

# Stick and String Mat

Designed by Jane Patrick

This project first appeared in *Time to Weave* by Jane Patrick. The instructions have been modified somewhat from the original.

This is an ancient technique that was traditionally used to hold things, such as to hang fish to dry. This simple two-loop technique requires no fancy equipment.

## Materials

- Coffee stir sticks such as you might find at a coffee shop.
- #72 cotton cable cord or very thick, firmly-twisted yarn, about 5 yards per mat.
- 1/2" diameter electric shrink tubing found at the hardware store. You'll need about 2" per mat cut into eight 1/4" pieces. You could also substitute small hair rubber bands, but they will disintegrate over time.

**Equipment** Scissors, ruler, pencil, masking tape, hair dryer.

**Finished size** 5-1/2" x 6-1/4"

## Weaving

**Step 1:** Preparation. Gather up 10 stir sticks. Cut 8 cords each 20" long. Cut eight 1/4" lengths of shrink tubing.

**Step 2:** Fold two cords in half and secure the cut ends with shrink tubing 1-1/2" from the end. Repeat for the remaining three cords. Use a hair dryer set on high to shrink the tubing around the cords. If needed, adjust the cords so that the loops are all the same lengths.

**Step 3:** Tape a pair of cords to the work surface. You'll weave one pair of loops at a time. Lift up one loop and insert a stir stick between the two loops. Next, pass the top loop through the bottom loop.

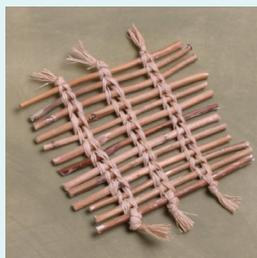
**Step 4:** To weave the next stick, pass the top loop through the bottom loop, then inset another stick between the two loops. Repeat until all 10 sticks have been inserted.

**Step 5:** Tighten the loops by pulling on them and pushing the sticks together so that they are held firmly by the loops. Secure with shrink tubing.

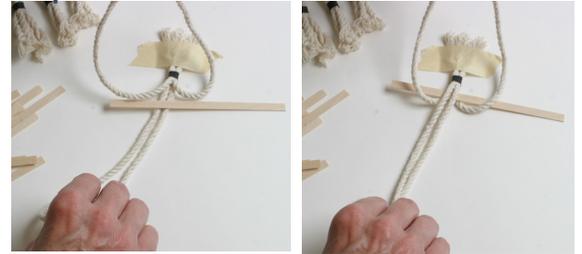
**Step 6:** Repeat for the other 3 looped pairs as for the first row. Secure the ends with shrink tubing and trim the ends to match the other side of the mat.

## Variation

Flower stalks can be repurposed for a mat with a rustic look. Here raffia is used to weave the sticks together.



### Step 3



### Step 4



### Step 5



### Step 6

