

8. To make the wrapped section more flexible, work it a bit by bending it, a little at a time. Then fold it into thirds to form a small oval (see Figure 4). The thread should now emerge from the front surface, and the loose pine needles should be to your left. (In fact, the loose pine needles should always face to the left as you work.)

Shaping Your Basket

The shape of your basket depends in part on the shape of its center. To make an oval tray, for example, you'd fold the initial coil to form an elongated oval.

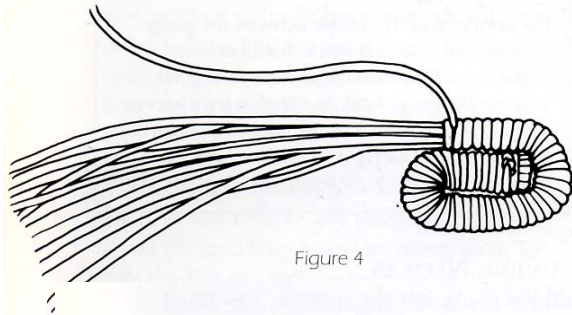


Figure 4

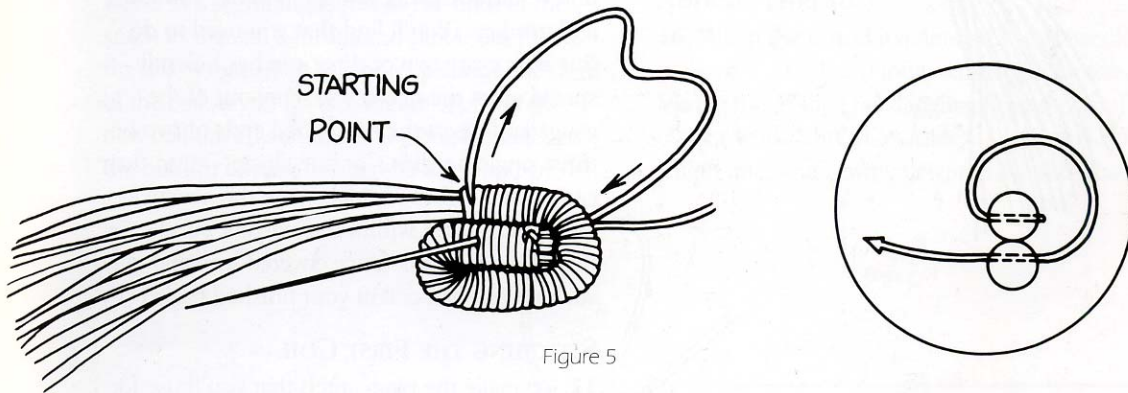


Figure 5

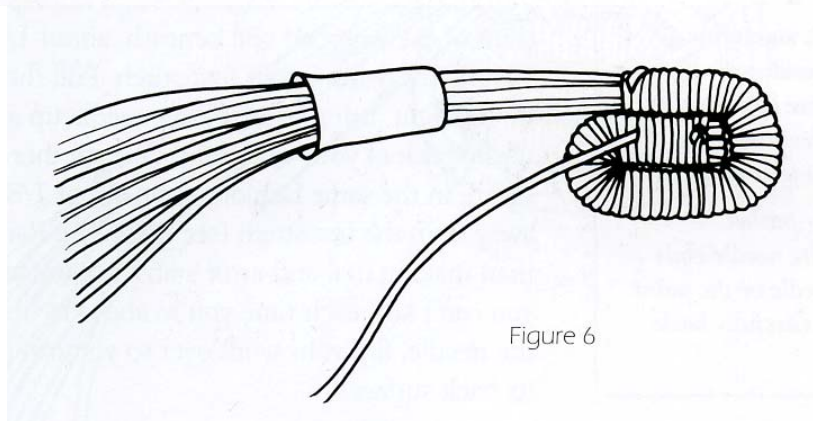


Figure 6

The first full stitch, which you're about to take, is called the "starting point." This is a very important location on your basket because you'll make all stitch and shaping changes (and end your basket) on an imaginary line that runs out from it. To take this stitch, bring the sewing needle up and around to the back of the pine needle bundle that rests on the wrapped section. Insert the needle, from the back of your work, through the upper third of the wrapped coil beneath, as shown in Figure 5. (From this point on, you'll always insert the needle from the back of your work and pull it out from the front.)

9. Pass the loose ends of the pine needles through the narrow end of the gauge and out its flared end (see Figure 6).