

Tricot Cords

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About three years ago I purchased five large skeins of firm tricot that had been cut lengthwise into 1" strips – three white ones and two black.

I'm not sure what use they had been intended for, but the bag was cheap (as I recall, around \$4 for the lot), and I speculated that the skeins might be of some use to my crocheting sister for one of her projects, so I took it.

I came upon them again a couple of months ago when clearing out one of my closets, and it struck me that I might be able to use them to make strings for my drawstring gift bags.

The tricot strips had been cut along the length rather than crosswise, and it didn't naturally curl into strings. I knew that I'd have to stitch and turn to make narrow cords if it was going to work at all. I decided to try it to make strings for one of my gift bags, and was very impressed: it made sturdy cords that slid smoothly through the drawstring channel. Best of all, it could be stitched into a fairly narrow cord that was easy to turn right side out because the smooth fabric easily moved past itself without catching. I was sold.



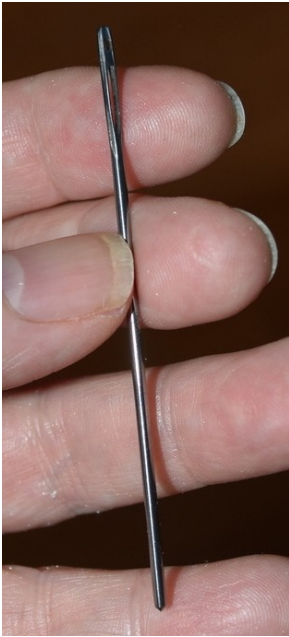
I've now made cords out of all five of the skeins. I didn't actually measure the total length of all the strips, but I did take the time to measure the last length that I stitched into cord, and it measured 28 yards. Based on that detail, I'd guesstimate that I ended up with at least 120 yards of tricot cording altogether.



To make the cord, I folded it in half lengthwise and sewed a narrow channel

using a straight stitch. Once the stitching was complete, I trimmed the seam allowance close to the stitch line. Sewing and trimming the long strips was a pretty tedious process, so I spread the work over several sittings, sewing 10- or 20- yard lengths at a time.





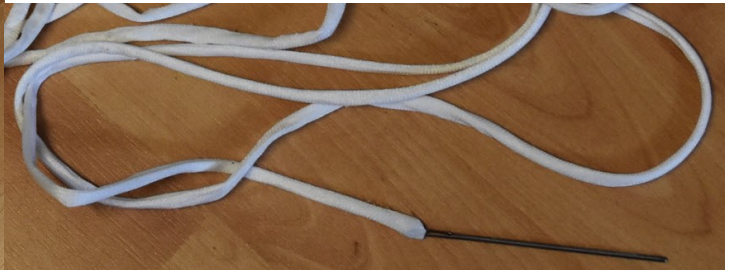
To turn the narrow tricot tubing right side out, I used this narrow bodkin. I inserted it into one end of the tubing, then with a small needle I stitched the fabric tube to the bodkin, passing the needle through the eye several times to secure it. I then pushed the bodkin through the tube, pulling the end along, to complete



the turning. Actually, though turning such long tubes took a while, it was surprisingly easy, since the slippery fabric slides smoothly past itself. This would have been impossible with a



woven fabric or even a T-shirt knit; the smooth slippery surface of the tricot was what made this work.



The tricot makes a lovely smooth and strong drawstring cord for my gift bags. Nice! Though it ended up taking me several months off and on to make all of the skeins into cord, the purchase ended up being a bargain, at just over 3 cents a yard.