



**STAY CONNECTED.  
STAY CURIOUS.**

## Paper Cup Basket

Use a traditional method of weaving, called twining, to create a basket out of a paper cup and yarn.

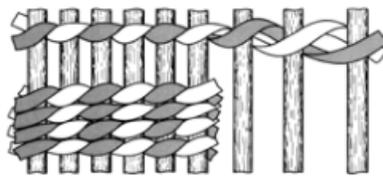
### You'll need:

- Paper cup (plastic cup can work too)
- Yarn – at least 2 different colors
- Scissors
- Pen

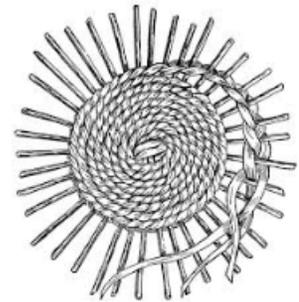


### What is Twining?

Twining is a traditional form of weaving that has been used for thousands of years to create baskets, sandals, woven mats, and other useful items.



**Twining** uses a passive element (the warp) and a **pair** of active fibers (the wefts) that are twisted around the warps.



### What to Do:



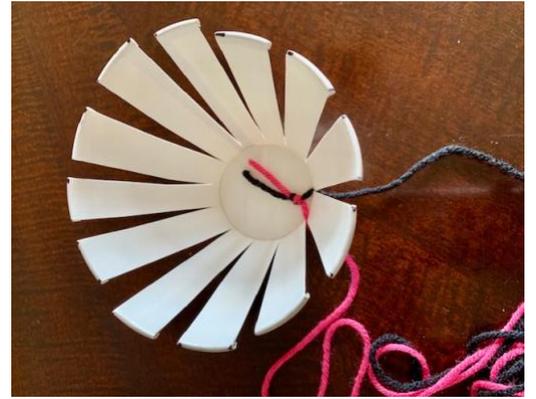
Prep the Cup - Make an **even** number of marks around the rim of a paper cup – spaced as evenly as you can. Cut the cup into strips down the side but leaving the bottom of cup intact.



Prep the Yarn - Cut one piece of each color yarn about 4-5 feet long. Tie the two colors together at one end. It will take many sets of yarn pieces to complete your basket. Using multiple pieces will make it easier to weave without getting tangled and it lets you change design as you go.

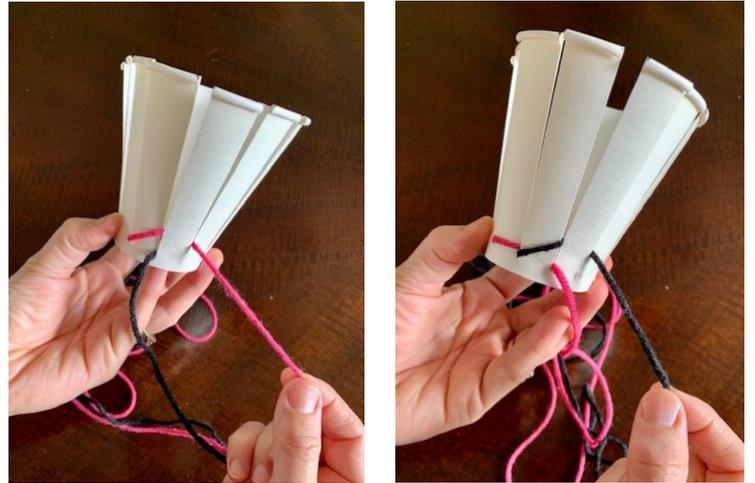
## Start Weaving

1. Place knot end of yarn inside the bottom of the cup with one color yarn going through a slot and other color yarn going through the next slot.



2. Starting with the yarn on the left, weave the yarn to the right, placing it in front one paper strip and then behind the next paper strip, ending by pulling gently down on the yarn as it hangs outside the cup.
3. Do the same action with the other piece of yarn (yarn will always end up one slot ahead of the other color).

Hint: Gently push stacked yarn down on each paper strip once in a while to keep a tighter weave.



4. Continue alternating this way until you run out of yarn. If you have an even number of paper strips, the colors will stack up with a single color on each strip.
5. When the yarn is almost out, tie another length of yarn onto each yarn piece.

You can keep the colors the same or change colors to create a different design (your choice!). For example, if you tie the opposite color onto each piece of yarn every time you run out, you will end up with a checkerboard pattern for your basket.



6. Once you have reached the top, tie the final ends together and tuck them down inside the woven part. You can also trim and tuck in any other loose yarn around the rest of your basket.

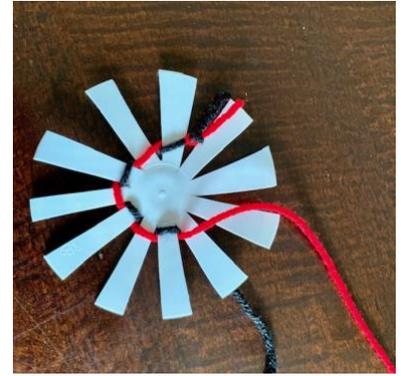
**YOU DID IT!**



## **Hints, Tips and More Ideas!**

**No yarn?** – Try using other materials such as strips of plastic bags, fabric, or ribbon.

**No cup?** – Use a piece of lightweight cardboard or a round plastic lid (like from cottage cheese container). Cut it into a circle and then cut skinny wedges out to leave spokes coming out from a central circle. This will create a flat, plate-like basket.



**For Younger Kids (or a quicker project):** Use a smaller cup or cut the paper strips on a larger cup so that they are not as tall.



**Get Creative:** Change the colors of yarn as you go to make your own interesting pattern. You can also create different shaped baskets by changing how loose or tight you weave, or by changing the shape of the paper strips.

**Natural Basket Challenge:** Create a container out of natural materials that you can find outside. This might include weaving, but it does not have to.