When the standard size die-cut rings aren’t the right size or aren’t available, make your own custom size rings with backer rod and twill tape or tri-rod and glue. These rings are so easy you can construct them on the spot, as needed.

“hotdog” backer rod rings

Our “hotdog” or just “dog” technique is named for the way the twill tape is inserted into a groove in the foam, or “bun”. This technique works great for shallow baskets and pots.

1. Cut a length of backer rod foam; bevel the edges.  
2. With a foam knife, slice a groove in the foam and insert a piece of twill tape.  
3. Pull tight and tie.  
4. Voila.

tri-rod rings

This technique takes advantage of the natural tilt of the tri-rod foam to ensure surface contact with your pot.

1. Cut a length of tri-rod.  
2. With a foam knife cut out triangular wedges, evenly spaced. Cut almost to the edge, but not all the way through.  
3. Press the hot glue gun tip into one end of the foam to create a small pocket and fill the pocket with glue.  
4. Bind with stretch wrap to hold the ends together while they set. Now you’re all set.
As seen in NMAI Moving episode entitled THE APPLICATION OF CYCLODODECANE AND EASY SUPPORTS: Good Tips 1 & 2.

**“hotdog” pot rings**
- 100% COTTON TWILL TAPE, Unbleached, narrow tape available from University Products, 517 Main Street, P.O. Box 101, Holyoke, MA 01041-0101, tel: 800-442-7276, fax: 800-532-9281, www.universityproducts.com
- or ½” and 1” bleached or natural tape available from McMaster Carr, P.O. Box 440, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0440, tel: 732-329-3200, fax: 732-329-3772, www.mcmastercarr.com

**tri-rod pot rings**
- TRIANGULAR ROD, “TRI-ROD” brand up to 2” available from Granite State Log Homes, 773 Tenney Mountain Highway, Plymouth, NH 03264; tel: 603-536-4949 or 800-585-9605, fax: 603-536-2980, www.granitestateloghomes.com
- POLYGUN LT LOW TEMPERATURE HOT MELT GLUE GUN manufactured by 3M, for paperboard and foam.

- POLYETHYLENE STRETCH WRAP Available from Preferred Plastics, P.O. Box 657, Nutley, NJ 07110; tel: 973-759-1510.
- FOOD SERVICE KNIVES 6” Produce (square-tipped) $14.02, 8” Fillet (pointed-tip) $17.70, from McMaster Carr, P.O. Box 440, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0440; tel: 732-329-3200, fax: 732-329-3772, www.mcmastercarr.com

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