

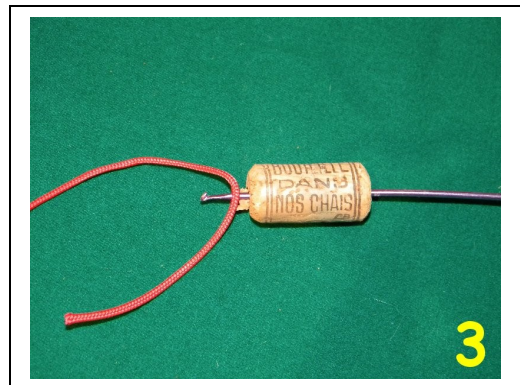
### How to make a Miniature Wine Cork Fender

In this tutorial I want to show you how to make a miniature wine cork fender which can be used as a floating key ring. A list of all needed materials can be found at the end of this tutorial.

1. Take an ordinary wine cork and with a very sharp knife make a beveled edge at both ends (1).



Then with a sharp awl make a hole in the middle of the cork (length wise) so you will be able to pull a doubled piece of cord through the cork (2). A crochet hook is used for pulling through the cord (3).



- Now cut off the two loose ends at the bottom of the cork and melt them by using a heated knife (5). The end result of this is shown in picture 6.

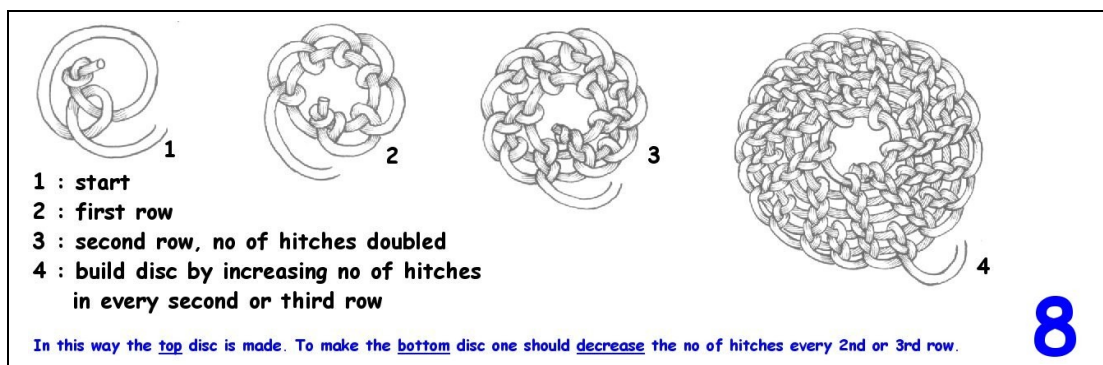


- Take a piece of cord approximately 6 meters (18') long and 1 mm (0.04") thick and reeve this through the eye of a needle. Stick the needle in the side of the cork and let it come out at the top as shown in picture 7. Pull the cord completely through until only 2.5 cm (1 inch) is left.



- So far the preparations of the cork. Now we can start the half hitching.

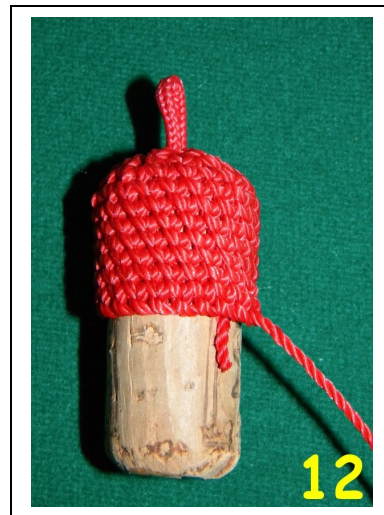
First of all the top side of the cork is going to be covered with half hitches. These hitches will form the shape of a disk. Take a look at the drawings (8) to get an idea of how this disc like shape is build up.



5. In picture **9** and **10** you can see the building up of the top covering of the cork.



Keep on increasing the size of the disc until you reach the beveled edge of the cork. The hitches will follow the beveled edge in a more or less natural way. Continue making half hitches to cover the cylindrical form of the cork. The number of hitches stays the same now in every tour you make (**11** & **12**).



**IMPORTANT :** When making half hitches don't pull too hard. You need to leave some room for the next row of hitches. Pulling too hard will also distort the work leaving you with unequally tensioned hitches, which in their turn, will result in a dented surface.



### What to do when you run out of cord !?

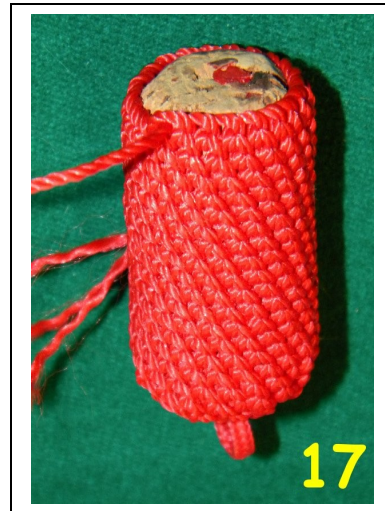
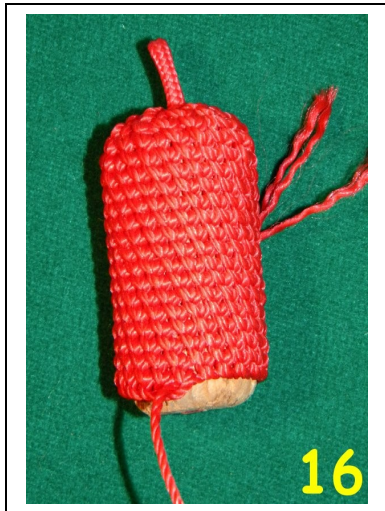
First make a half hitch as before but make sure you keep the working end of the cord under the loop you just formed (**13**). Now we need to insert a new piece of cord so we can continue hitching. The insertion is shown in a different colour (white) only for the sake of clearness. With a needle reeve the cord underneath a couple of rows of hitches and let the cord come out in the last hitch you made. See picture **14**.



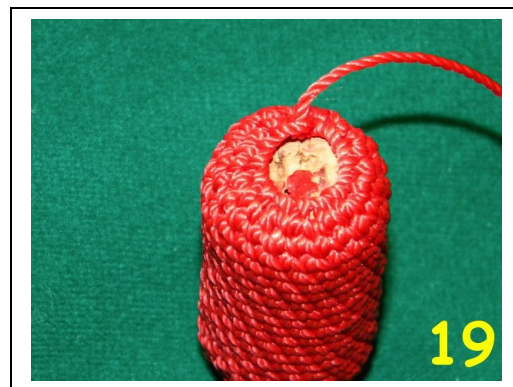
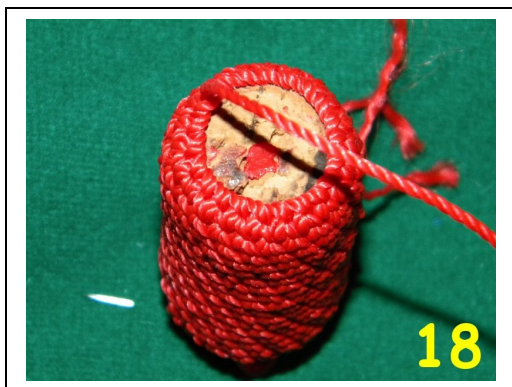
Close the last half hitch by pulling on the red cord. Now the hitching can be continued as before (**15**).



6. Just continue making half hitches until you reach the beveled edge (**16**). Now continue half hitching until the hitches are going over the beveled edge (**17**).



7. The last part is covering the bottom of the cork. Again a number of half hitches will form a disc like shape. The only difference in the process is that we need to **decrease** the number of hitches instead of increasing them as we did while covering the top of the cork. Decreasing the number of hitches can be done by either making one hitch through two hitches at regular intervals or by simply skipping hitches at regular intervals. The latter is by far the easiest way. See pictures **18**, **19** and **20**.

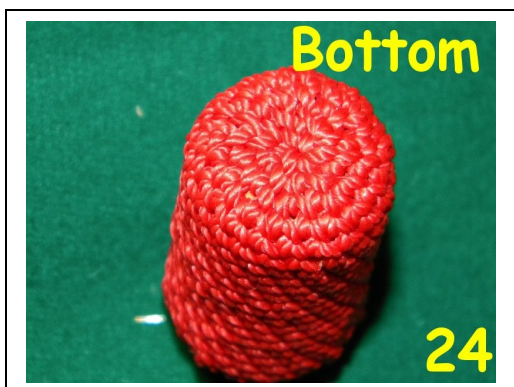
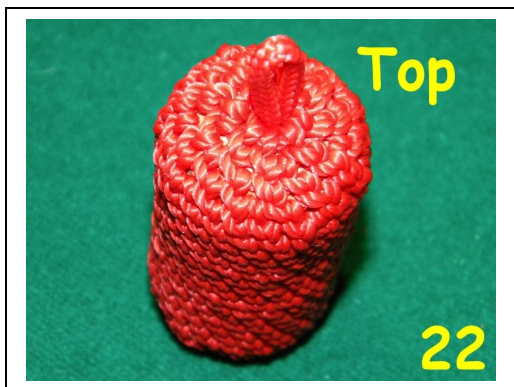




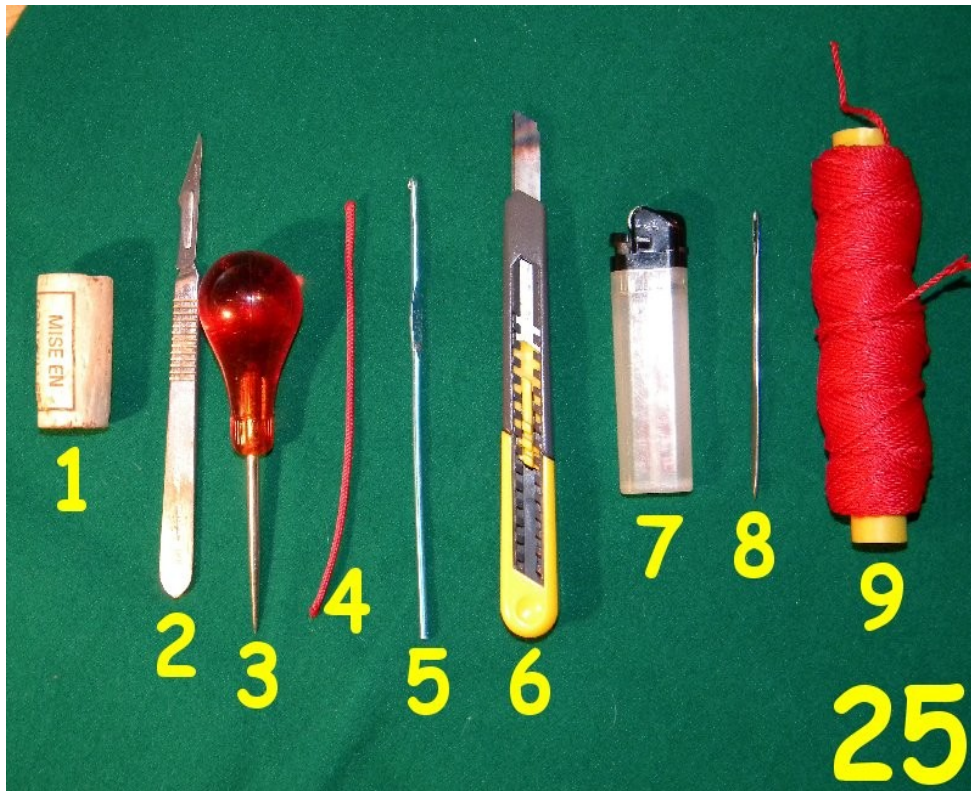
Make a few more hitches until only a small hole is left. To finish off the hitching stick the needle in this hole, through the cork, and let the cord come out at the side of the cork. Pull tight, trim cord and work the end under the hitches by using an awl (21).



8. Pictures 22, 23 and 24 show what the finished cork fender looks like.



### List of materials



1. Wine cork.
2. Sharp knife for beveling the edges.
3. Sharp awl.
4. Piece of cord.
5. Crochet hook.
6. Knife that can be heated to melt the cord.
7. Lighter, used for heating the knife.
8. Needle
9. Cord. (1mm or 0.04")