

Manual for Making Your Own Nuno-Zouri

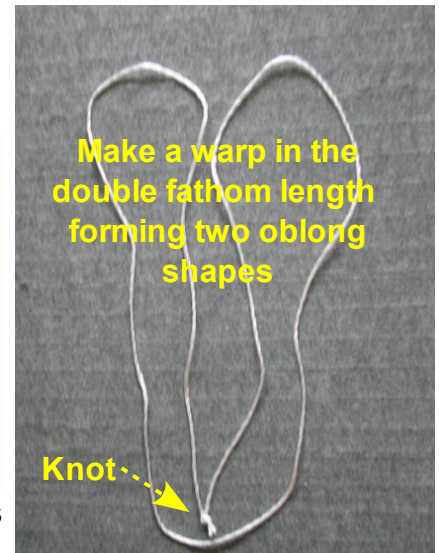
Materials: Used T-shirts, bed sheets, face towels, bath towels, clothings, etc., in woolen, cotton, nylon, and other materials, having 5/16"~9/16" (3 to 5 mm) in width, in any color or color combinations are all you need as *woof* (and *warp*). Yes, the whole thing can be made from recycled materials! If it is difficult for you to twist a rope for "*warp*" from used materials, just get yourself a coil of polypropylene packing rope, 5/16"~9/16" (3~5 mm) in diameter, like the picture on the right.

Components: Aside from the two *warps* in the double fathom length (like 'Mark Twain!'), you need to make just three more components, namely,

- A. Three twisted string for "*o*" or side string, [Video](#)
- B. Two twisted string for *hana-o* or nose string, [Video](#) and
- C. Sole which incorporates both A and B in the middle and at the end of the weaving process.



Twisted Strings



Make a warp in the double fathom length forming two oblong shapes

Knot

Note the Knot is located in the Inner Warp

Now, let's get down to brass tacks. First unwind the double fathom length of the twisted rope and tie both ends into a knot, and then bend the rope in the configuration so that two oblongs are made, as illustrated on the right. **If you have difficulty in using your legs, don't worry.** [See Page 3/3 for various alternative methods, AA through EE.](#)

Useful Hints

1. The length of the *warp* rope should be equal to two fathoms. Don't forget to tie the rope ends. Make A. and B. twisted strings in advance, [Video A](#) & [Video B](#)
2. To weave A. Three twisted string into C. Sole, insert the string-end into the center slot from top and weave into the 4 warps (to right or left whichever is OK) over and under the string alternately (don't miss any string) until the string-end is reached so that both string-ends are terminated on the reverse side of zouri. Let the string-end fragments stick out on the reverse side until you reach the final stage. There is no need to tie the end of the string to the next *woof* (a strip of split cloth material). Be sure to tighten *woof* at left and right edges to the desired zouri width, like the shuttle of the weaving machine.
3. I doggedly stick to the traditional method for making rice straw zouri, since this is more friendly to environment. However, this is not the only method to make zouri. Some make them in other ways, using, for example, glue bond for fixing *hanao*-strings.

Pull up the Outer Warp (white) toward you and then pick up a split cloth (red) *woof* material close to the end so that an inverted U shape is formed while you hold the remainder of the first *woof* material with your right hand. During this process, leave the knotted Inner Warp (white) on the floor.

Insert ① the shorter end of the red *woof* into the ring ② formed by Inner Warp and *woof* and ③ pull up the longer end tightly and ④ then to the right so that a red necktie is formed. Then relieve the right hand for a while and ⑤ pull up the necktie by 180° so that it looks like a doll. [Click Here.](#)



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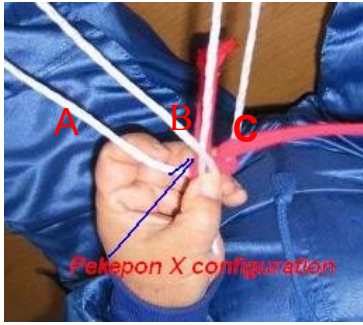


④



⑤

This doll acts as the center and the starting point for further process. ⑥ Next, pick up the knot of the Inner Warp from the floor and place the knot on the neck of the doll, after giving the knot a single twist so that white lines immediately above the thumb nail forms a *pekepon* (X-configuration). ⑦ For the time being, regard the two Inner Warps and the Doll under Inner Warps as if they are a single warp so that there are only three Warps **A**, **B**, and **C** through which the *woof* passes. ⑧ Pull out the *woof* over **C** and ⑦ let it go over **B** & ⑧ under **A**, turn it round **A**, underneath **B** and ⑨ over **C**, namely, left and right, over and under of the three Warps alternately.



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⑧

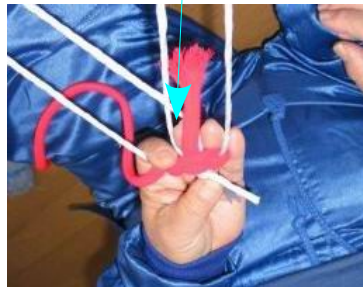


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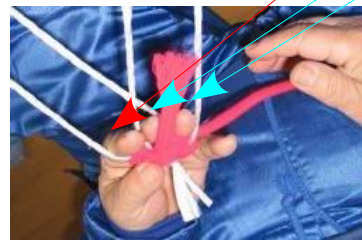
This time, ⑩ let the *woof* go over **B** again, while you make sure that the bottom of the Outer Warps forms a single flat line. This will avoid making a narrow zouri that looks like a sausage. ⑪ Reconfirm that the *pekepon* remains X-configured and let the doll's head go through the narrower side of the *pekepon X*. ⑫ Ensure that index, middle and ring fingers tighten the *woof* and the 4 Warps, as each *woof* is pulled toward you by the three fingers all the way until the final *woof* is threaded. No further action is required on the doll for a while. Keep threading the *woof* up and down the 4 Warps until all threading processes are complete. Be sure that each of the final short string-ends (*woofs*) always runs through ⑬ the narrower side of the *pekepon*, regardless of the *woof* direction, left or right. If it doesn't, you have missed a threading process somewhere.



⑩



⑪



⑫



⑬



⑭



⑮



⑯



⑰

At this point, the zouri's head shape is determined. To prevent the zouri from getting narrower in width, use your index finger to widen the left side and your right hand to widen the right side after the *woof* is bent back over the right Warp.

Reverse the side at this point ⑬ by pulling out all three fingers. Then reinsert the fingers back into each slot from top and ⑮ turn your wrist upside down. Realign each loop with ⑯ your left and right toes as shown.

Inset ⑰ a new *woof* downward into the narrower side of *pekepon X*, continue threading either left or right of your choice until the end is reached. **Be sure to leave the short remnants of *woof* materials always pointing downward.** Repeat the process, always remembering to feed a new *woof* downward from top into the narrower side of *pekepon X*. Ensure ⑱ that each of the three fingers, namely, index, middle and ring behaves like Whac-A-Mole Game as the *woof* threads through each finger. Let each finger quickly dive down momentarily just long enough to allow the *woof* to thread through and then to come up again to pull the *woof* toward you to tighten the weaved portion at all times. Up to this point⑲⑳, practice using a soft packing rope of 5/16”~9/16” (3~5 mm) in diameter as shown in ⑰~(21). This is the easiest way to get the hang of the weaving technique. Although invisible to the eyes, the *pekepon X*, hidden underneath the *woof*, is standing by in all readiness to discharge its important responsibility— to close the bottom when the full zouri length is reached. If you are unable to understand my explanation, feel free to send me [email](#) by citing the particular number of the pictures you wish to ask about. **Good luck to you and enjoy yourself!**



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⑳



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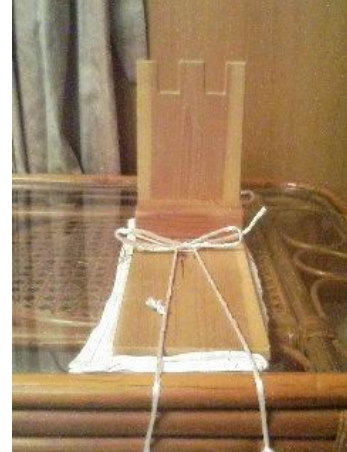
Never mind if you come to the class in your skirt, or, you have difficulty in stretching your legs! You can improvise by making any of the simple tools shown below, or creating your own:



AA



BB



CC



DD



EE

Useful Hint

Do you realize that the two-fathom-length of the Warp approximates the length of your feet when the Warp is made into the two loops as shown in EE?