

# TUTORIAL CIRCULAR WEAVING WITH T-SHIRT THREAD

In this tutorial I will show you how to weave in a circular pattern with recycled T-shirt yarn. I made a trivet for under your pots but you can also make coasters, place mats or even floor mats!

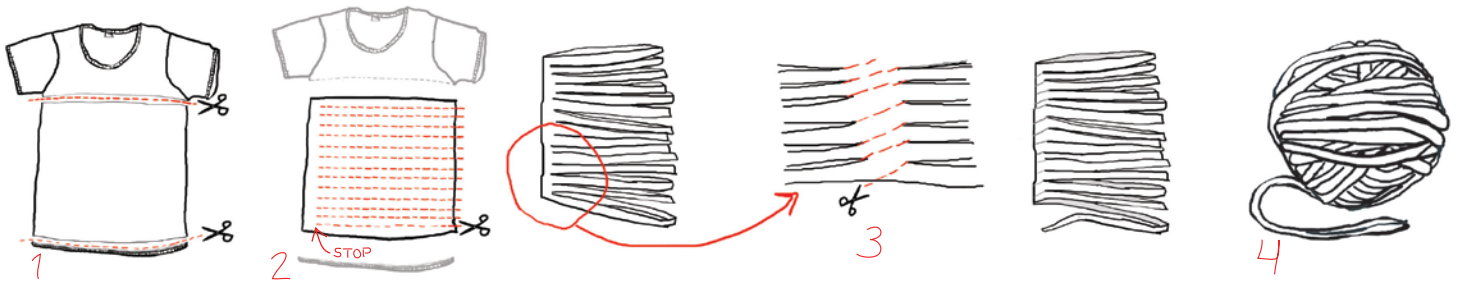
## Materials:

Paper plate or cardboard  
A pair of scissors  
Pencil  
Cotton or wool thread  
Needle  
T-shirt yarn  
Ruler



## 1

### Making the T-shirt Yarn



- 1- Cut off the seam at the bottom of the t-shirt and cut the t-shirt just below the armpits.
- 2- Cut strips between 2cm and 3cm wide maximum, stopping at 3 or 4 cm from the edge as shown in the picture.
- 3- Place the t-shirt flat on the sides and cut IN DIAGONAL so that the strips connect between each other.
- 4- Stretch the resulting strip so that it rolls up and become easier to work with afterwards.

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# 2

## Making the Disc (Loom)

I like using a paper plate because the divisions for the notches are already made and because of the space you have between the threads and the plate while weaving, but you can as well use a piece of cardboard for this (\*).



The plates have an even amount of marks around it, but for one of the stitches I will show you we need an odd number of notches. So first mark all the cuts with a pencil (here I used halve of the marks =24) and then add one by dividing the space for 2 into 3.

Then cut out all the 25 notches about 1cm deep.

Mark the centre of the circle so the weaving stays centred too.

(\*) For making it on a cardboard use a round surface to mark the circle, divide your circle into 32 parts using your ruler and pencil. It's easiest to start by splitting the circle into quarters, then splitting those into eighths, and so on. Then you can add the odd one as explained before if needed.

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# 3

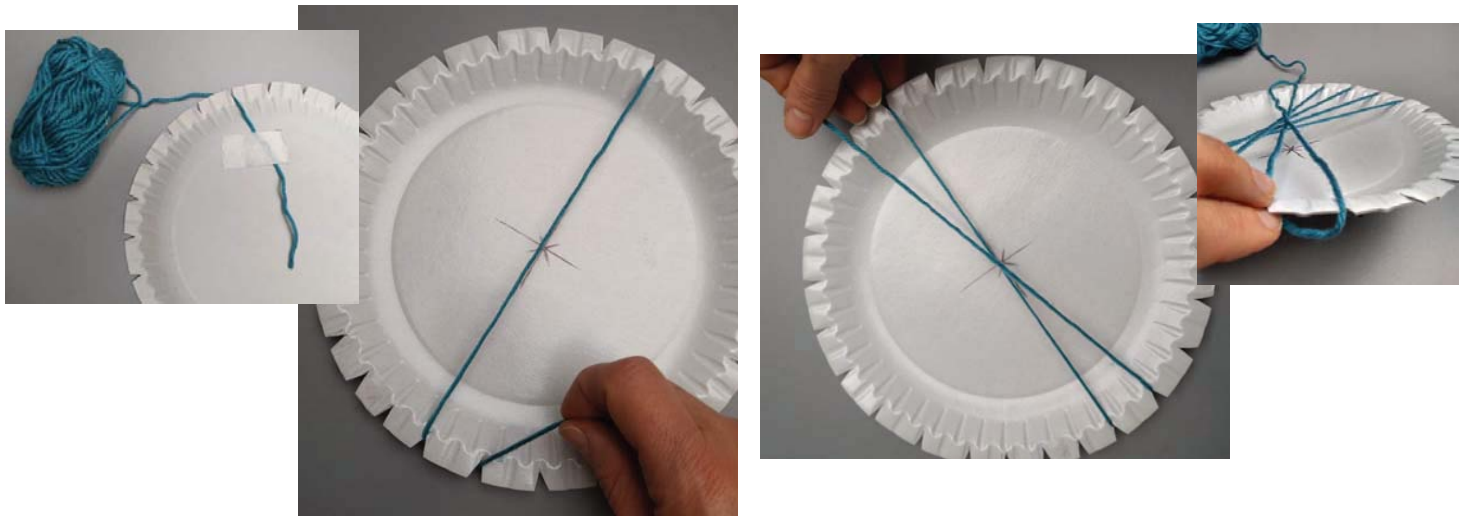
## Preparing the Warp

The warp thread must be strong, I chose a scrap yarn but cotton thread is quite nice as well and you can double it if you want more firmness.

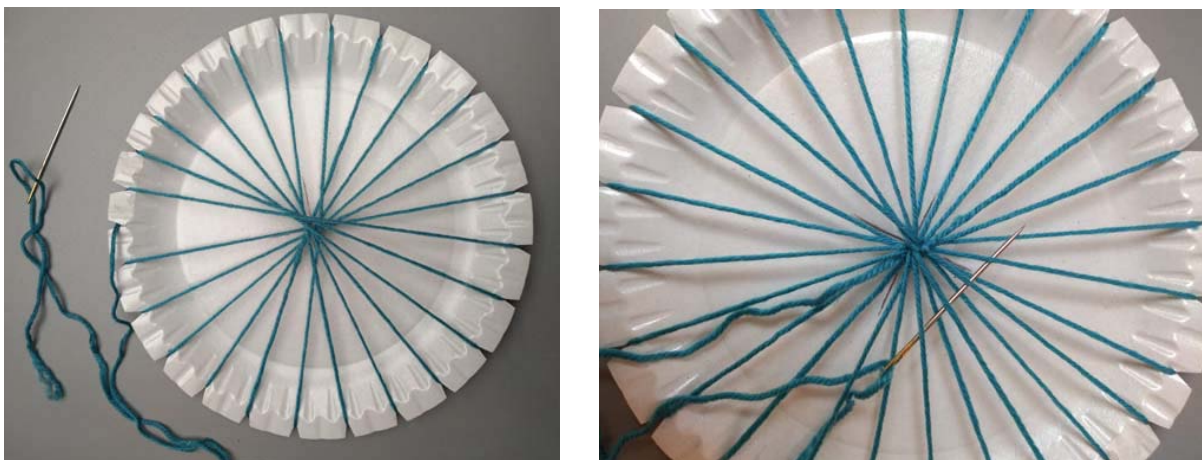
Start by taping the end of the thread to the back of the plate and wedge it in one of the notches, then pass it to the opposite notch in front of the disc.

Go to the notch next to it from behind the plate and continue doing this by always going to the notch opposite passing through the centre of the work.

Do this until the last notch so you end up with threads stretched on one side of the disc



So I still have a notch where the thread is free, I cut a certain length (about 80cm) that I will use to start weaving with a long needle or a cardboard needle if you don't have one. Pass the thread around the centre point to solidify your warp and tighten the centre of the weave.



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# 4

## Weaving

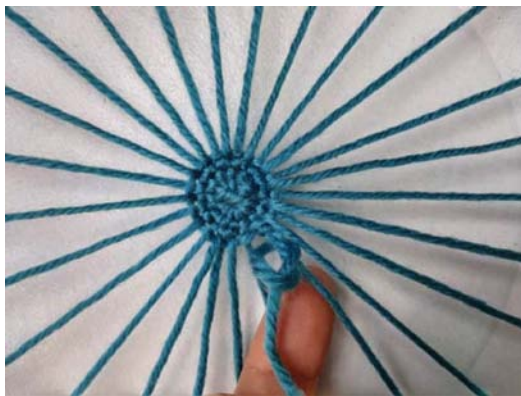
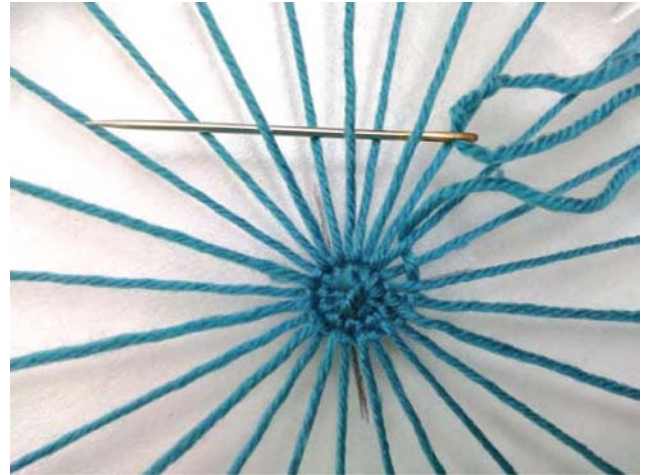
We will start the weaving with the simpler technique and with the same thread of the warp to make a sturdy centre.

### #1 Classic Weave

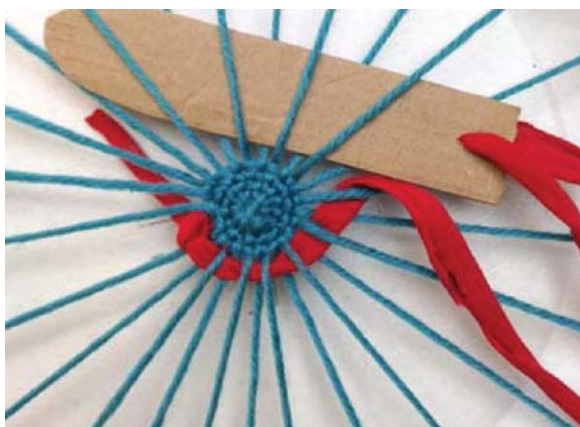
To weave, pass the needle under the first neighbouring thread, then over the next one, under the third, over the fourth and so on until making a complete turn.

Adjust the tension regularly by pulling on your thread and continue this way on several turns, remember to pull on your thread from time to time to pack the weft thread well.

Note that it is important to pull it firm at the beginning, but as the circle grows you will need to leave the thread a bit loose so that your weave doesn't curve up but stays evenly flat when taken off the loom.



To change from the first thread to the t-shirt yarn, I simply tie a knot of each end to the warp and I continue by always passing over/under my warp threads.



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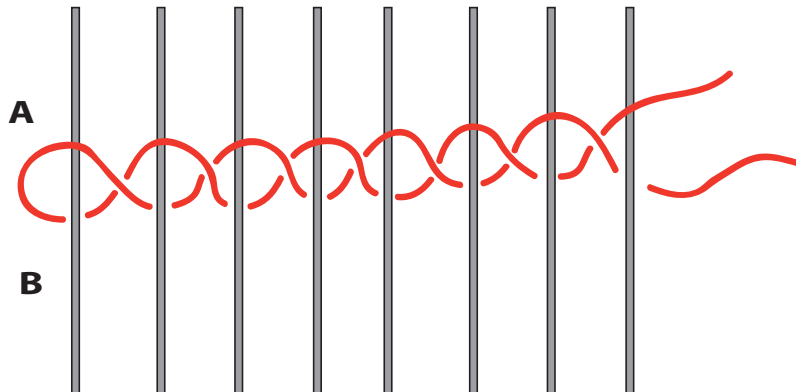
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## #2 Twining Weave

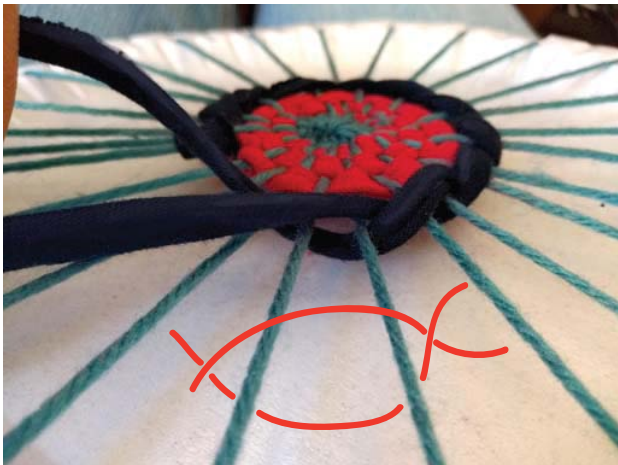
The basic principle of this weave is to use 2 threads A and B.

- Thread A starts at the top and B at the bottom.
- A goes over the warp B goes under the warp and then they cross
- B at the top goes over the warp and A at the bottom goes under it
- They cross and you just keep on the same pattern



If you start this technique a bit to close to the centre:

You can weave over and under every TWO warp threads for the first few rounds then every ONE thread for the rest.



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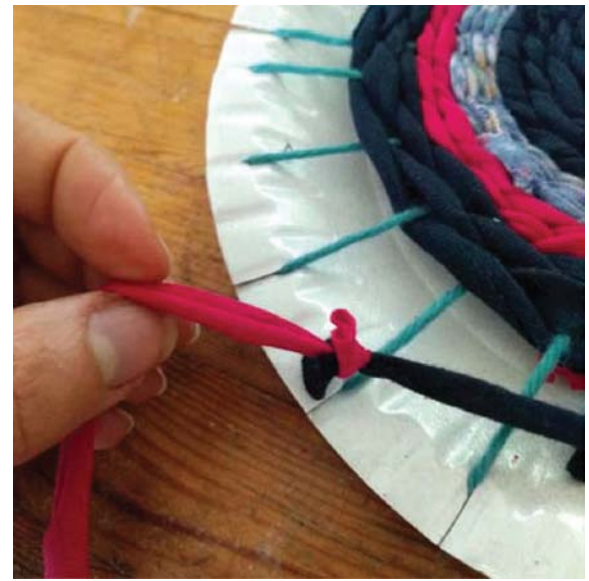
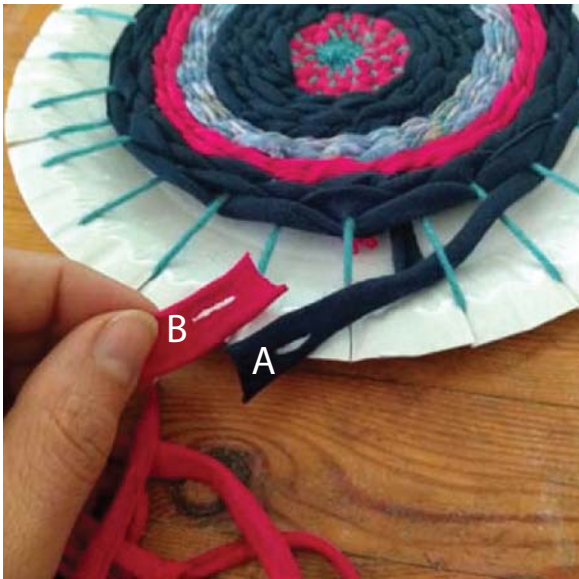
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# 5

## Joining T-shirt Threads

As you weave, you will need to join the yarn. Cut an opening on each end, and pull it through as shown in the pictures below.



- Cut a small slit in the ends of each strip.
- Feed the new strip (A) into the hole at the end of the other (B).
- Take the other end of the strip A and feed it through the slit on the strip B.
- Pull on the new end to tighten the knot.
- Smooth or trim extra material if needed.

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## 6 Finishing

Finally, I leave a little margin so that I can remove the warp threads from the disc. Make a knot with the final thread(s) onto a warp thread, cut the ends and tuck them into the back of the weaving. Remove the warp threads from the notches and tie a knot so that the work doesn't get loose. Then it's up to you, either cut the threads or tie them together at the back, or use them to tie fringes.



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