



IDENTITY LEATHER CRAFT

for people who make, mend or adapt things out of leather



Making A Dream Catcher

Origin of The Dream Catcher – this makes for an excellent read on the origins of the dream catcher and will explain the materials used and their significance.

<http://www.nativetech.org/dreamcat/dreamcat.html>

Dream catchers are one of the most fascinating traditions of Native Americans. They are intended to protect the sleeping individual from negative dreams, while letting positive dreams through. The positive dreams would slip through the hole in the centre and glide down the feathers to the sleeping person below. The negative dreams would get caught up in the web, and expire when the first rays of the sun struck them.
Source: <http://www.dream-catchers.org/>

Hoop style:

Metal hoops – some in stock but new stock arriving in two weeks, you can place your order for them now but just be aware there is a wait.

Willow or Green Twig – strip a green wood cutting of the leaves and flowers and gently ease and bend round to form either a circle or a tear drop (snow shoe) shape. Best done relatively soon after you cut the wood. Bind together with string, wire or waxed thread/sinew.

Old coat hanger or garden wire – un-twist shape and then bend round something circular to make a ring shape – a paintpot or saucepan can give quite a good shape to form your circle. Twist together to fix. If you are using garden wire take it round three times for better strength.

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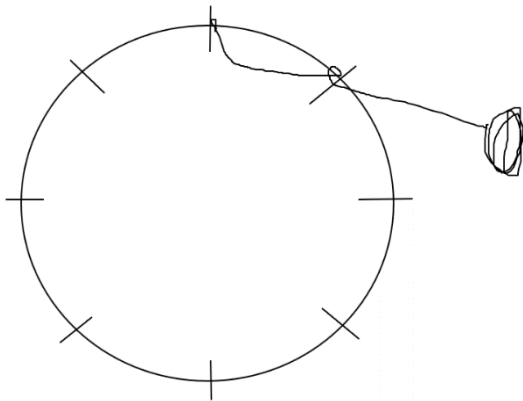
The Identity Store Holt Lane Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3LY Telephone 01629 581403

Covering your hoop

You can wrap your hoop for a more attractive look – use suede lace, soft leather pieces cut into rough ribbon lengths, fabric strips, ribbon or paper strips. These can be glued on but it is easier and quicker to use double sided tape.

Measuring your points:

Tradition has it that you use 8 points to represent the legs of Spider Woman..



Threading

You can use embroidery threads, waxed thread, artificial sinew (available on the website), string, or wool to weave your web. Waxed thread is a little easier to pull taught as it stays in place. You can wax your own threads by making a groove in a candle or beeswax block and running the thread through. If you are using the artificial sinew – use your fingernail and split it into three parts to give you a thinner more translucent thread.

Weaving



Figure 1



Figure 2

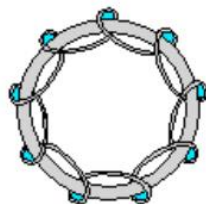


Figure 3

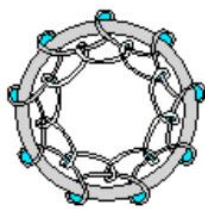


Figure 4

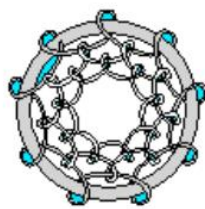


Figure 5



Figure 6

You can add small beads at any point during the threading, so that they appear in different places in the weave, save your most meaningful to sew to the centre of the catcher.

Adding ties

Using the ribbon, suede lace, or leather lengths make a tie for the top to hang the catcher and ties for the east, south and west points – these should have two lengths coming off.

Adding the Feathers

The easiest way to add the feathers is to push them into a bead with a little glue, or sew them on the ties. If you are adding feathers you have collected from outside clean them first by holding them in the steam from a kettle (holding them with oven gloves), shake them and let them dry. We have cleaned feathers for sale on the website and will be adding more.

[CLICK HERE TO SHOP SUPPLIES](#)

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Materials List:

Metal hoop or wood hoop
Length of suede lace or ribbon
Length of artificial sinew/thread
Natural cleaned feathers
Beads and bits of your personal choosing (old jewellery, and buttons can work well)

Other things you will need:

Either double sided tape or ..
Fiebings Leathercraft Cement 2540-11
Peg to hold wrapping place while glue dries
Scissors

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Dream catcher – telling the story

Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin...

Once upon time many, many years ago when the sun (Giizis) was still a child, there were a group of people living called the Ojibwe (sometimes called the Chippewa). They lived in a land called Turtle Island around the Great Lakes on the borders of what we now call the United States and Canada. In those days such distinctions and boundaries didn't exist.

The Ojibwe are looked after by a special, very small creature called Asibikaashi, which means "Spider Woman." Spider Woman, although small, brings the sun back each day to the people. If you are awake before dawn (which of course we all are) you can see this special miracle as she makes her web lodge to catch the sunrise in the dew drops that form on the delicate strands.

To fulfil a prophecy the Ojibwe people moved to the four corners of the earth, well to be more exact the four corners of North America. Spider Woman could no longer reach everyone so she enlisted the help of the people, and in particular the Nokomis (grandmothers), to make magical webs for the children to hang on their cradle boards.

The web is made in a circle to represent the sun travelling across the sky and the day passing. The web strands will catch bad thoughts and dreams and only allow good things through. At the first rays of sunlight, the bad dreams will evaporate and disappear.

The feathers are not just to entertain the child but represent breath or air, and as they move in the breeze they teach us the importance of good air and how to notice where the breeze is coming from.

The feathers can have special meanings too – a feather from an owl represent feminine energy and wisdom, from an eagle masculine energy and courage.

Dreamcatchers for children were made from willow and nettle fibres, deliberately designed not to last. Eventually the willow dries out and the loss of tension collapses the dreamcatcher, symbolising the fleetingness of youth.

Dream catchers for adults are made to be more permanent and used sinew (fibres from bones of the buffalo or deer), they needed to be stronger to cope with 'adult dreams'.

The strands were dyed to a deep red colour using plants such as bloodroot and wild plum bark.

There are sometimes attached in eight places around the circle to represent... You guessed it, Spider Woman's eight legs.

When you next see little asibikasshi, you should not be afraid of her, but honour, respect and protect her. She maybe small but she has a very important job to do.

Adapted from texts on NativeTech website by Lyn Dearborn.

Source: <http://www.nativetech.org/dreamcat/dreamcat.html>



More on Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/identitystore/dreamcatchers/>



Sweet dreams
Pets and Animals
1.4k



Items similar to Turquoise Brown Dream Catcher, rustic large...



Dreamcatcher "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" \ Large Dream...



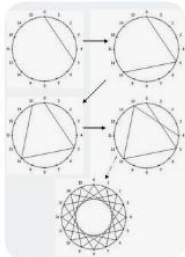
Trinity Dream Catcher by TheInnerCat on DeviantArt



Filtro dos Sonhos: O Que é? Significado & Como Fazer Passo a...



Items similar to Brown Beige Dream Catcher, rustic medium...

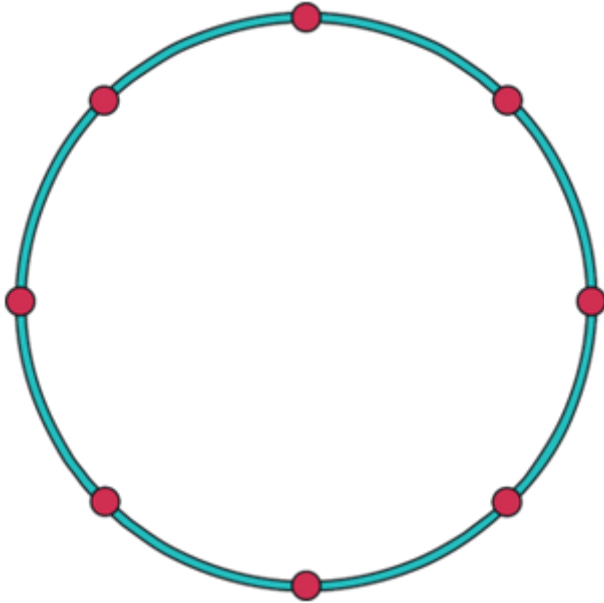


- sandy



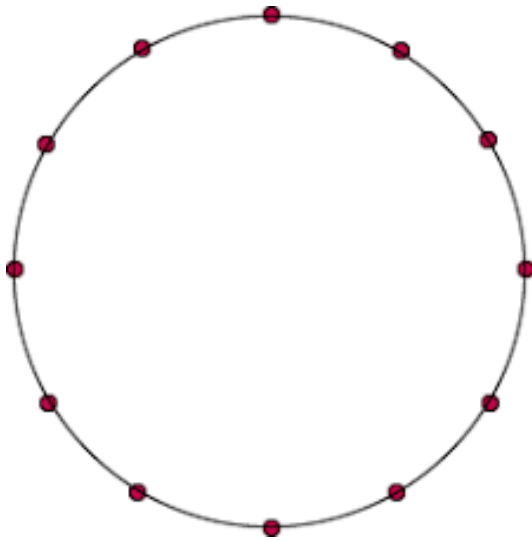
Dream catcher wall hanging Large dream catcher Mint dream...



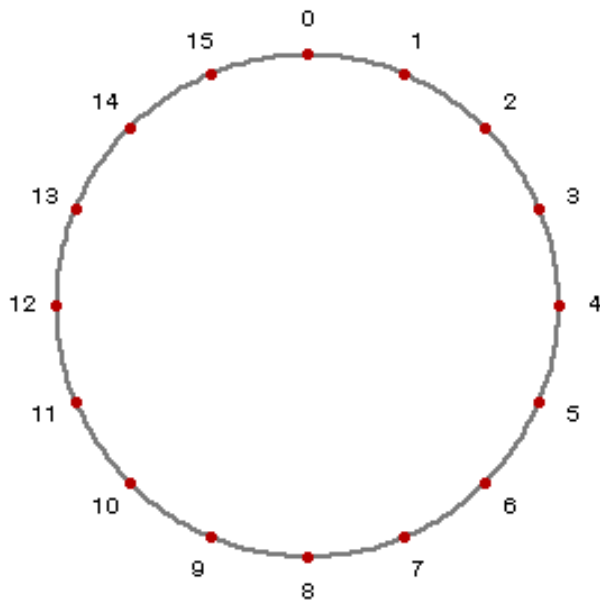


Spider Woman

8 points



12 points circle



16 points