

Tension Devices

Because netting is made up of knots, and knots are tightened by simultaneously pulling in two opposite directions, something is needed that will permit this simultaneous pulling in opposite directions while you are pulling in only one direction with the netting needle. I call this something a tension device.

Tension devices are used to provide the tension needed when the knot is tightened.

A variety of items can be used to create the desired situation. Each tension device has advantages and disadvantages.

Portable Tension Devices

A Stirrup Fashioned from a Cord

- compact
- good for traveling when you will be sitting
- hard to move quickly with foot through stirrup
- hard to use while standing (waiting in line or for a bus)



A Safety Pin Attached to a Pant Leg

- compact
- good for traveling when you will be sitting
- not good for large items
- may leave hole in pants



A 1/4 Pound (100 gram) Weight

- compact
- can use while standing or sitting
- not good for large items
- not good to use with rope



Less Portable Tension Devices

A C-clamp or Post

- can be securely fastened to a horizontal surface
- good for large items
- good for use with rope

The netting is fastened either over the post or around the C portion of the clamp.



A Pillow

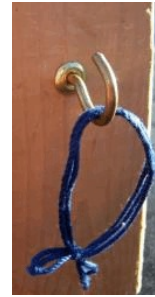
- necessary when starting oval netting
- bulky to transport and carry around
- hard to use while waiting in line
- not good for use with large items



Non-Portable Tension Devices

A Cup Hook

- can be attached securely to a wall, cupboard, door, or board
- good for large items



A Door

- found at many different locations
- good for use with large projects
- choose a door that is not being opened and closed frequently



Soft, Overstuffed Furniture

- present at locations away from home
- good for all sizes of projects
- potential to damage furniture with use of pin

Use a safety pin to attach the netting to the arm or cushion of the furniture.



Special thanks to Gail Mejias for taking the photographs of the stirrup, safety pin, 1/4-pound weight, c-clamp, and cup hook.

Sources for Tension Devices

Your local craft or hardware stores may carry what you want. If not, here are some online sites that sell items you can use for tension devices.

Company Name Link to Web-site	Supplies They Sell
Home Science Tools http://www.hometrainingtools.com/	100 and 200 gram hooked weights (approximately ¼ pound and ½ pound)
MSC Industrial Supply Co. http://www1.mscdirect.com/	cotton cord from 1/8" to 3/8", rope
Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores http://www.joann.com/	safety pins
Hancock Fabrics http://www.hancockfabrics.com/	safety pins