



MACRAMÉ KNOTS FOR BEGINNERS 2021

**Step-by-Step Macramé Knots Guide to
Make Your Handmade Project**

Macramé Brooch

INTRODUCTION

I've been fascinated by knotting for many years: I loved learning to tie knots in the Girl Guides, and at art college I used macramé as a medium for some exciting wall hangings. In *The Beader's Bible*, I began to explore macramé as a jewellery-making technique, so I am delighted to be able to share more techniques and inspiration with you in this book. It is easier than ever to source materials for macramé, whether it's gorgeous cords and threads in wonderful colours or interesting findings and fastenings, so there's no excuse not to give it a try!

With this book you'll be able to explore a range of different knots and techniques used for macramé. You can work through each section building up your skills as you go, or simply dip in and out as you choose. Each technique has been clearly explained with step-by-step instructions and illustrated with photographs and diagrams, making it easy for beginners.

There are fabulous projects at the end of the book, described in step-by-step detail with 'you will need' requirements, and

there are also a couple of mini project ideas included so that you can learn a technique and make something straight away! While the technique samples have been worked with standard cords for maximum clarity, the project ideas show how the beauty of the knots can be enhanced by choosing different cords or threads, thicker or thinner, depending on how you choose to use the design. You'll also discover how the addition of beads can enhance the techniques for even more stunning results.



ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

If you are already a keen beader or craft person, much of the equipment and many of the materials listed are things that you will generally have in your workbox. You don't need to get everything at once as you can always improvise, but for best results it is better to use a similar material or the equipment and tools listed.



Cords and Threads

Macramé techniques can be worked in a huge variety of different threads and cords. The choices available are reviewed in this section.

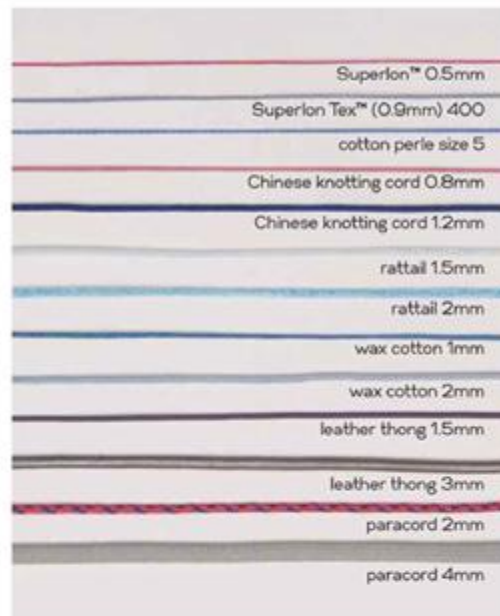
Choosing cords

Once you have learnt a technique, do experiment with different materials as you will be surprised at the results. Knots can lose definition when worked with a soft cord such as satin rattail or embroidery cottons, and the shape can be much more distinct when a stiffer cord such as Superlon™, wax cotton, or round leather thong is used. Before you start, consider how you want the finished item to look and choose your cord or thread accordingly. Remember that each of these cords are available in a range of thicknesses and can be worked singly or in multiple bundles.

The cords and threads that have been used throughout the book for the step-by-step photographs are not the only cord or thread suitable for each technique and certainly not necessarily the best option, but they have been chosen because they show the techniques as clearly as possible.

Cord guide

This sample board of cords shows at a glance some of the cords that are suitable for macramé and gives you a quick guide to the range of thicknesses available in the different cords.



Satin cord (rattail)

This silky cord has a high sheen and is available in a range of thicknesses: bugtail is 1mm thick, mousetail 1.5mm thick, and rattail is 2mm thick, however, in practice all tend to be called rattail now. The cord is quite soft so it doesn't support the shape of knots very well and it isn't very hard-wearing.

Chinese knotting cord

This nylon braided cord holds its round shape when it is worked. Currently available in 0.4–3mm, the finer cords are generally more popular for macramé. Look online for the widest colour ranges, but

you may find that the choice of colour for the thicker cords is not as extensive as for the finer cords.

Wax cotton cord

Wax cotton cord is suitable for a range of techniques. Look out for thicker 3mm cord, which works particularly well for individual knots and knotted braids as it holds its shape well. Thinner wax cotton is ideal for macramé and easy to string with beads. They are available in natural shades and a range of colours, many of which follow current fashion trends.

If wax cotton cord softens from overuse or you want to reuse a length, pull through under a medium hot iron to smooth kinks and restore the finish.

Superlon™

Superlon™ (often abbreviated to S-lon™) is an industrial strength twisted nylon cord originally used for upholstery. It is available in 0.5mm and 0.9mm widths and both are suitable for micro macramé and other knotting techniques where you want a fine braid or finish. These cords are perfect for adding beads into your knotting and can be mixed with thicker cords for a change of texture. Both sizes are available in a range of neutrals and pretty contemporary colours.

Paracord

This chunky cord is commonly available in two thicknesses: paracord 550 (4mm) has seven strands down the centre and paracord 450

(2mm) has four centre strands. Paracord is perfect for making bracelets and other accessories from single knots, and as it is quite bulky, it is popular for men's jewellery. The cord is available in a wide range of solid bright and dark colours as well as in many multicoloured patterns.

Leather thong

Round leather thong makes a good distinct knot as it is a firm cord. It is available in a range of thicknesses from around 0.5mm up to 6mm. The thinner cords are good for tying knots and the thicker cords more suitable for use as a core to tie the knots around. Leather thong is available in natural shades and a wide range of colours. Pearlescent finishes, usually in pale pastels, are particularly attractive as are the different thicknesses of snakeskin effect cords.

Faux suede

This flat microfibre cord looks like real leather suede, but is much more pliable than the real thing and gives a completely different look to knots. It is generally 3mm wide and available in a range of colours.

Embroidery threads

Stranded cotton and cotton perlé are just two readily available threads that can be used for macramé. Embroidery threads are soft and won't hold the shape of a knot firmly but they look good when combined with stiffer cords. The colour range is much greater than for other cords, so exciting colour schemes are possible. While

embroidery threads are usually matte, you can use metallic embroidery threads to add a touch of sparkle.

Findings

Findings are all the little pieces, generally made from metal, that are used to make and finish items of jewellery or other accessories. Many of the findings are used to cover the raw ends of cords and it is important to choose the correct size and shape. Keep a good selection of findings in your workbox so that you can create and finish different pieces.

Finishing ends

These findings are used to finish the ends of knotted cords. There are more and more styles being manufactured year on year and most are available in a range of metallic finishes. For best results, match the measurement of the internal dimensions of the finishing ends to the cord or braid. Some finishing ends incorporate a fastening but if this is not the case, see [Jewellery Fastenings](#) for your options.

Cord ends

Used to finish single cords, some styles have lugs that you secure over the cord with pliers, others are tubular and are either secured with glue or with an integral crimp ring.



Spring ends

One of the older styles of finding, these can be cylindrical or cone shaped. Tuck the cord or braid inside the wire coil, then use pliers to squeeze only the end ring to secure.



End cones

These cone or bell-shaped findings can either have a hole at the top or be finished with a loop. For best results use jewellery glue to secure the braid into both styles.



End caps

End caps are cylindrical, square or rectangular versions of end cones, and they too either have a hole at the top or are ready-finished with a ring or loop. For best results use jewellery glue to secure the braid into both styles.



Ribbon crimps

As the name suggests, these are designed to cover the raw end of ribbon, but they can be used to finish flat braids or cord. To prevent it from getting damaged, use nylon-jaw pliers to close the ribbon crimp over the braid.



Jewellery fastenings

There are lots of different findings used to finish pieces of jewellery such as necklaces, bracelets, earrings and rings. I've chosen a few styles of fastenings suitable for using with macramé. Some of the fastenings are end caps (see [Finishing Ends](#)) with a magnetic fastening incorporated in the design; otherwise, choose a style that matches the end cap and complements the braid in colour and weight.

Toggle fastening

This two-part fastening has a T-bar and ring; turn the T-bar on its side to slot in or out of the ring. Choose a more decorative style as a design feature.



Magnetic fastenings

These neat fastenings have a strong magnet incorporated in the design. They are perfect for finishing necklaces and bracelets.



Trigger clasp

This inexpensive fastening with a spring closure is suitable for finishing both bracelets and necklaces. Available styles include the lobster claw and bolt ring.



Multi-strand clasps

These are available in a range of styles. The box shape is suitable for necklaces and the slider fastening is ideal for macramé and other cuff-style bracelets. Choose the number of rings on each side to suit the project.



Plastic clasps

These plastic clasps are specially designed for knotting techniques such as macramé as they have a bar end to attach the cords to. The clasps are available in a range of sizes and a variety of bright colours.



Beads

Beads can be added to all macramé techniques in a variety of different ways, either during knotting or afterwards. For more information see [Adding Beads to Macramé](#).



Choosing beads

Beads come in all sorts of colours, finishes, sizes and shapes, but for knotting the size of hole is paramount so the beads can be easily strung onto the cord. It is a good idea to take a sample of cord with you when you go bead shopping.

Seed beads

This is a generic term used to describe the tiny glass beads used primarily for bead stitching and stringing. Basic seed beads (rocailles) are doughnut shaped, and the most common sizes are 15 to 3 (1–5.5mm) with 15 (1mm) being the smallest; cylinder-shaped beads, also known as delicas or magnificas, have larger holes and the double delicas can be strung onto 1mm cord. Look out too for unusual textures like the triangle, hex or charlotte beads, or for different shapes such as papillon (or peanut) beads and magatamas (drop beads).

Large beads

There are so many different beads that can be used in knotting techniques from simple wood beads to exquisite pearls and crystals, and the choice is yours. Bead hole size need not necessarily restrict you as some beads have surprisingly large holes, such as the Swarovski Mini-bead range, where even the 6mm beads fit onto 1mm cord. Pandora-style beads have very large holes and will fit over 6mm cord.

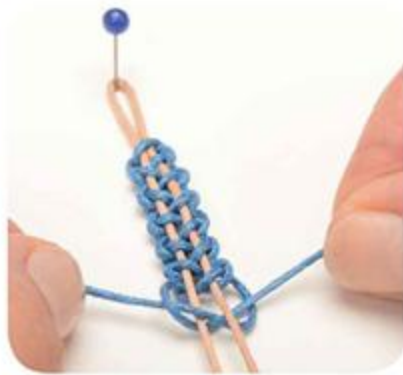
Focal beads

These extra large beads are often used as a focal point for a piece of jewellery. You can suspend pendant beads using a bail, or attach cords to large ring beads to work macramé. Remember too that large beads can be attached between two lengths of macramé that have been finished with end caps.

TECHNIQUES

Now that you know what you'll need, it's time to get started with the techniques. This part of the book will guide you through all of the basic knots and will then show you how to use them with a range of different macramé techniques. Once you've practised these you'll be able to create an assortment of beautiful jewellery items for yourself and loved ones.





KNOTTING BASICS

You will find that the instructions for making knots are much easier to follow if you know the terms commonly used. Also, it is a good idea to get to grips with the basic knots used before you make a start on any macramé techniques.

Did you know that there are three different types of knotting, although we generally use 'knot' to describe all three? A 'bend' is used to tie two different cords together, a 'hitch' to tie a cord around another object, and a 'knot' to tie one or both ends of a cord around itself, often at its end, to form a stopper.

Knotting Terms

Take a moment or two to familiarize yourself with the knotting terms frequently used in step instructions, most of which are illustrated below.



Working end (1) The end of the cord that you are using to tie the knot.

Starting end (2) The opposite end to the working end – if you begin in the middle of a cord both ends are working ends.

Cross point (3) Where one cord crosses over the other. An overhand cross point is when the working end is on top, and when the working end is underneath it is an underhand cross point.

Clockwise loop (4) Sometimes referred to as an overhand loop, this is where the working end goes around clockwise and over itself again.

Anticlockwise (counter-clockwise) loop (5) Sometimes referred to as an underhand loop, this is where the working end goes around anticlockwise and over itself again.

U-shaped bend (6) Also known as a bight, this is often made as a way to weave cord through the knot.

Circled (7) The cord passes around one or more strands in the knot.

Coiled (8) The cord wraps around one or more strands several times.

Weave (9) To go over and under successive cords in a knot with a working end or U-shaped bend.

Firm up Tighten the knot until the cords are secure, but not so tight that the knot is distorted.

Core cord This is a stationary cord inside other threads and cords. In macramé the core cords can become working cords and vice versa.

Base cord This cord often forms the basic shape of a necklace or can be substituted for a finding, such as a solid ring, fastening or bar. The working cords are usually attached to the base cord with lark's head knots (see [Using Basic Knots/Nesting Lark's Head Knot](#)).

Tying Basic Knots

Learn to tie these basic knots off by heart as they are used time and time again.

Reef (square) knot

This is used to join two cord ends of even thickness and it can be loosened if required by tugging one end back over the knot. It is the basis for the square knot in macramé.

Pass the left cord over the right and tuck under, then pass the right cord over the left and under, to bring the cord up through the

loop on the left.



Overhand knot

This simple knot can be tied at the end of a cord as a stopper or for a reminder of the starting end, or it can be used to separate or attach beads, or to make a simple sliding fastening.

Working over the thumb, make a clockwise loop and bring the working thread up through the loop.



Slip knot

The base of many knotted braids, the slip knot is tied so that the working end is adjustable.

Make an anticlockwise loop and hold the cord at the cross point (at the bottom) in your left hand. Bring the working cord behind the loop and pull a U-shaped bend through. Pull the short starting end to firm up the knot and the working end to adjust the size of loop.



Lark's head

This knot is used to attach one cord to another, or to attach a cord to a bar or to a ring as shown here, and it is the most commonly used knot for starting macramé projects.

Fold one cord in half and pass the loop you have made through the ring from front to back. Pass the tails through the loop and pull up to tighten. To make a reverse lark's head knot, pass the loop through the ring from the reverse side and complete the knot by passing the tails through the loop again.



Half-hitch

One of the basic macramé knots, worked over another cord as shown here, or over a ring or bar. It is often used in pairs to secure finer cords or threads.

Take one cord and pass the working end under the other cord and behind the starting end to make one half-hitch. Make a second loop in the same way passing the working end through the loop between the two half-hitches for extra security.



Using Basic Knots

The simplest of knots can make the most attractive jewellery. Overhand knots can be tied to separate or attach beads and reef knots make a quick and easy bracelet, and there are many more ideas in this section for getting the most from basic knots.

Overhand knots

The overhand knot looks fabulous tied into a rustic leather cord; it can be used to separate beads and attach charms, and even for a simple sliding fastening.

- Use overhand knots to anchor a bead on a length of cord or to space beads along the length of the leather. Choose cord to suit the size of the bead hole.



- When designing with two or more strands of cord, one of the strands could be thinner to pass through small-hole beads before tying all the strands together with an overhand knot.



- Use an overhand knot to attach a jump ring charm or chain along the length of the cord. Tie the knot through links on the same side of the chain to prevent it twisting.



- Loop two lengths of cord in opposite directions through a washer-style bead or button, then tie with an overhand knot at each side to secure.



- Create a simple beaded tassel by tying a bundle of cords together with an overhand knot; add a bead on each strand and tie an overhand knot above and below the knot to secure it.



- For a sliding fastening, lay two cord ends in opposite directions and, at each end, tie an overhand knot over the other cord and firm up each. Pull the tails to open and the main cord to close.



Reef knot

When working a reef knot, cord too thick for tying intricate knots can be transformed into a simple and effective design, ideal for making a pretty bracelet.



1 Cut two 25cm (10in) lengths of 6mm cord and tie a reef knot (see [Tying Basic Knots](#)). Adjust the knot so that all the ends are the same length, then pull gently to firm up.



2 Check the length of the bracelet allowing for the fastening, trim the cord ends, then attach both cords at each end into the fastening using strong jewellery glue.

Lark's head knot

Often overlooked, this is one of the most useful knots for making jewellery and accessories – single or multiple lark's head knots can be used to make attractive jewellery designs.

- Tie lark's head knots through the rings in a slide fastener ready to work a wide panel of macramé to make a cuff bracelet.



- Use the lark's head knot to attach a cord to a solid ring to make a pendant that can be further embellished with jump rings and bead charms.



- Secure a ring, or other shape, with a lark's head knot on either side, then secure the ends in a fastening for a simple bracelet.



Nesting lark's head knot

The nesting lark's head knot is useful if using two colours of cord when knotting or working macramé.

- Tie a lark's head knot with the first cord (light pink), then lay the second cord (dark pink) horizontally below the first knot, taking the ends around the back of the base cord and tuck into the loop created.



Multiple lark's head knots

Working the knots one after the other uses a slightly different technique, as you have to weave one tail around the core

cord so that it follows the correct path to make a lark's head knot.

Single core technique



1 Use a lark's head knot to attach a thin cord to one end of a thicker core cord; tie on a second length of thin cord with a lark's head knot facing in the other direction.



2 With the first working end, work a half-hitch (see [Tying Basic Knots](#)) over the core cord. Pass the working end under the core cord again and back up through the loop to complete a third lark's head knot.



3 Continue working from side to side working one lark's head knot at a time with alternate cords. You can add beads on the large loops down each side.

These techniques work well with a 1mm cord tied to a 3-4mm core cord, as used for the samples shown.

Double core technique



1 For a bracelet length: tie a lark's head knot near the middle of a 40cm (16in) length of thick leather cord. Bend this core cord in half and take the top working cord of the lark's head knot across and over the other half of the core cord.



2 Make a second lark's head knot on the right-hand side of the loop as Single Core Technique, step 2, then pass the right-hand working cord diagonally across and over the left-hand core cord. Tie a lark's head knot. Take the left-hand working cord across and over the right-hand core cord. Tie another lark's head knot.



3 Continue with the criss-cross pattern of lark's head knots all the way down the core cords. You can adjust the size of the top loop to accommodate a button or toggle.

Decide whether to keep the same diagonal cord on top between the knots or to alternate them to create a slightly different centre pattern.



When the multiple lark's head knot bracelet is the length you require, you can use the thinner cords to attach a fastening, such as a button, or alternatively, glue the cord ends into a toggle fastening as shown here. Feed the U-bend into the metal

slider. Check the loop is large enough for the toggle and glue in place.

Button knot

Button knots are very decorative and can be used in place of a round bead, or as an end stopper. Tying with one end of a single cord is shown, but two cords or a doubled cord can also be used.



1 Make an anticlockwise loop with the working end on the right. Make a second anticlockwise loop over the first, then hold firmly at the cross point at the bottom of the loops.



2 Weave the working end (right-hand tail) through the two loops from right to left, going over, under, over, under, to come out the other side.



3 Bring the working end back round over the starting end, pass down through the loop and under the cross point, then bring the working end up in the middle of the knot.



4 At this point hold the bottom loops between finger and thumb and turn the sides down to create a ring shape or toggle around the tip of your finger. Pull the tails to firm up slightly.



5 Pull the tails to tighten the knot until a loop of cord pops up from the side of the toggle. Work around the knot, pushing one end of the loop down and pull through.



6 Keep pushing the knot back down, working around the button knot in the same direction until it reaches one of the ends. Take your finger out and repeat the loop pulling process until the knot is firm.

Working around your finger prevents the knot from collapsing and becoming tangled, especially when working with a soft cord like rattail.

Moving a button knot

When working button knots side by side or next to a bead, it can be difficult to position them exactly, so this technique enables you to move one knot to another.



1 Tie the first button knot in the correct position, then tie a second button knot so that it ends up fairly close to the first, but don't pull it too tight.



2 Turn the knot around until you find the loop that emerges as the core thread on the left-hand side, and pull the loop through until the second button knot is moved across to butt up against the first.



3 Work around the knot pulling adjacent loops through until you reach the working cord at the other end, repeating if necessary to firm up the knot to make it the same size as the first knot. Tie more button knots, moving them along the cord.

Sliding button knot fastening

Use button knots for a decorative sliding fastening for a necklace or bracelet. Two colours of cord are shown for clarity but for a necklace or bracelet the cords will be the same colour.



1 Near the end of the cord, tie a button knot to the toggle stage (see Button Knot, step 4). Pass the other end of the cord (shown here in a contrast colour) through the middle of the toggle in the opposite direction to the short tail, then continue to pull loops through the button knot (see Button Knot, steps 5 and 6) to make a small firm knot.



2 Arrange the first button knot on the left-hand side with a long end of the other cord out to the right. Begin by forming the first two

anticlockwise loops around the other cord (shown here in a contrast colour).



3 Continue to finish the button knot and then work the loops through to firm up the second button knot around the other cord. Pull the knots to close the fastening and the main cords to open it.



4 Apply a little glue inside the second button knot where the tail emerges and trim when dry, then secure the first knot in the same way. Do make sure the button knots will slide as the glue dries.

MACRAMÉ BASICS

Macramé is said to have evolved as a way to tie or create decorative fringing on rugs or woven blankets. It is one of the most versatile knotting techniques because although there are only three basic knots, these can be used singly or in unison to create a wide range of braids, flat panels or tubular structures.

Unlike other knotted braids that are usually worked in the hand, macramé is often secured to the work surface with pins or a spring clip. The square and half-knot worked with three or four cords are easy to learn, then you can move on to multistrand techniques and different ways to use the half-hitch (see [Multistrand Macramé](#)).

Estimating cord lengths

It can be difficult to work out the length of cord for working macramé if you are swapping the core and working cords around, but as a general rule the core cords are the length of the finished piece plus 15cm (6in) at each end for finishing. Allow three to four times the finished length for the working cords.

Working macramé

It is best to work on a cork pin board or a sheet of foam core, so that you can use short map pins to secure the cords.

Beginning with a loop



1 Fold a length of cord in half and loop over a map pin. Secure the ends with a spring clip at the bottom of the board. Tuck a second length of cord under the core cords and tie an overhand knot (see [Knotting Basics: Tying Basic Knots](#)) in the middle of the working cord.



2 For a neater finish on the front side, rotate the overhand knot to the reverse, and start to tie the first macramé knot.

For very simple braids, the cords can be taped onto a hard work surface.

Beginning on a ring



Use a lark's head knot (see [Knotting Basics: Tying Basic Knots](#)) to attach cords to a ring, pendant or fastening. You can add a second pair of cords, either side by side or nesting (see [Nesting Lark's Head Knot](#)). Alternatively use an overhand knot to attach a second pair of cords (see [Knotting Basics: Using Basic Knots/Beginning with a Loop, step 2](#)).

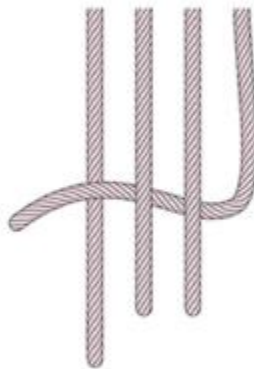
Macramé knots

There are three simple knots used in macramé, the half knot, the square knot and the half-hitch, and these can be worked in different combinations to create a variety of effects and

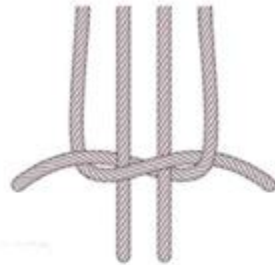
designs. In this section how to tie the two flat knots – the half-knot and square knot is shown; for the half-hitch, which uses a different technique, see [Multistrand Macramé](#).

Half knot

This is half a reef (square) knot (see [Knotting Basics: Tying Basic Knots](#)) repeated in the same direction so that the cords naturally twist. Shown here worked over two core cords, it can also be worked over one, three or more core cords.



1 Cut cords as described in [Estimating Cord Lengths](#) and lay side by side so that the two shorter (core) cords are in the middle. *Pass the right-hand cord under the core cords and over the left-hand cord.



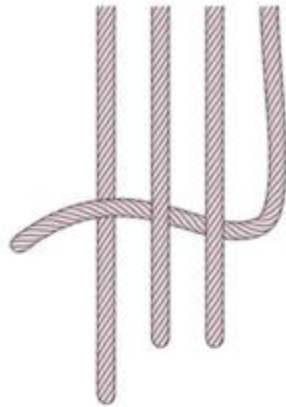
2 Take the left-hand cord over the core cords and pass it down through the loop on the right. Pull the cords to firm up the knot. Repeat from * until the spiral is the length required.

Change the direction that you tie the knot to reverse the spiral.

SQUARE KNOT

This flat knot is essentially a reef (square) knot generally worked over two core cords, and the basic technique can be easily used to create wider panels (see [Multistrand Macramé: Alternating Square Knots](#)).





1 Arrange the cords side by side so that the two shorter (core) cords are in the middle. * Work a half knot passing the right-hand cord under the core cords and over the left-hand cord. Take the left-hand cord over the core cords and pass it down through the loop on the right.



2 Reverse the process, passing the left-hand cord under the core cords and over the right-hand cord. Then take the right-hand cord

and pass it down through the loop on the left. Repeat from *.

On a single square knot braid a single core cord is sufficient but not as stable as two.

SQUARE KNOT VARIATIONS

The square knot is a popular knot for making macramé bracelets and other accessories from paracord and the resulting flat knot braid is known as a Solomon bar. You can experiment with different ways of manipulating the basic square knot to make many attractive variations.

Crossed cords

Add a contrast cord colour to the basic square knot cords to create a cross stitch effect, with a running stitch pattern on the reverse side.



1 Start with an overhand knot and work one square knot (see [Macramé Basics: Macramé Knots](#)); before you firm up the knot, feed

the ends of a contrast cord colour through the square knot under the core cords.



2 Cross the right-hand contrast cord over the left and drop the tails either side of the core cords.



3 Work the first half of the next square knot: left-hand cord under the core cords and over the right-hand cord, right-hand cord over the core cords and down through the loop on the left.



4 Lift the contrast cords up above the knots. Work the second half of the square knot, taking the right-hand cord under the contrast cords but over the core cords and the left-hand cord. Take the left-hand cord under the contrast cords but over the core cords and down through the right loop.



5 Repeat steps 2–4 continuing the pattern of crosses. You can cross the right cord over the left each time, or alternate for a different effect.

To create a running stitch pattern on both sides of the braid, keep the contrast cords running down each side of the braid rather than creating a cross at step 2.



Front: cross stitch pattern.



Reverse: running stitch pattern.

Woven square knot

Worked over the basic four strands, this produces a woven effect down the middle of the braid. Follow the step instructions carefully as the cords are not tied as a basic square knot every time.



1 Tie an overhand knot and rotate it (see Macramé Basics: Working Macramé/Beginning with a Loop, step 2). * Take the left-hand cord over the left core cord, under the right core cord, and over the right-hand cord. Pass the right-hand cord under all cords and up through the left loop as shown. Pull ends to firm up.



2 Take the right-hand cord under the right core cord, over the left core cord and under the left-hand cord. Then take the left-hand cord under all cords and up through the right loop.



3 Continue repeating from * until the braid is the length required. Work a regular square knot to finish.

Paracord is used for the samples: you can experiment with thicker or thinner cords to create your designs.



Woven square knot which has an attractive picot edge and a stitched effect when worked in contrast colours.



Attach two lengths of paracord to a key ring using the lark's head knot and work one square knot. Add a contrast colour through the knot to work the crossed cords pattern. To finish work a Chinese button knot toggle at the bottom using the contrast cords (see Finishing Techniques: Finishing Ends/Cord Fastenings). Trim and seal the ends inside the toggle.

MULTISTRAND MACRAMÉ

You can work macramé with many more cords than the basic four, to create wider bands for fringing, a belt or a cuff bracelet. Multistrand macramé can even be worked in the round to make items such as bags or plant holders. With more than four cords, however, you do need to plan ahead, working out the design, the number of cords required, and how to secure them to start.

Alternating square knots

Although you can work a square knot over a single cord (three cords in total), for alternating square knots it is better to work with multiples of four base cords.



1 Set up the macramé cords – here the doubled-over cords have been pinned to a board. Tie a second cord using an overhand knot

on each pair of cords and rotate for a neater finish (see [Macramé Basics: Working Macramé/Beginning with a Loop](#)).



2 Tie a square knot (see [Macramé Basics: Macramé Knots](#)) with the first four cords, then tie a square knot with the next four cords. Work across the cords tying a square knot on each group of four cords until you reach the end of the row. Pull the knots taut so that they don't come loose.



3 On the next row, the working cords from the previous row will become the core cords and vice versa. Separate the first two cords and take these out to the right-hand side. Separate the next four cords and work a square knot.



4 Work across the cords tying a square knot on each group of four cords until you reach the last two cords at the left-hand side.



5 The two spare cords are carried down to the next row. Work the next row from right to left as the first row, tying a square knot on the first four cords, and on every four cords across the row.



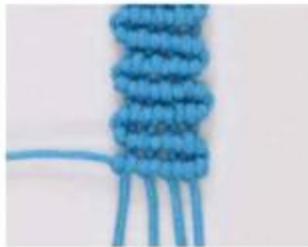
6 Continue to repeat the two-row tying pattern to create the macramé panel. For an even panel, try to tie knots to the same spacing each time, using pins to stabilize the panel as you work down.

Setting up to work multiple cords

Set up your cords for working by beginning with loops or by attaching the cords to a fastening, buckle or other fitment (see [Macramé Basics: Working Macramé](#)). The advantage of working on a cork pin board or foam core is that the pins can be used to space the knots as you work and to secure cords at an angle to make a more precise piece of knotting.

Straight half-hitch rib

Generally worked in pairs as a double half-hitch, the half-hitches are usually worked over one of the side cords to form a thick horizontal rib as shown.





1 Arrange one of the outer cords across the other cords horizontally. Bring the new outer vertical cord over the horizontal cord and back under it again to the right-hand side.



2 Take the same cord over the horizontal cord and this time bring it out to the right-hand side through the loop. Repeat the two knots using each of the vertical cords in turn to create a thick rib. When you reach the end, bring the inner cord back across the vertical cords and repeat the process in the opposite direction.

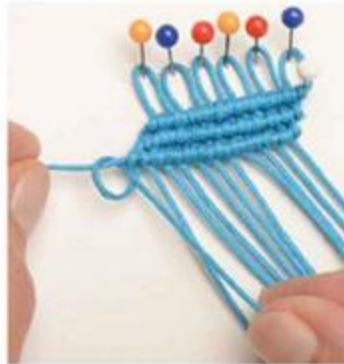
To work the rib diagonally, see [Half-hitch Variations: Diagonal Half-hitch](#).

Angled-edge half-hitch rib

Half-hitches are often used to make panels with shaped sides. To work straight half-hitch, one side cord is taken back and forwards, but if you use successive cords on a particular side the edge will be angled instead.



1 Pin the right-hand cord across the other vertical cords. Work one row of half-hitch rib across this core cord, tying double half-hitches with each vertical cord. Pin the next right-hand cord across under the rib. Work a row of half-hitch rib over the new core cord finishing with a double half-hitch over the previous core cord on the left-hand side.



2 Pin the next right-hand cord across under the rib and work another row of half-hitches – already the panel has begun to shape diagonally. Do remember to work half-hitches over the previous core cord at the end of each row.



3 To change the direction to create a piece of macramé that zigzags, take the current core cord and pin it back across the vertical cords towards the right-hand side. Repeat steps 1 and 2, but now taking the next left-hand cord across to work each row.

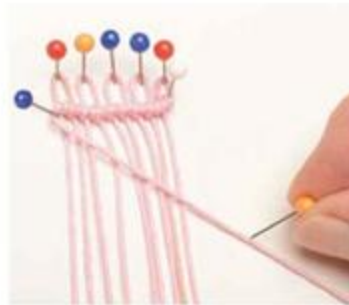
HALF-HITCH VARIATIONS

Half-hitch ribs can be worked at an angle for a diagonal pattern, and they can even be used to create shapes such as leaves and petals. While most macramé techniques use the double half-hitch, it is possible to create knotted designs using single half-hitches too (see [Endless Falls](#)).



Diagonal half-hitch

When making a horizontal rib the core cord is pinned straight across, but if the core cord is pinned at an angle, a diagonal rib will be created.



1 Work one row of half-hitch rib across the cords. Insert a pin at the end of the rib. Wrap the side (core) cord around the pin and across the vertical cord at the angle you want to create. Insert a pin to secure the core cord.



2 Tie two half-hitches with each vertical cord in turn making sure you keep the diagonal line of the rib as you firm up the knots. Make sure

the vertical cords above the diagonal rib are not too loose or tight, and are lying flat.



3 To create a zigzag simply pin the core cord diagonally in the opposite direction and work half-hitches with all the vertical cords again. At the end of the row go back in the opposite direction once more, using the same core cord.

Petal shapes

With a little forward planning, it is possible to create all sorts of simple shapes with half-hitch ribs. Here the angle of the rib and the spacing has created a petal shape – use the technique to try out other patterns.



1 Pin the right-hand core cord, then take it across the vertical cords and pin so that there is a slight upwards curve on the core cord. Work half-hitches along the cord adjusting each knot to maintain the curve.



2 Bend the core cord on the left around a pin and across the vertical cords in a downwards curve to make the petal shape. Tie half-hitches over the core cord to complete the petal shape.

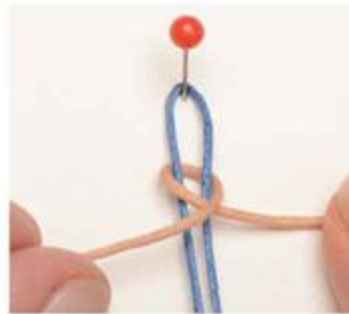


Half-hitches are very sculptural, so the technique lends itself to quite structured jewellery pieces. Sections of this exquisite piece of macramé with added beads could be worked as a pendant or a necklace, but worked in this way over a metal rod

it makes a stunning brooch or hair clasp. For step-by-step instructions for making the Macramé Brooch, see [Projects](#).

Endless falls

The first of the single half-hitch variations is so named because it has the appearance of a waterfall, and the vertical cords seem to flow over and tumble down behind horizontal crossed cords.



1 Fold one cord in half around a pin, with the U-shaped bend at the top. Lay the second cord behind, and working from its mid-point, cross the ends over, left first, then right, so that they overlap.



2 Bring the vertical (blue) cords up one at a time to tie a half-hitch knot behind the crossed-over (beige) cords so that the tails finish facing down in between the knots.



3 Repeat the crossing of cords and tying of half-hitches until the braid is the length required. Pull the crossed cords gently to firm up the half-hitches.

To make a quick and easy bracelet, adjust the loop at the top of the macramé so that it is the right size for a toggle or button fastening loop.

Side-by-side endless falls

For this variation of endless falls, the two cord colours are tied together in a slightly different way to create a bold stripe along the length.



1 Make a loop in the middle of one (blue) cord so that the right-hand end is over the left. Lay the second (beige) cord across the loop above the cross point.



2 Wrap the right-hand end of the loop (blue) cord around the loop and then bring out through the new formed loop on the right, trapping the second (beige) cord. Pull the first (blue) cord to firm up the slip knot and arrange the cord colours alternately.



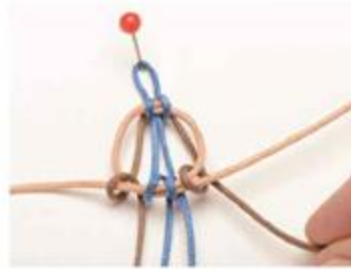
3 Work as for Endless Falls so that the vertical colours are different on each side of the braid. The crossing cords will swap from side to side.

Chain-link endless falls

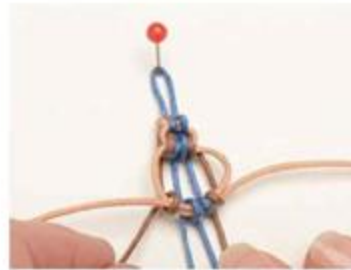
A different texture and pattern can be created with the endless falls technique when four or more vertical cords are used – always work with an even number of cords.



1 Start by working steps 1 and 2 of Endless Falls. Feed a third (brown) cord over the two half-hitches and down through each side of the crossed over horizontal (beige) cords. Pull the crossed cords to firm up the knot.



2 Cross the horizontal (beige) cords again, right over left. Work half-hitches with all four vertical cords, taking each cord down on the right-hand side of the half-hitch. Pull the horizontal side cords to firm up the knot.



3 Repeat step 2, but this time take the vertical cords down on the left-hand side of each half-hitch. Continue repeating these two rows until the braid is the length required, reducing back to two half-hitches at the end.



Endless falls, front side, which looks like a waterfall, and the reverse side, which has an attractive chevron pattern down the length.



Chain-link endless falls, front side with its ribbed effect, and the reverse side, which looks like a chain-linked watchstrap.



As the endless falls technique is tied with simple knots, it can be worked in chunky paracord to make a more masculine bracelet or with finer cords for a dainty design. To embellish with beads, add a bead at either side before you cross the cords. For more embellishing ideas, see [Adding Beads to Macramé](#).

ADDING BEADS TO MACRAMÉ

While macramé is an attractive knotting technique unadorned, it can be embellished easily with beads and gems to create different styles. Shamballa-style bracelets with sparkly beads added into a single row of square knots is one of the most popular techniques for embellished macramé.

Adding beads to core cords

It is easier to string all the beads onto the core cords at once rather than adding the beads one at a time as you need them.



1 Depending on the size of the bead hole, work the first section of macramé over single or double core cords. Add the bead, then secure the cord at the bottom of the board with a spring clip.



2 Push the first bead up to the last knot. Bring the working cords down either side of the bead and work a square knot beneath. You can work one or more square knots between the beads.



3 If working half-hitches, continue working the knots until the macramé twists around to bring the working cords back out at the sides before adding a bead.

Adding beads to working cords

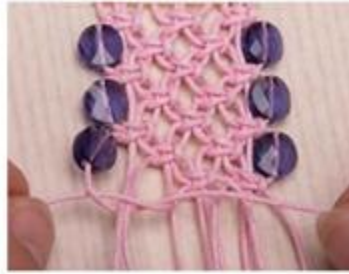
When adding beads to the working cords, the beads can be smaller as there is only a single strand of cord to pass them through.



1 Beads are added as you work, so adding only the beads you require to each working cord, push them up to the previous knot.



2 Work the next macramé knot around the core cords as before. Continue adding beads on the outer working cords after every knot.



On a wider band of macramé, the outer working cords are carried down to the next row of knots. You can add a bead onto each of these cords to create an attractive edging.



This elegant bracelet with sliding fastener is made by working blocks of half-hitch knots in between 6mm antique silver metallic beads. Tape two 30cm (12in) lengths of cotton cord onto the work surface and tie a 150cm (60in) length of cord around the two core cords using an overhand knot. Pass the left tail under the core cords and pull through, leaving a loop on

the left side. Pass that tail over the tail on the right side. Lift the right tail over the core cords and down through the loop on the left side. Pull the cords through to make a half-hitch knot. Work a 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) block. Thread a silver bead onto the core threads.

Take the tails either side of the bead and work another 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) block (see [Adding Beads to Core Cords](#), step 3). Repeat twice. Slide a large-hole glass bead onto the twisted cord. Add a silver bead, work another 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) block and repeat. Work 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) of macramé to finish. Trim tails to 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in). Remove tape and form the bracelet into a round shape with the tails facing in opposite directions. Tie a 30cm (12in) length of cord around the four core cords. Work a 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) length of macramé. Secure the tails with glue, making sure the slider still slides. Tie the threads together at each end and trim tails.

Adding rhinestones

Rhinestone or diamanté cup chain, a snake-like strip of small crystals in settings linked with short bars, is generally used to make exotic costume jewellery as it imitates more expensive diamonds.



1 Using 1mm cord, secure two shorter strands for the core cords and two longer strands for the working cords. Work a macramé section with square knots (see [Macramé Basics: Macramé Knots](#)). Lay the rhinestone cup chain on top of the core cords.



2 Work the first half of the square knot, left-hand cord under the core cords and the chain, then over the right-hand cord. Pull the cords up so that the knot lies between the first two rhinestones.



3 Work the second half of the square knot, right-hand cord under the core cords and the chain, then over the left-hand cord, and pull up so that this knot also lies between the first two rhinestones.



4 Repeat steps 2 and 3 to work a square knot between each of the rhinestones until you have completed the length of the chain. Work a section of unembellished square knot macramé to finish.

Use wire cutters to cut the rhinestone cup chain, stretching the chain and trimming it so that the metal lug is cut flush with the next setting.

Selecting beads and cords

Beads of all shapes and sizes can be added to macramé as you work just so long as the cord can fit through the bead hole. The size of bead and cord you choose will depend on whether you want to create a chunky design or a piece of micro macramé, but whichever effect you are going for, the techniques you use will be the same.



Incorporate beads or rhinestone cup chain into a simple square knot braid to make these delightful, brightly coloured bracelets. The clever design starts with a cord loop, then the tails are used to tie a pretty Chinese button knot for a toggle. For step-by-step instructions for making the Rhinestone Bracelets, see [Projects](#).



FINISHING TECHNIQUES

Knotting techniques all have at least one raw end that needs to be neatened or covered in some way to make a piece of jewellery, accessory or other item. Traditional techniques such as whipping or button knots use the knotting cord itself to cover the raw ends, or you can use a wide range of different findings and fastenings specially designed for the purpose.

Neatening the raw ends

Cords and braids tend to splay out at the end, so it is essential that the end be neatened in some way to enable you to fit it into a finding. There are various techniques that you can use to neaten raw ends and which one you choose will depend on the number of strands and type of material being used.

Melting



When using nylon knotting cord or paracord neaten the end first by holding it for a second or two in a flame – a household gas lighter is sufficient – to melt the end and fuse the raw ends.

Always take care when melting the ends of your cord using a gas lighter to avoid burning your fingers.

Wrapping

Use strong beading or sewing thread, or fine wire, to finish braids or cord ends prior to attaching a finding. This technique adds very little

extra width to the cord.



1 Working near the end of the cord, wrap the thread or wire neatly around near the end of the cord so that the wrapping is even and the starting end is trapped underneath. Don't overwrap or it will be too bulky.



2 Use a sewing needle to stitch the tail under the wrapped threads. Trim the tail, then, if necessary, across the top of the cord too.

Whipping

You can use a thicker cord for a decorative whipped end. This technique can also be used on a single end or over a double rope as shown here to create a loop.



1 Make a loop from thin cord and lay it on top side at the end of the braid or looped braid. Wrap the working end around the braid from the bottom and over both loop cords several times.



2 Continue to wrap the fine cord to create a single depth of wrapping. Keeping the cords neat and tidy as you wrap, insert the working end into the loop.



3 Pull the tail of the thin cord loop gently and then tug to bury the loop under the whipping. Trim both tails neatly.

Finishing with cord ends, end caps and cones

There are many different shapes and styles of cord end, end cap or cone suitable for finishing raw ends and some of the vast array is explored in

Cord ends and end caps



Cord ends are small metal findings designed to cover one or several fine raw ends. End caps which can be square, rectangular or round, are larger than cord ends, and suitable for a thick rope or braid. Both sizes either have a solid ring or hole so that a fastening can be attached. It is important to match the internal width or dimensions of the finding to the diameter or size of the cord or braid.

Fitting an end cone or cap



1 Wrap the end of the braid (or bundle of cords) with fine sewing or beading thread (see [Wrapping](#)), making sure the wrapping is not too deep so that it will be hidden inside the end cap; trim neatly.



2 Using a cocktail stick, smear a little glue (E6000 or G-S Hypo Cement) around the inside rim of the end cap, also adding a drop or two inside at the bottom. Avoid getting glue on the outside of the finding.



3 Push the braid (or cords) into the end cap, making sure that it is straight and that no raw ends are protruding; you can use a dressmaker's pin to tuck any stray fibres inside. Repeat at the other end, then leave to dry for 24 hours.

Adding a loop to an end cone or cap

Some styles of end cone or cap have a hole at the end rather than a ring. You can attach a piece of wire or a headpin to the braid then make a plain or wrapped loop. Choose the style to suit the

technique, so that the raw ends are all covered and the edge of the end cap or cone fits snugly around the braid or cords.



1 Wrap or whip the end of the braid or bundle of cords with thread or fine wire making sure that the end cap will still fit over. Bend the headpin over about 6mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) from the end and insert it under the wrapping as shown.



2 Bring the end of the headpin out in the centre of the braid end. Use snipe-nose pliers to bend the end of the headpin back up over the wrapping towards the braid end.



3 Add glue inside the end cap or cone and insert the braid feeding the headpin through the hole.



4 Work a plain loop on the end of the headpin. If the hole is large, you can add a small bead to plug the gap before making the loop.

Finishing ends

The starting of macramé and other knotting techniques is often secured with a loop or onto a fastening, so that there are no raw ends. The working end, however, always has

ends to finish. You can simply leave a fringe if the design allows, or use one of several finishing techniques.

Gluing the ends

Some glues dry out and become brittle but jewellery glue such as E6000 or G-S Hypo Cement, will stay pliable once dry for a more secure and lasting join.



1 Use a cocktail stick or a glue tube with a fine nozzle to apply a little glue under the end cords where they emerge from the last knot. Leave for 24 hours to dry.



2 Check that the cord ends are secure. For wax cotton cords trim close to the knot.



3 If using a nylon cord, such as Chinese knotting cord, trim a little further away and then carefully melt the end with a small flame.

Do not use instant superglue or gel (cyanoacrylate) as these may go hard and crack over time.



Tying knots

Sometimes a simple overhand knot is enough to neaten cord ends, or you could try the larger and more decorative double version.

Overhand knot



1 Tying an overhand knot (see [Knotting Basics: Tying Basic Knots](#)) on the cord end will prevent it from further fraying and neaten it. Adding a bead before working the knot creates a decorative finish.

Double overhand knot



1 Begin by tying an overhand knot, then take the working end through the loop a second time.



2 Pull both ends to firm up the knot, repositioning as you tighten if necessary. Add a drop of glue (see [Gluing the Ends](#)) and trim.

Cord fastenings

A fastening can be made using the macramé or knotting cords, from a simple sliding fastening with overhand knots to the more ornate Chinese button knot sliding fastening with its toggle-and-loop.

Sliding knot fastening



1 To make a simple slide fastening, lay the cord of the bracelet parallel, but in opposite directions. Tie an overhand knot with one end over the other cord.



2 Repeat to tie an overhand knot at the other end. Pull the knots fairly taut but not so tight that the cords can't move. Pull the tails to open and the main cords to close.

Chinese button knot toggle fastening



1 Work to the length of braid required allowing for the toggle-and-loop fastening. Tie both core cords together in an overhand knot close to the knotting, add a touch of glue and trim the ends.



2 Using one of the side cords begin to tie a button knot around the core cords to make a toggle (see Knotting Basics: Using Basic Knots/Sliding Button Knot Fastening).



3 Weave the other side cord around the toggle shape to create a double strand knot. Bring both side cords up out at the top of the knot before firming up.



4 Pull the loops one at a time and work around to firm up the knot so that it finishes up around the overhand knot, next to the end of the knotting. Apply a tiny amount of glue where the cords emerge, then either trim or melt to finish, shaping the ball so that the ends are hidden.



The Chinese button knot toggle fastening was used for this bright and colourful key charm.

PROJECTS

Throughout this book there are inspiring mini projects that can be made as a quick and easy follow-on to the various techniques and these need no further instruction. Alongside are some fabulous designs to showcase my favourite techniques; these are a little more involved so detailed step-by-step instructions are supplied here for you to follow.





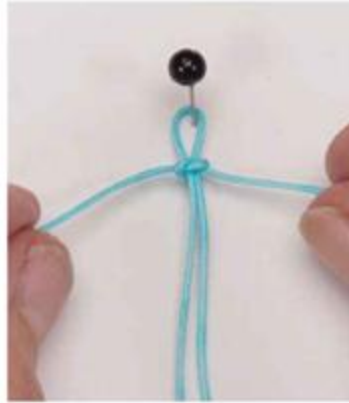
Rhinestone bracelets

Micro macramé worked with a fine knotting cord is perfect for making delicate jewellery. Seed beads can be added to the outer cords to make a simple beaded bracelet or add a little bling by knotting the cords around rhinestone cup chain.



You will need

- 11cm (4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in) of 4mm (stretched out) rhinestone cup chain
- 2.5m (2 $\frac{3}{4}$ yd) of 1mm nylon knotting cord
- E6000 jewellery glue
- Pin board and map pins (optional)



1 Cut a 50cm (20in) length from the knotting cord, and fold both pieces in half. Pin or tape the short length to the work surface with the loop at the top. Tie the longer piece of cord around the short length with an overhand knot.

2 For a 17.5cm (7in) long bracelet, work 3cm (1½in) of square knots (see [Macramé Basics: Macramé Knots](#)). Insert a pin or tape at the bottom of the knots to hold them in place.

3 Lay the length of cup chain on top of the two cord threads. Work a square knot between each rhinestone on the cup chain (see [Adding Beads to Macramé: Adding Rhinestones](#)). Look to see where the bar is on top of the previous square knot: if it is on the right, then begin the next square knot with the right cord; if it is on the left, start with the left cord. Continue working a square knot between every rhinestone, alternating the side you begin the knot to keep the square knots balanced.



4 Finish the macramé with a 3cm ($1\frac{1}{8}$ in) section of square knots or work the length to match the other end. Check the length of the bracelet and adjust if necessary. Work a two-strand button knot over two cords, weaving the cords in pairs (see Knotting Basics: Using Basic Knots/Button Knot). Tighten the button knot gradually, pulling the cords through so that it is sitting about 3–5mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{4}$ in) from the square knots (see photo above).

5 Apply a little glue inside the button knot where the cords emerge at the base, and trim the cords once the glue has dried. Check that the loop at the other end of the bracelet goes over the button knot snugly. You can adjust slightly by pulling the macramé knots down or up the centre core cords. Apply a little glue on the reverse side to secure the loop at the correct size.

Flip the overhand knot to the reverse side after you have tied it to make a neater transition to the macramé.

Beaded macramé bracelet



Begin the bracelet in exactly the same way as the rhinestone bracelet, and instead of adding the cup chain in the centre section, pick up a size 6 (3.5mm) seed bead on each outer cord and tie the next square knot (see [Adding Beads to Macramé: Adding Beads to Working Cords](#)). You will need 20 seed beads for a 17.5cm (7in) bracelet.



Beaded necklace

Look for a really big focus bead to set off this gorgeous macramé necklace. The contemporary style of the beads with their pretty mottled appearance transforms a traditional technique into a thoroughly modern design. If you can't find paper jewellery cord, fine wax cotton or cord is ideal.



You will need

- 3m each of 1mm paper jewellery cord in cream, beige and brown
- Large rectangular brown and gold accent bead, 4 x 2.5cm
- Brown and gold round beads, two 15mm and four 12mm
- Gold-plated heishi beads, 24
- Leather crimps, two gold-plated
- Gold-plated toggle fastening
- Low tack tape
- Scissors
- Flat-nosed pliers

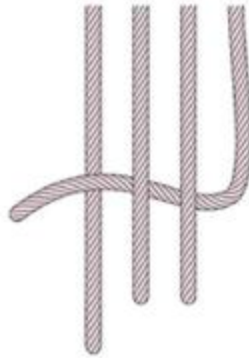


1 Feed the large rectangle bead onto all three cords and position in the middle. Tape the bead to the work surface so that the cords are vertical and secure the cords above the bead with a second piece of tape.

2 Work three half knots (see below) around the cream core thread, with the dark brown and beige cords. Pick up a heishi bead and tie a further three half knots. Pick up a second heishi bead and work another set of three half knots. Allow the knots to twist naturally.



3 Pick up a large round bead on all three cords. Repeat step 2. Pick up a small round bead and repeat step 2. Pick up a second small round bead.



4 Repeat step 2 until you have added six heishi beads after the last small round bead. Work about 8cm (3in) of plain half knots, letting the cords twist naturally.

5 Remove the tape from the centre bead and turn it around so that the other set of cords are facing towards you. Repeat from step 2 to complete the other side of the necklace. Try the necklace on for size and work more half knots if required. The finished length should be about 48cm (19in) but could be worked as a longer necklace.



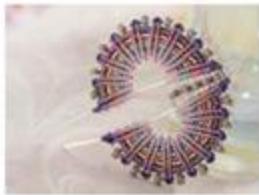
6 Trim the cord ends to 6mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in). Secure the ends in leather crimp ends. Attach a toggle fastening to each end using gold-plated jump rings.

Choose a large focus bead and a selection of smaller beads with holes that are large enough to take four strands of thread.



Macramé brooch

Macramé is often thought of as a rather crude chunky knotting technique, but when worked in fine cords it transforms into rather elegant micro macramé. Choose coordinating colours to create a rainbow effect across this pretty brooch.



You will need

- 1.5m (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ yd) each of Superlon™ cord in purple, lilac, coral, light grey and dusky pink
- 20cm (8in) of 1mm (19swg) half hard sterling silver wire
- Seed beads: size 6 (3.5mm) matte silver, size 10 (2mm) colour-lined peach, size 11 (2.2mm) silver-lined crystal and emerald raspberry gold lustre
- Ultrasuede™ 10cm (4in) square
- Brooch back
- Jewellery tools

- Needle and thread
- Foam core board
- Map pins
- Adhesive tape
- Spring clip (optional)

1 Bend the silver wire in half to create a slightly round ended 'V' shape. Arrange the Superlon™ cords in order ready to use: purple, lilac, coral, light grey and dusky pink.



2 Pick up a silver-lined crystal seed bead on the purple cord and drop to the centre. Fold the cord in half and lay it over the wire on one side of the 'V'. Take the tails over the wire and back through the loop to make a reverse lark's head knot (see [Knotting Basics: Tying Basic Knots](#)).

3 Work a half-hitch on either side (see [Knotting Basics: Tying Basic Knots](#)). Repeat steps 2 and 3 with the other coloured cords, adding a bead each time.



4 Lay the wire shape on the foam core board and tape in position.
*Bring the end purple cord across parallel to the wire. Work a double half-hitch with each cord in turn (see [Multistrand Macramé: Straight Half-hitch Rib](#)).



5 Insert a map pin at the end of the rib, then take the purple cord back across the vertical cords at a slight angle. Secure with tape or a spring clip. Work double half-hitches with the dusky pink cords and the first grey cord. Pick up a colour-lined peach seed bead on the next grey cord and work double half-hitches again.

6 Work double half-hitches with the first coral cord, then pick up two silver-lined crystal seed beads on the next coral cord; secure with double half-hitches. Add three emerald raspberry gold lustre seed beads on the first lilac cord, securing with double half-hitches again.



7 Work double half-hitches on the next lilac cord before finishing with a silver-lined crystal, a size 6 matte silver and a silver-lined crystal on the remaining purple cord. Work the last double half-hitch.



8 Repeat from * six or seven times, depending on your tension, until the semicircle of macramé curves around to meet the wire again. Take the purple cord back to the outside edge again, working straight half-hitch rib. Work double half-hitches with each cord in turn over the wire.



9 Tuck all the cord tails behind the silver wire. Pick up two silver-lined crystals, a size 6 matte silver seed bead and two silver-lined crystals on the first dusky pink cord. Work a double half-hitch on the other side of the wire 'V' shape. Attach the next dusky pink cord without beads.

10 Repeat on the two grey cords and then work down the wire, adding beads on the first of each colour, reducing the number of silver-lined beads as the gap between the wires narrows.



11 Work a semicircle in macramé to match the first side, ending with a straight half-hitch rib. Work a double half-hitch with the first cord and add a silver-lined crystal. Work another double half-hitch with the same cord to secure the bead. Repeat with every second cord.

12 Fold the cord ends over the back of the macramé and stitch invisibly with tiny stitches. Trim neatly. Cut Ultrasuede™ to fit each semicircle and stitch in place invisibly around the edge.



13 Sew a brooch back to one side on the reverse of the brooch, stitching right through to the right side, then coming back through to the reverse so that the tiny stitch is hidden between the macramé knots. Sew the ends in securely.

The beads added on the vertical cords will determine the angle of the half-hitch rib.





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