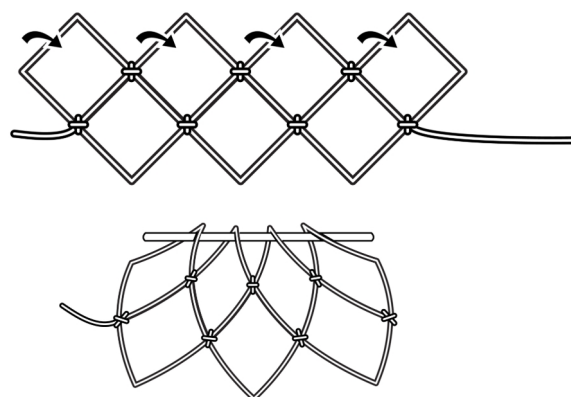
Turn the cordage over so you can make a new loop below. Add the gauge and take the cordage over the top of the gauge, then underneath and through the loop.

Collecting these loops on a pencil or a small dowel might help during this process. These loops will be tied with another small piece of cordage to secure these loops.

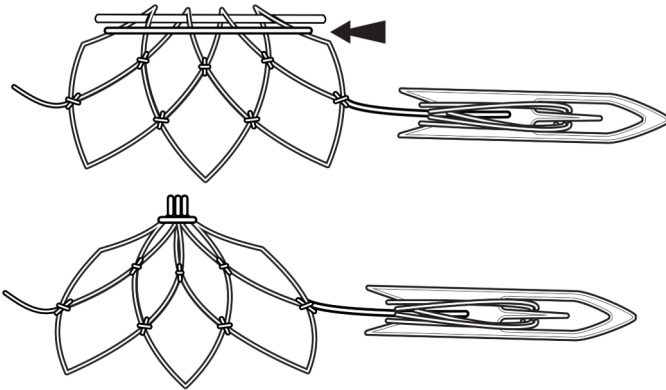
Pinch the cordage at the top of the gauge, loop over your hand and under the first two cords and then up between these two and the next to cord to the left. Pull gently to form a knot and you have made another loop.

We need to make sure that when secured the knots below are all in line with each other.

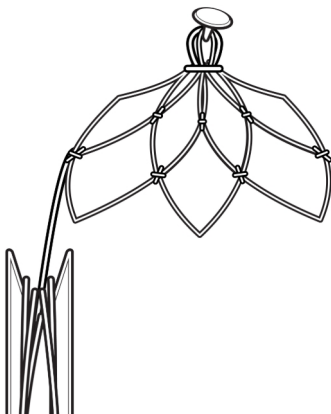
Remove the gauge and turn the cordage ready to start again.



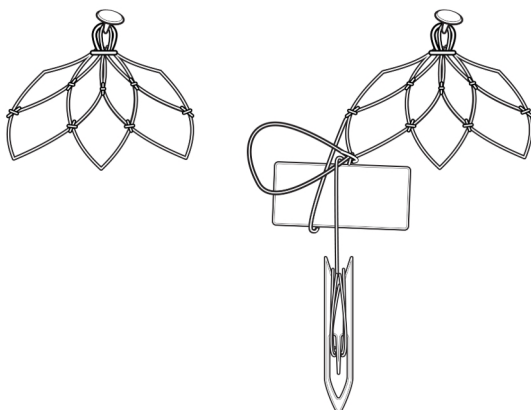
The arrow is pointing to the location where you tie the restrictor knot to keep the loops together. The loops at the top can then be used on the nail to hold the net in place.



The restrictor knot is just used to hold the top part of the net together at the same distance so the knots of the next line down underneath all line up together.



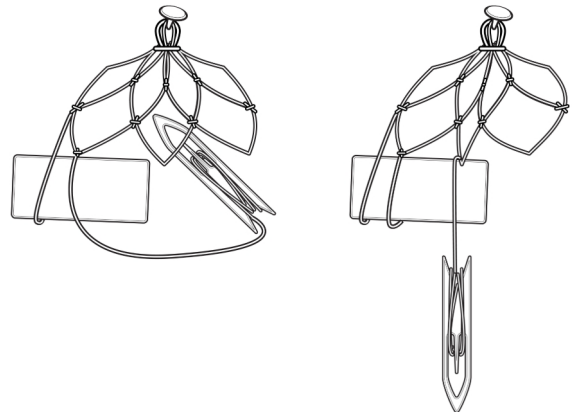
We then turn over the net so the netting needle is on the left hand side. Select the first loop next to your netting needle and begin to weave the same way you did when you started to make the initial lengths of net.



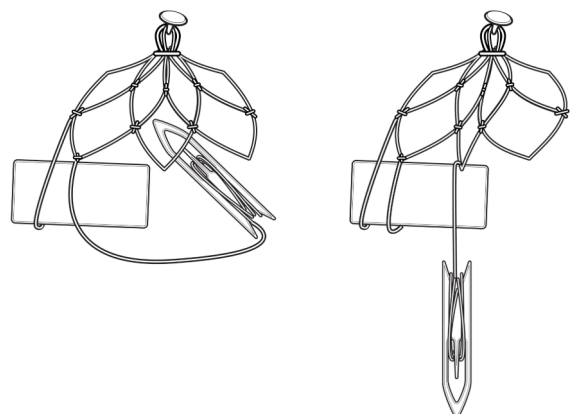
You are making new loops using your netting gauge, taking the cordage round and under the gauge, through the loop and down over the gauge.

Pinch the cord and the nettle needle as you have done before. Make a loop over your left hand and take the needle under the first two cords and then up between the second and third. Pull the cord down creating a knot and making a new loop.

This time do not remove the loop off the gauge. We will keep the loops on the gauge and then take the next loop along and repeat the process.

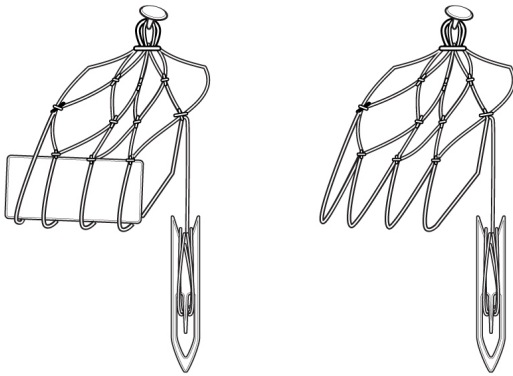


We carry on with the next loop and start the process again to create a new loop.



Once this is created move along to the next loop. Once you get to the end of all the loop you can remove the net gauge. You will now see you have created a new low of loops.

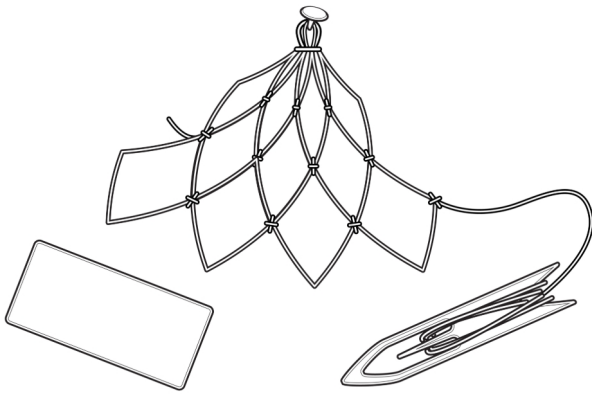
Turn the net over so the needle is on the left hand side again and begin making a new row of loops.



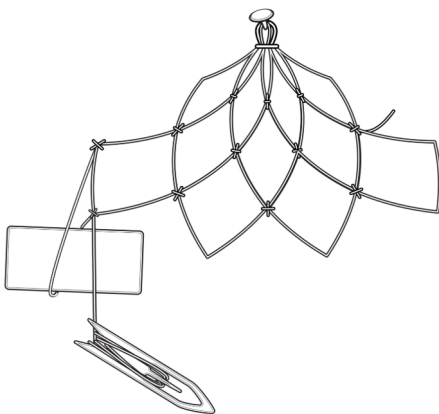
If your netting needle runs out of cordage, wind a new string around and then tie the end of the cordage on the netting needle to the trailing end of your net.

Then you carry on from where you were up to.

You are beginning to make the length of the fishing net by adding more and more lines of loops.



Keep going using the same process to add more and more rows. The more you add the longer your net will be.



The size of your loops will depend upon the width of the netting gauge.

A small gauge will create smaller loops and a larger, large loops. It is always a good idea to create a series of gauges depending upon the net size you want to create.