



Subject: Macrame
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Bonsoir / Bonjour

I have been going thru photos looking for a few select images and am finding a lot of things I have been looking for.

As you can see the DES MOINES Fore deck was set up for an Admiral's Party, with Turret #1 to the left, and canvas over same (which the leading Seaman and myself rigged starting at 0300). And the reasonably freshly stoned teak deck making it a lovely light tan color, bunting down the port side from the canvas to the bottom of the lifelines, and various other decorations.

The white item in the right foreground is a below decks vent. However it is totally unacceptable to just have a ugly vent sticking up out of the deck!! It needed some "fancy work"!! So after taking measurements

one ventures down to the sail locker and the Boatsin Mate makes up a canvas cover to specs. Now the fun begins!!

First on the list is to remove all the horizontal threads for a specific distance down the cover. In this case about 50 mm (if I am reading the rule correctly [16 to 18 inches]).

Starting at the bottom one works up (and saving all the removed threads) until one arrives at the top starting point of the design. That process alone will take several days as only one or two people will work the entire design. (It really helps to have two ripping out threads, one on each side and preferably ripping the same layer of thread at the same time. And each removed thread is coiled and save for future tying.)

So on this cover I did the first pattern of knots, 6 to 8 rows of knots all the way around the cover. The second person then worked all the half hitch verticals pattern. And being the next segment(s) were not continuous(scalloped , I would do one section and the other person did a section and we repeated until completed all the way around (That pattern was done in a double line pattern where as the top pattern was a single line pattern (notice the difference of knot size).

Then the person that did the verticals pattern near the top does the tassel pattern at the bottom. Those take more time than the knots as one needs to insure the threads hang straight, then work/wrap a whipping to keep the tassels nice and straight, while getting the whipping nice and tight and in a horizontal line.

A piece that size takes at last 300 man hours to build. And within minutes after the Admiral's party has concluded, those covers are removed and stored in individual bags until next needed. And they are usually hand washed about four to six hours prior to being placed on the vents.

I have another photo showing lifeline and other details of "Night Time Side Boys". (Live side boys are not used after dark. Lanterns are placed on macrame runners to denote same.)(Sort of my prize photo!!)

Cheers et Ciao, Lou Lockwood