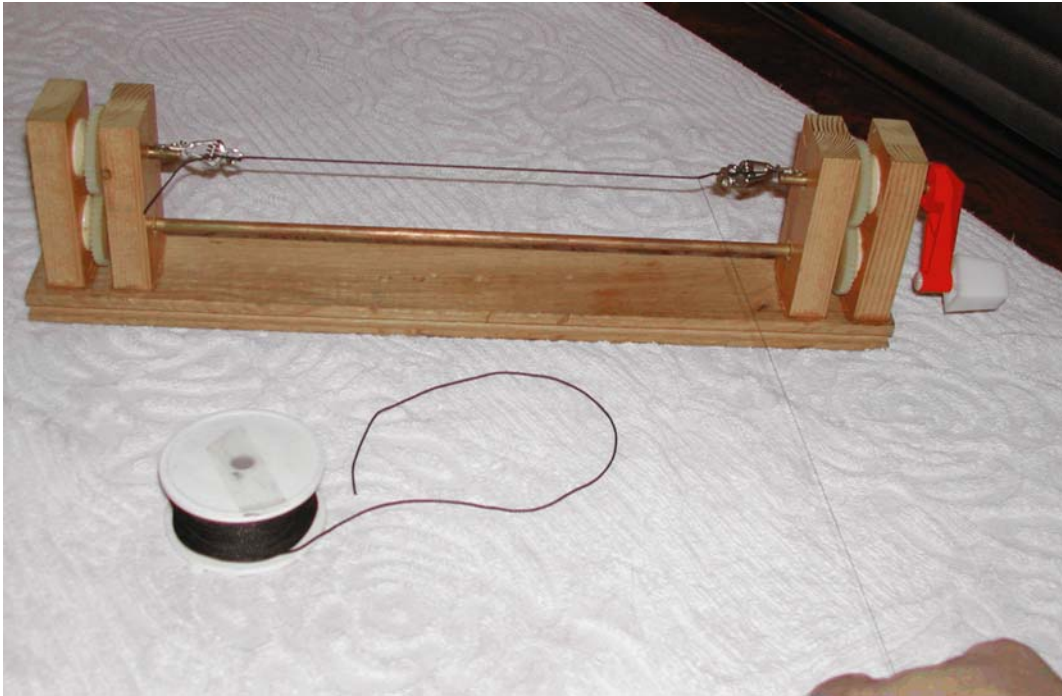
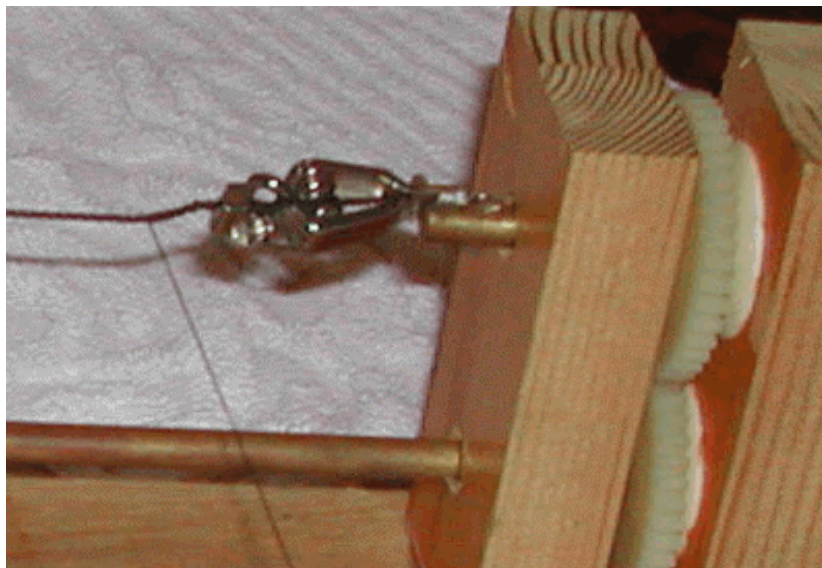


HOME MADE 'STRING-ALONG' by Dan Pariser

Here is the photo of my "String Along" machine. As described, it is two gear towers mounted on a long base. The base used to be longer, but when I moved into the apartment in Brooklyn it had to be cut down to fit a 16" drawer. The crank at the right was liberated from an inexpensive grass seed spreader that I bought and did not find useful.



In the photo I am serving a length of line off the spool in front. The serving thread is being held in my hand at the lower right and fed onto the line under light tension. Just enough to form a shallow "V" in the line. Then the thread lays automatically against the previous turn. Here is a close up of that in action:



In the gear tower you can see the gears, as well as the 'friction bushings' which hold the gears away from the wood and provide plastic/plastic contact with the gears as well as plastic/metal contact with the brass rod. They are nothing more than video cable grommets used to seal the hole in the wall that the TV cable comes through.

In practice the base is C-clamped to my workbench and the spool for the serving thread is hung from the handle of the clamp so the thread comes off easily. Then the tension is controlled by finger pressure on the thread as it runs out. If the thread reverses on itself, a few backward turns of the crank and it is undone.

Of course, there are modifications and improvements that can be made. Jim's idea of a telescoping gear rod is a good one. You can also mount spools on the upper rods inboard of the towers, then you could run the line from one spool to the other, serving it in sections. This would let you serve lines of essentially unlimited length.

You should choose your size and configuration based on the longest length of line to be served. This is the lower mainmast shroud from the first port deadeye to the first stbd deadeye, including doubling at each end and a bit of excess for wastage.

And always remember, "Worm and parcel with the lay, turn and serve the other way."

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