

Homemade Thread Cone Holder

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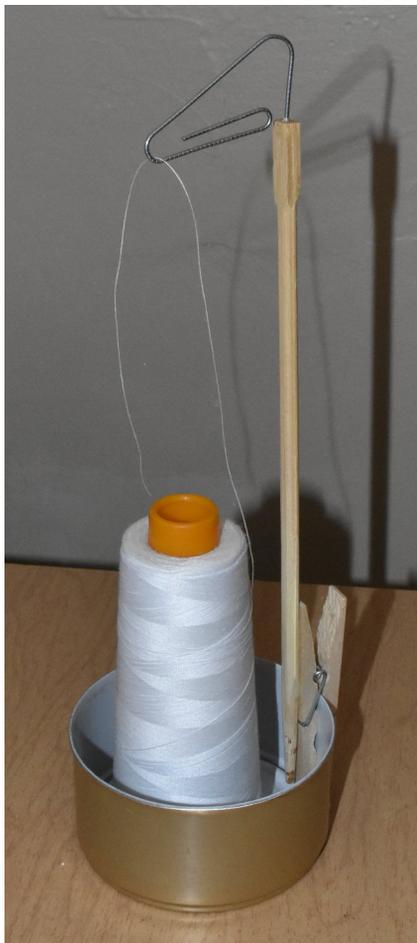
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I almost never use spools of thread, preferring instead to use more economical large cones, a habit I picked up from sewing on my semi-industrial machine. Unfortunately, my vintage machines can't accommodate cones -- most domestic machines can't, and if you prefer them, you need a cone stand of some kind.

You can buy cone holders, of course. But if you have a lot of machines, as I do, they can end up costing quite a bit, since the holders can be pricey.



Inexpensive versions exist, but are often flimsy, wobbly plastic things. I have a couple, and hate them.

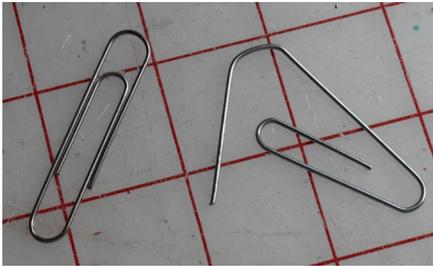


Or you can build your own cone holder, which is what I ended up doing. There are lots of home-made versions on line, and lots of nifty quick-fixes that ingenious people have come up with.

Today I'm adding my own simple version to the list. It's easy to make, can be decorated to match your room, and is made from materials you very likely already have around the house.

I used a tin can -- you can use almost any height can, as long as it's wide enough to hold your thread cone, along with a chopstick salvaged from a fast food outlet, a large paper clip, an ordinary spring clothespin, and some tacky glue.

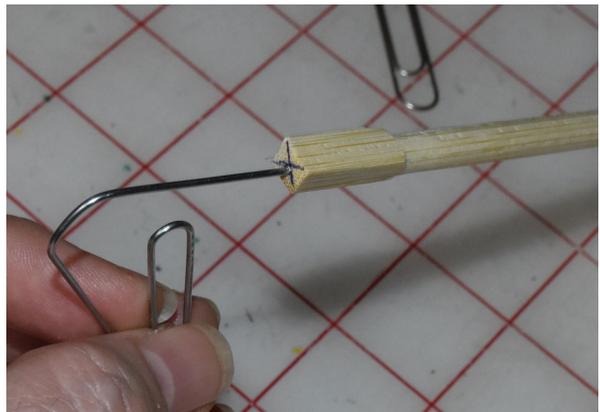
Start by unbending the paperclip slightly as shown, to make a carrier for the thread.



Then dab a bit of tacky glue on the end of the paper clip and insert it into the hole. It should fit snugly.



Mark the center of the chopstick end and drill a hole using a very narrow bit (I used a fine bit in my Dremel tool).



If you prefer not to drill a hole, you could try gluing the paperclip to the top of the stick and wrap it with wire to help hold it in place. Or you could try boring a hole using an awl or stylus. You just need to have the paperclip attached securely enough to hold the thread.

Use tacky glue to attach the other end of the chopstick to the clothespin, pressing it in place just above the spring.



Secure with masking tape til it's dry, then remove the tape and clip the post to the side of a salvaged tin can, and your new cone holder is complete.

Pop in a cone and place this device to the rear of your machine. The thread will feed evenly off the cone, while the can keeps the cone in upright position.

I like the shallow (tuna) can best, but in case I need extra height for a taller cone I can use a larger can (or substitute a longer dowel in place of the chopstick).

These were almost free, since I used mostly recycled materials, but they're at least as sturdy as the plastic

versions, and now I've got one at every machine in the sewing room. I haven't yet decorated my holders, but I plan to decoupage the cans with some sewing-themed fabric to pretty them up a bit.

