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Kumihimo is proving to be much more than a trend. It’s a new category of jewelry making. As more and more people discover kumihimo, the demand increases for different styles of kumihimo jewelry projects. When I was asked to write a second beginner-friendly kumihimo book, I knew my challenge would be to keep it accessible to first-time braiders, while making it fresh and exciting for returning fans of *Kumihimo Basics & Beyond*. I have kept these two concepts at the top of my mind throughout the writing process.

To my new readers: Welcome! You’re going to love kumihimo! The movements are rhythmic and repetitive, allowing you to focus solely on your braid while the rest of your thoughts drift away. All of the information you need to get started making kumihimo jewelry is here for you. I’ll walk you step-by-step through your first project—from measuring and cutting the cords, to learning the braiding moves, to transforming your beautiful braid into a wonderful piece of jewelry you’ll be proud to wear. You’ll learn new skills and become more confident with every project. Take your time and enjoy the journey. I’ve included troubleshooting sections as well, which will guide you through every potential stumbling block.

To my returning fans: Welcome back! We’ve been having so much fun braiding together and I know you’re eager for more! This book is for you. Whereas my first book focuses entirely on the basic round braid (also called kongoh gumi), this book explores five different braid structures: basketweave, half-round, square, hollow, and trapezoid. In addition to the variety of braid forms, I’m very excited to add in some creative closures: projects that feature unique ways of finishing off braids besides the usual glue-on endcap. I think you’ll have a lot of fun with these!

— Rebecca Ann Combs
In this project, you’ll learn the basic skills needed to complete all of the projects in this book: how to set up the disk, how to manage your center-weight, how to spot and fix mistakes, and how to transform your braid into jewelry. Master this project. Learn it forwards and backwards. Then you’ll be ready to take the next step on your kumihimo journey.
When learning the basketweave braid, it’s easiest to see the pattern when you use two colors. You may be looking at the finished necklace and thinking, “Hey! She used more than two colors! Why can’t I?” Well, I cheated a bit. My necklace is mostly two colors: black (A) and pink-ish (B). For the pink-ish I used two cranberry, one strawberry, and one dusty plum. Feel free to do the same where you choose all one solid color for your color A warps and several shades or tints of a different color for your B warps. Just make sure you can easily distinguish between your As and your Bs. I chose high-contrast purple and turquoise for the step-by-step photos to make it easier for you to see.

**Supplies**

**Kumihimo Toolkit**
- standard thickness disk
- 8 plain bobbins
- 90g center weight

**Other Materials**
- 3mm satin cord
  - 6 yd. color A
  - 6 yd. color B
- pendant with a 10mm or larger bail
- 1 set 8mm (ID) magnetic endcaps

**Finished Necklace Length:** 18”

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**TIP**

When you choose a pendant large enough to fit over the endcaps, you can swap it between braids of different colors.

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**Set Up**

Cut four 1½-yd. pieces of color A satin and four 1½-yd. pieces of color B satin. Bring the eight ends together so they’re more or less even. Don’t worry about this too much. Tie all eight cords together using an overhand knot. An overhand knot is where you make a loop and then bring the tails through the loop (a). You want the knot fairly close to the end of the cords (b).

I find it easiest to make a large loop and walk the knot towards the end of the cords rather than trying to make a small loop and knot right near the end.

Take a look at the kumihimo disk. Notice the four black dots. These are there to help us evenly space the cords during set up and to keep us on track while we’re braiding. For this braid, and for all the braids in this book, it’s important to keep track of which side of the disk is the top. Orient the disk so slots 32 and 1 are at the top and keep it in this position while you work. If you prefer to work without the numbers, transfer the four dots to the blank side of the disk and mark one side as up.

Position the knot so that it’s in the middle of the hole in the disk (c).

Lock one warp into every slot that is adjacent to a dot. That’s one cord per slot—no sharing. Your colors should be alternating around the disk. Match yours to the starting diagram (d).
Stringing the Beads

Remove the bobbin from one of the B or C warps. Rewind the bobbin using both strings in that position. Those two strings are now considered one warp. Do this for the other three B and C warps. These warps will not carry beads.

Remove the bobbin from one of the color A warps. Thread a big-eye needle onto one of the two strings that make up that warp and string 22 seed beads (tip, next page). Clip a bead stopper onto the string below the beads (the end of the beads farthest from the disk) and transfer the needle to the second string of that warp (h). Sew through the beads a second time using the second string (i).
We’re stringing the beads this way because there’s too much bulk to fit through the bead hole if we tried using both strings at the same time. After you’ve strung both strings through the beads, tie the two ends together so the beads don’t fall off.

The two strings are not exactly the same length. It’s fine, but if it bothers you, feel free to trim the longer one so they match. Push the beads together as a group towards the disk so that they are about 2" below it. It is important to keep the beads together as a group so they don’t get tangled with the string. Starting at the loose end, wind the two strings and beads onto the bobbin. Do this for the other three color A warps.

**TIP**

22 seed beads will make the bracelet 7½" long. A bracelet 7½" long will fit a 6¼” wrist. See sizing chart for other sizes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finished length measured from button shank to end of loop</th>
<th>Number of beads per warp</th>
<th>Bracelet fits wrist up to this size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6 1/4”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 1/8&quot;</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 1/4”</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This chart assumes a 7/8” button. Finished lengths may vary slightly with personal tension.
I get a lot of “what if” questions when I’m teaching. “What if I braid with this? What if I do that instead?” If I know the answer, I’m happy to share, but frequently my response is, “I don’t know. Try it and let me know what happens.” I ask myself these questions all the time because experimenting is part of the fun of kumihimo. This bracelet is the answer to two questions: What else can I braid with? And how can I make a kumihimo bracelet that just rolls on?
Set Up and Braiding
Cut four 45” pieces of jewelry tube. Bind them together in the center for a “no-knot start.” Holding the bound center of the cords over the hole in the disk, lock the warps in place in the standard starting position for an eight-warp square braid. Braid using the square braid moves. When finished, remove the braid from the disk and knot the end. Bind and cut the braid to the desired length, keeping in mind the length your focal bead will add (my focal bead is 7/8” long and I cut my braid 7” long). Glue on endcaps and allow to dry.

Creative Closure: Secret Stretch
The braided rubber tubing is a little stretchy on its own, but we’re going to add a secret extra stretchy spot by joining the two endcaps together using some beads on stretchy cord. Cut a 15” piece of stretchy cord. Fold it in half and attach it to one of the endcaps using a lark’s head knot. To make a lark’s head knot, put the folded end of the stretchy cord through the ring on the endcap. Then pass the tails through the folded end (a).

Thread both pieces of stretchy cord onto a big-eye needle. Pick up a 6º seed bead, a focal bead, and a 6º. Pass through the loop on the other endcap twice, pulling the beads snugly between the endcaps so there aren’t any gaps (b).

Pass back through all three beads again and pull snugly. Pass through the endcap loop and back through one seed bead. Tie a half-hitch knot. Pass through the focal bead and then tie another half-hitch knot. Put a dab of Hypo-Cement on each knot and then trim the tails.

Sizing
This bracelet sits loosely on the wrist similar to a bangle, but because it stretches it doesn’t have to be entirely large enough to fit over your hand. My 9” bracelet stretches enough to fit over a 10” hand.

Supplies
Kumihimo Toolkit
• standard thickness disk
• 8 plain bobbins
• 90g center weight

Other Materials
• 5 yd. jewelry tube, 2mm diameter
• 7mm endcaps
• focal bead
• .5mm stretchy cord
• Hypo Cement

Finished Bracelet Length: approx. 9½" (fits 7” wrist)
The Ombraid

Bracelet

You’re loving the hollow braid, right? You’ve made several in all sorts of color combinations and you’ve even mastered a solid-color version. You know this braid forwards and back. You can even unbraid it while watching TV! Then you’re ready for this. You’re ready for the OMBRAID!

You’re going to learn two neat tricks in this project: working around a soft core and changing colors mid-braid! If you’ll recall from the “Check Me Out Necklace,” p. 74, when working around a stiff core like rubbing tubbing, the core just stands up in the middle of the braid and you can easily work around it. When working with a soft core, we’ll tie an extension cord and a weight to it so we can toss it over our shoulder or around our neck. We’ll be working with the numbers a lot in the project, so be sure to work number side up on your disk. Remember the number is printed to the right of the slot it refers to.

This is a challenging project that will test your understanding of the point of braiding. Read all the way through the instructions before you start.

➤ Supply List

*Kumihimo Toolkit*

- 17 plain bobbins (that’s not a typo—you need an extra bobbin)
- 90g center weight
- 45g center weight (Yep, you need both weights.)
- 1–1½-yd. scrap rattail, any size or color (this will be used as a tool)
- tweezers or awl
- 2mm satin cord
  - 12 yd. color A (green)
  - 12 yd. color B (black)
- 10mm magnetic endcap

*Finished Bracelet Length:*

approx. 8” (fits 6” wrist)
**Set Up**
Cut eight 54" pieces of color A satin and eight 54" pieces of color B satin. Bind the middle of all 16 pieces together for a “no-knot start.” Lock the color A warps on the disk using the standard starting position for a 16-warp hollow braid (see p. 76). Wind each color A warp onto a bobbin. Clip the heavy weight to the start of the braid below the disk. The sixteen pieces of color B satin cord will be the core for now. They are on top of the disk but not locked into slots (a).

Tie the scrap rattail onto a plain bobbin. Wind the last few inches of the color B cords onto the bobbin. Clip the lite weight onto the middle of the satin scrap (b).

Gently toss the weight over your shoulder or around your neck (c). This will pull the core upward and hold it out of the way while you work. Don’t let the core pull up so hard the point of braiding lifts off the disk. Braid using the 16-warp hollow braid sequence. Work around the core. Braid 4" of solid color before beginning the transition.

**Transitioning**
Let’s start by taking a closer look at the path warp 1 takes from the point of braiding (POB) to the slot (the position numbers of the warps will vary, of course). For clockwise warps, it’s over, under, over, under. The general concept here is that one by one, each cord that is currently part of the core will swap places with one of the warps. We’ll transition two warps and then braid two sequences. Then we’ll do the next two warps and so on.

The trick to a smooth transition is for the new warp (the color B cord transitioning out of the core) to perfectly trace the path of the old warp (the color A cord that is transitioning to the core) from the POB to the slot. Things are pretty tight at the point of braiding, so we’ll loosen some
On the Vine

Necklace

By making the two braids separately and then sewing them together, you have the freedom to play with the layout and design while everything is in the pinning stage. Get things just the way you want before you start sewing it all together. This project combines eight-warp basketweave and eight-warp half-round.
➤ Supply List

*Kumihimo Toolkit*
- standard thickness disk
- 8 plain bobbins
- 90g center weight
- #10 beading needle
- sewing pins

*Other Materials*
- 12 yd. 2mm hand-dyed satin cord
- 12 yd. 3mm flat tube ribbon (such as Veragata or Isuki)
- pendant with 4–5mm bail
- beading thread in a color to match the flat tube ribbon
- 8mm endcap
- lobster-claw claw (or clasp of choice)
- 2 small jump rings to attach the clasp

*Finished Necklace Length: 18½"*