

Curiously Crafting

T.A.U.B.I.S Flower Ropes

Created by Tau Lewis



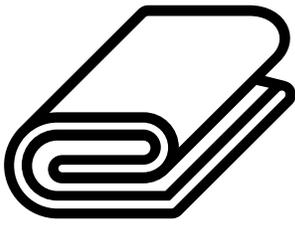
By following these instructions you will be able to make your very own T.A.U.B.I.S flower ropes at home! First seen at Tau's recent solo exhibition *Triumphant Alliance of the Ubiquitous Blossoms of Incarnate Souls* at Cooper Cole Gallery, these blossoms belong to the realm of T.A.U.B.I.S created by the artist to explore desires for abundance, safety, deep roots, and justice. As described by Lewis in her exhibition notes, "every blossom embodies a soul who is alive and listening. T.A.U.B.I.S. blossoms grow year-round, uni-wide, even in most harsh weather and on most hostile planets. The T.A.U.B.I.S communicate and collect intel through these blossoms". These ropes are easy to make and use simple, inexpensive materials such as old or recycled fabrics that you can find at home or get at a second-hand store.

The estimated time for these ropes depends on how long you want to make them! There is lots of flexibility within this activity, so you can get a variety of different results out of it depending on what you are looking to achieve!

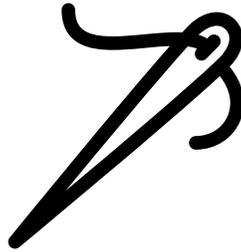
Photos courtesy of Tau Lewis

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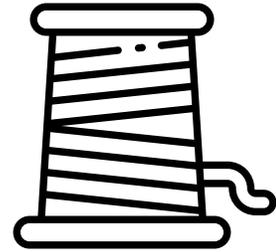
Materials



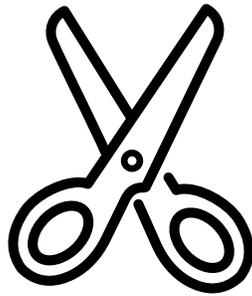
Recycled fabric



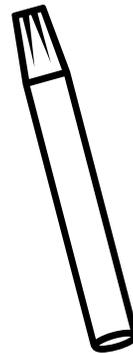
Sewing Needle



Thread



Scissors



Marker

Instructions



1. Gather your materials. All you will need for this activity is fabric, a needle, thread, scissors, and a marker. You can get really creative with your fabric for this activity, and definitely do not need to buy anything new. Tau uses things like old curtains, bedding and dish towels, as well as cheap used fabric from a second-hand store. Here we are using old leather scraps found around the studio. Also, feel free to experiment with mixing fabrics!



2. Using a marker, draw petal shapes of various sizes on your fabric. Each flower is made up of 5 petals, so draw out any multiple of 5 depending on how many flowers you want to make. Tau's petals have a shape like the one in the image-- a curved top with a narrower, flat bottom. These shapes do not need to be perfect and you can definitely experiment with what you like the look of, but it's a bit easier if you give your petals a flat bottom and don't make them too tall and skinny.

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3. Cut out the petals



4. Divide your petals into groups of 5, and then line them up ordering them by size. You can make each individual flower with petals of all the same size or include a lot of size variation. It's all up to you!

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5. Now it's time to sew each flower together. In your lineup of 5 petals take the first two and pinch the connecting edges together, so that the fabric sides that you want facing outward on the flower are on the outside (like the front and back cover of a book, with the edges that you are pinching as the spine). Do a loop stitch to connect them, pushing your needle through one petal edge and out the other until you get a little bit past half the height of the petals. The height that you sew is arbitrary, but make sure you do not sew them all the way up as your flower will not be soft or drooping then.



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6. Repeat the previous step of connecting the edges of the petals in order of their size until all 5 petals are connected.



7. Take the string of petals and wrap it around your pinkie finger starting with the smallest petal on the inside. Wrap the petals so that the seams (the "spines" in our book analogy) are facing outward. The string of petals should naturally curl in this way.

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8. Slide these wrapped petals off of your finger, and pinching the bottom sew in and out several times so that all petals are secured at the base of the flower.

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9. There is a final loose edge of the biggest petal that still needs to be secured. Sew a loop stitch between the remaining edge of this last petal and whatever part of the flower it is wrapped on top of, around halfway up the petal.



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10. Fold-down the two largest outer petals. You have made your first flower!



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11. Repeat the previous steps for as many flowers as you would like to make. For this demo, I am doing a mini string of 5 flowers, but for Tau's exhibition some of the ropes were 20ft long with densely packed flowers-- depends on how far you want to take this project!



12. Take more scrap fabric and cut long, thin strips. This will be the rope that your flowers rest on, and you can make it whatever length you want depending on the length and flower density you prefer.

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13. Line up your flowers on your rope. Tau likes to orient the flowers so that they alternate in the direction they point and will change up the side of the rope that she sews them onto so that the rope has no front and back, and can be viewed from any vantage point.



13. Sew the base of each flower onto the rope. Depending on your vision you can just make one rope, make several and keep them individual, or sew the ends of each rope together to make an extra-long rope. The possibilities are endless!

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Happy crafting!

