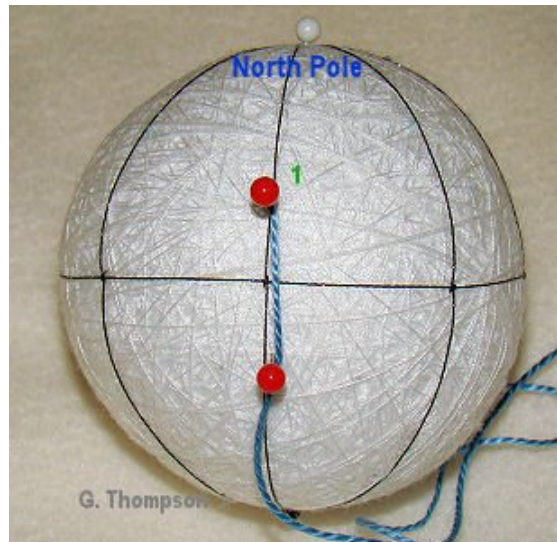
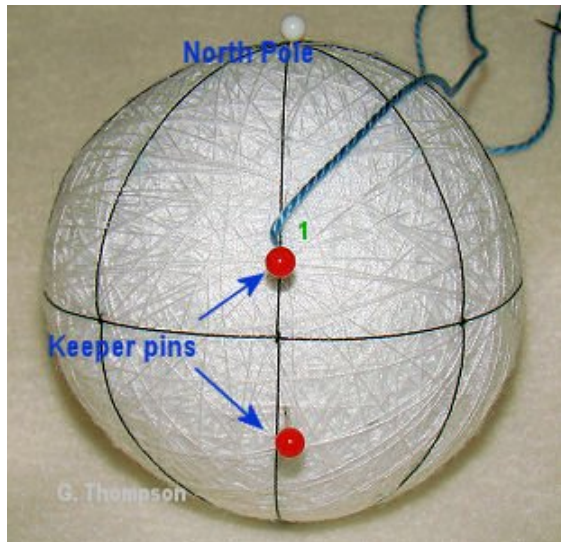
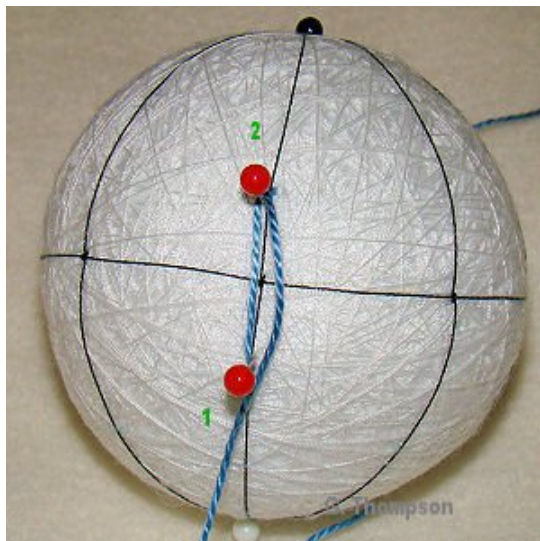
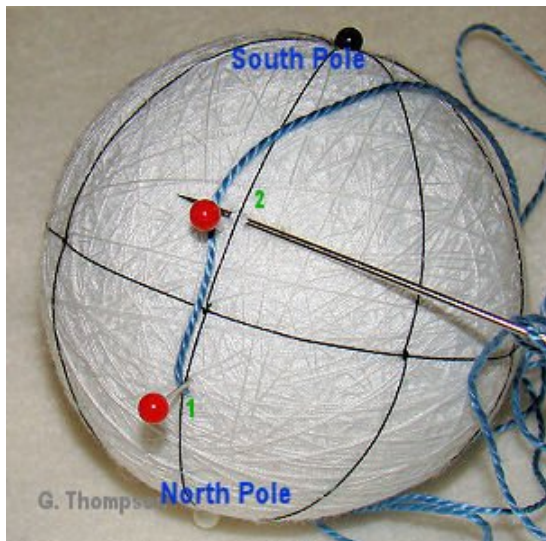


TemariKai Temari Basics - Tsumu Kagari Stitch / Closest English Equivalent: Spindle Stitch
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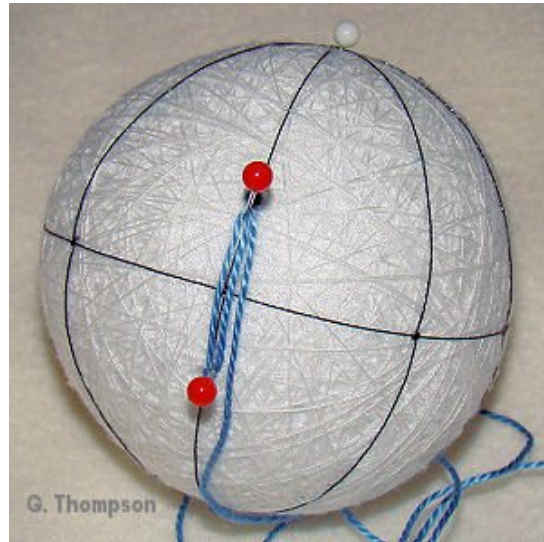
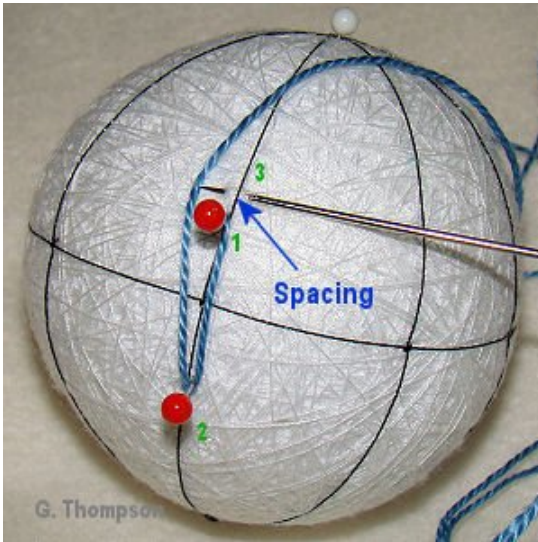
Tsumu literally translates to "spindle". The stitch is started by anchoring the inner starting points with 2 [keeper pins](#). The placement of the pins will determine how long and narrow, or short and wide, the spindle becomes. Tsumu Kagari can be used alone or added into other designs. They can be interwoven, interlocked, layered - it's a versatile element. Best results are gotten when attention is paid to a few details but it is an easy element to stitch. They can be worked vertically, horizontally or on an angle.



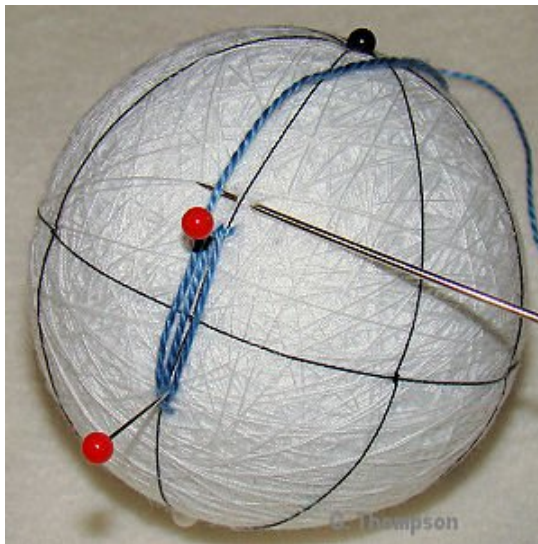
Begin by placing 2 keeper pins. Usually they are placed on a marking line (though this can be varied), and they are placed equidistant from where the center of the spindle will be. Many spindles are worked vertically, but however they are placed in the design, the spindle has a "top" and a "bottom" as you are working it. With the north pole facing up, enter and anchor a thread, and bring it up just a bit above the upper pin. Then, carry the thread along the right side of the marking line down to the bottom pin.



Turn the mari upside down and take a stitch just at the "bottom" pin - which is now the top since the mari was turned. Notice placement and size of the stitch... about 1mm away from the pin, and about 1mm on either side of the marking line. Snug the thread to normal tension as you complete the stitch, but be careful to not use too tight a tension so that as you work the threads cannot lie flat. Carry the thread along the right side of the marking line back to the first pin (original top pin at the north pole)



Turn the mari again so the north pole pin is facing up. Take a small (about 1 mm on either side of the marking line) above the placing of the first stitch where you started. Notice again that the stitch is placed about 2 mm above the previous one - not right on top of it. The reason for allowing this extra space is to allow for the volume of the thread as the point of the spindle is turned. Many stitchers call it "stretching the point". It insures sharp, crisp points and that the threads of the design will lie flat, and remain in place.



Turn the mari so the south pole pin is facing up (you will continue rotating the mari with each stitch). Take a stitch with the same size and placement. Continue in this manner until the spindle is the desired size. And - once the spindle is established (usually after about three or four rows), you can safely remove the keeper pins as you continue to work.

How the keeper pins are placed will determine the size and shape of the final spindle. Pins placed farther away from each other will result in a longer, narrower final result. Pins placed closer to each other will give a shorter, wider spindle. It can require a bit more care to keep threads in place as the spindles become wider, and usually needs a little adjusting on stitching tension. While most stitchers are used to working around marking lines, it's perfectly fine to "stitch off the grid", albeit it takes a little more attention to stitch placement. However, different angles and alignments can be accomplished in this manner.



A variation is working the spindle with an open center, depending on the desing being worked. Add keeper pins to hold the center of the spindle open while the first rows are established. Depending on the size of the spindle you may need to keep the side pins in place until you work other parts of the design to hold the spindle outline in place.

Some examples of different uses of Tsumu Kagari:



Interlocked, stitched with variegated thread



Interwoven to form flowers,
single spindles as foliage



Long spindles with woven obi



Worked off the marking lines, on an angle

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