

BEHIND THE SEAMS

Pony Ply
Splitting Needles

Haberdashery reviews with
Shannan of Bobbin and Fred



Have you heard about Ply Split Braiding? I hadn't either until these weird looking needles showed up in my letterbox. A bit of research later and I found out it's an ancient technique used by the Wayuu tribe to make bags, bridles, and more. Pony needles come in two sizes, 4.5 and 6.5mm. The 4.5mm is ideal for cords made from embroidery cotton or DK yarn, and the 6.5mm is for cords made from chunky yarn. If you'd like some ply splitting inspo, have a look at my Pinterest board (search Bobbin and Fred).

I didn't know where to start but thankfully Pony has put together a great

tutorial showing you how to make a keyring. Be warned: it's addictive. I've made three so far! Before you begin, you'll need to make some twisted cords or source some readymade ones. There's plenty of tutorials online showing how to make twisted cord using a pencil or hand-drill and fold method. Firstly I tried braiding embroidery cotton which was wonderful to use as the needle slipped through the mercerised cotton beautifully and its sheen lent the finished keyring a luxurious look. Then I tried it with wool but found the stickiness of the yarn made it harder to pull the cord through and it

looked a bit too rustic, so I gave acrylic yarn a whirl and found that too was a pleasure to braid.

The needle itself performs well. The blunt tip splits the cords effectively and the balled end fit nicely into the palm of my hand. With the ball resting in the centre of my palm, I worked the needle quickly and comfortably. Before I started I wondered if the end of the cord would slip out of the hollow needle shaft but this didn't happen, each time it passed through the cords without mishap. Have a watch of my video on my Instagram page to see it in action. Occasionally the end of the cord got stuck inside the needle when I hadn't fastened the sticky tape properly but that's easy to remedy; just trim the taped ends and ensure they're fully stuck down before you begin.

My only gripe is that supplies are a bit thin on the ground. To make bigger projects you'll need longer lengths of twisted cord and making them with the drill and fold method isn't recommended. You'll need a cord maker for that and unfortunately Pony doesn't make one at this time. The Lacis 4 ply Cord Maker has mixed reviews but is the most affordable option I've found and is likely the tool I'll try when I'm ready to make a bag strap or belt. Until then, I imagine everyone I know will own a ply split braided keyring before long... they make wonderful presents! ☺

Shannan's verdict ★★★★★

Stockist info:

groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk

For more info: www.ponyneedles-europe.de

Tutorial: www.ponyneedles-europe.de

[@bobbinandfred](https://www.instagram.com/bobbinandfred),

www.sewingwithbobbinandfred.co.uk



Keyring

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