



Preparing the Needles

1. Place the pine needles in a container and pour boiling water over them, submerging them from cap to end. Allow the needles to soak for 30 minutes and then drain them well.
2. Remove the caps from the clusters by pulling them off with your fingers or scraping them off with the dull edge of a knife or the outer edge of a scissors blade. (Pull the blade up the sheath towards the caps.) Most of the needles will remain in clusters even with their caps removed, but save any needles that separate from their partners. Although clusters are

Taking Breaks

Towel-wrapped, soaked pine needles will remain workable for several days. If you need to set aside your project for a week or more, either put the damp needles in a plastic bag and place the bag in the freezer, or re-soak the needles for a few minutes before resuming. Don't let them soak too long, as a basket made with waterlogged needles will shrink after your project is stitched together, and the project coils will be loose.

stronger and will fill your gauge faster, you can use individual needles during the early stages of making your basket or whenever you need to add only one or two needles to your coil.

3. Wrap the de-capped needles in the towel to keep them soft and flexible as you work.

Making the Thread-wrapped Center

4. Cut a length of thread about 1.5 yards (1.4m) long. Using the knot shown in Figure 1, (below) tie three de-capped clusters together tightly just below the area that was covered by

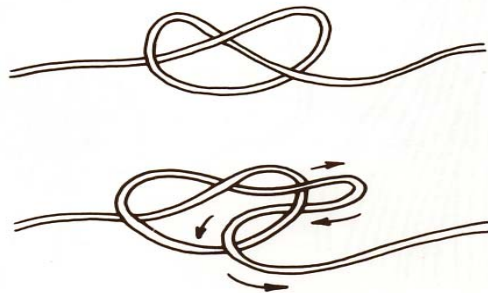


Figure 1