
GOBBI MOBILE

This mobile features a gradation of colored balls made of embroidery floss covering foam (or wooden) balls.

MATERIALS

- Five, seven, or nine balls that are approximately 1½-inch (4 cm) made of foam, wood, or felt
- Two skeins each of four or five gradations of a single color of embroidery floss (look for consecutive numbers on the labels)
- One 3-5 mm wooden dowel, 25 cm in length
- One large-eyed craft needle
- A (hot) knitting needle or pen to make hole
- Glue

CONSTRUCTION

Drilling method

1. Carefully drill a ½-inch (1 cm) hole in each ball.
2. Cut each skein of floss in half and fold each half in two on the needle.
3. Make a knot in each half skein.
4. Put double floss in the hole, making sure the knot goes and stays inside the hole.
5. Loop the floss through and around the ball.
6. Keep looping around the ball, spacing thread about 1 centimeter apart, until the ball is totally covered.
7. Try to leave sufficient floss to hang the ball (see diagram for length variation). Filament or invisible thread will also work.

Tips

- When starting with a new piece of floss, tie it on so that the knot stays inside the hole.
- The dowel can be wrapped with the thread in the corresponding color gradations.

Japanese non-drilling method

1. Put two pins in the ball.
2. Wrap the ball with the thread while holding it, using the pins to anchor the floss.
3. Cross the floss at the top and the bottom.

HANGING THE FINISHED BALLS ON THE MOBILE

1. Hang the balls in descending gradation from light (shortest) to dark (longest).
2. The balls should be equidistant from each other and not touching.
3. Temporarily tie the balls to the dowel and arrange at an angle you choose, using a ruler to check the alignment.
4. Once placed correctly, tie a strong knot around the dowel and secure with glue.
5. Attach one end of a string to each end of the dowel, balance, and hang.
6. Hang 12 to 14 inches (30 to 35 cm) from the child's eyes. The mobile should be placed closer to the child in the beginning for focus but can be hung higher later.



Alternative Pattern

This gradation starts on both sides of the mobile, with the longest, darkest color in the middle. In any configuration, the darkest color should be lowest.

