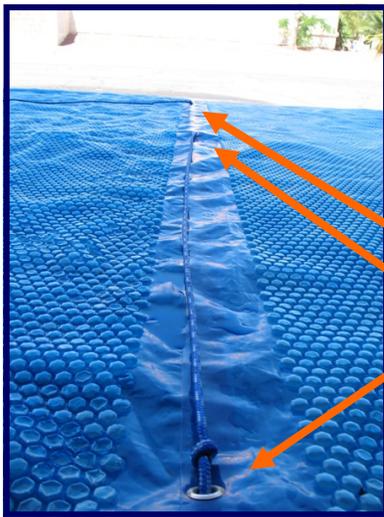


Installing Grommets in Cover

The easiest way to get the cover to reel up is by using a rope to start the process. This rope has to be attached in some manner to the cover. I have found brass grommets to work very nicely for this.



The strongest part of the cover is the overlap seam. For the 400 square foot cover on our pool, six grommets (3 per seam per end of the cover) are sufficient to reel up the cover without tearing through the material.

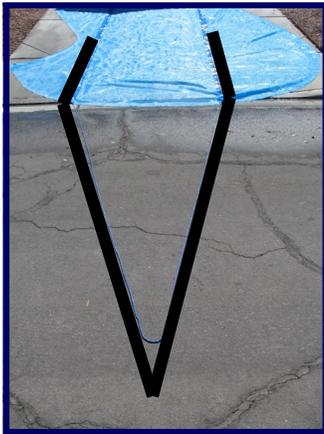
Place the grommets at approximately three foot intervals starting a bit back from the edge of the cover and following the seam. Use more grommets if your cover is very light material or substantially bigger.



The grommet kit comes with simple instructions. Follow them. Use a piece of scrap lumber as an anvil underneath the cover when installing the grommets.

Installing Draw Rope into Grommets

Cut your 100 foot rope into two 50 foot pieces—one for each end of the cover. Why so much seemingly extra rope? The extra will allow you to easily put the cover back on the pool while walking along the edge—no need to walk on the surface of the water.



Fold one 50 foot piece of rope in half again and lay it out on the cover so that the ends are about one foot past the centermost grommet.

I used a simple loop knot immediately past the point where the rope passes through each grommet to keep the rope from slipping through the grommet. NOTE: you have to make these knots starting with the grommet closest to the edge of the cover and work inward.

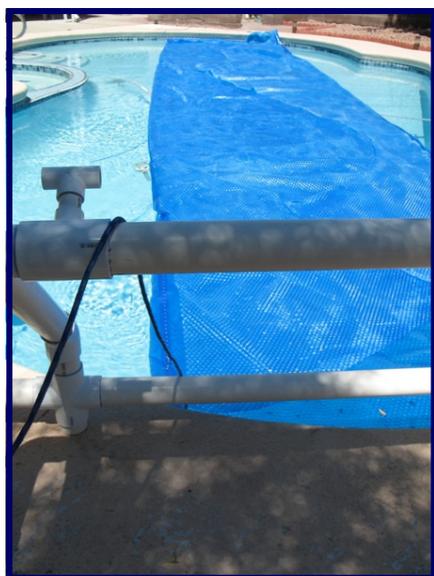


With six grommets per end, the cover is pulled from six points and is unlikely to tear. Repeat this process for the other end of the cover and now you have a draw rope and/or install rope for both ends of the cover.

Folding Cover and Positioning Reel

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Take your time folding up the Cover. If your cover is less than 18 feet wide, folding it twice (in thirds) will be sufficient. If it is between 18 and 24 feet wide, you will be better off folding it three times (in quarters). Most important, regardless of how you fold it, is that you end up with a 6' span with a draw rope on each side.



Position the reel so that it is a perpendicular to the cover as possible. If it is even slightly askew the cover will bunch up on one end of the reel.



Rolling up Cover

Secure the draw ropes to the Tie-off Tees with multiple turns or a half-hitch knot. Begin rolling up the cover. Watch to see that the material stays roughly in the center of the reel.



Stop and shift the material as needed so as to keep the cover perpendicular to the reel. You may have to shuffle it a bit to keep it folded at the seams.

The extra rope on the opposite end of the cover also serves for securing the cover once it is on the reel. The rope can be tied back on itself to keep the cover from unwinding when you move it.



Storing Reel and Cover



The reel itself can be stood on end. The end cap should be about the same height as the wheels and stabilize it. I don't recommend storing the reel this way while the cover

is rolled up on it. The cover will droop and sag.



If you are just taking the cover off for a day or the weekend, the fact that it is wet will not be an issue. If, however, you are taking it off for an extended period, you will need to let the cover dry. It will mold if rolled up wet and left.

The rolled up cover should not be stored in direct sunlight. It will generate significant heat and melt itself. Store it in the shade and, if needed, place some reflective material over it.



Well that about does it. I hope you enjoyed the project and I hope the Reel provides you with years of convenient service.

Thank You,
Brennan R. Cook

Contact and Additional Information, End.

Name of Plans: Build Your Own Pool Cover Reel

Payloadz account name:

Price of Plans: \$12.00

Paypal account Name:
brennancook@hotmail.com

Preferred Email for questions and comments:
contactbrcook@gmail.com

Regardless which email address you send correspondence to, please put the words "Pool Cover Reel" in the subject line. This gives your email a better chance of getting through the spam filters and catching my eye.

