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Introduction

In the beginning ... there were knots. From bridge building to horse hitching to sailing and lace making, knots have been an important part of history. Micro-macramé is an updated twist on an old practice.

In an era of instant gratification, there is something empowering about taking a piece of cord or leather and creating a beautiful design from it. However, learning on your own can be difficult, and my desire is to convey the instructions as clearly as possible so that you can pick up the basics, have success from the start, and see satisfying results quickly.

When I first began to explore micro-macramé, I showed my mom a picture of a necklace. She took one look and said, "Oh, so you don't wear it; it's an art piece." Her comment has stuck with me over the years and has inspired me to keep my designs wearable.

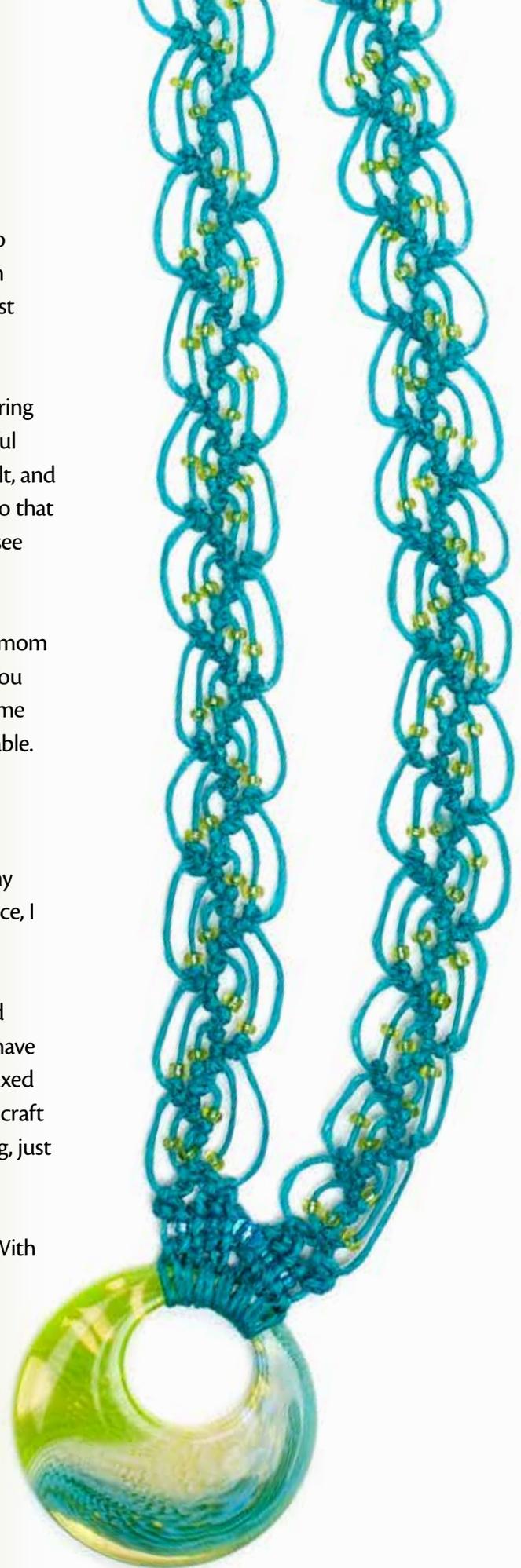
When looking at various jewelry designs, I found most items were tightly woven, or highly elaborate and time consuming. My preference is toward more airy designs, so I try to keep my jewelry light. Whether striving for a casual or extravagant piece, I lean toward an open, lacework look.

There are no fancy, expensive tools required for this craft and relatively little space is needed (although it is a good idea to have adequate lighting). Even though some of my patterns use waxed cord or leather, C-Lon cord is my go-to cord. Some bead and craft stores now carry S-Lon cord, which is basically the same thing, just available in fewer colors and the color names are different.

It's time to get creative! Choose your colors, and let's begin. With easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions, you CAN do this.

It's "knot" hard to learn!

Kelsy Eason



Sweet Pea Serenade

In this design, four C-Lon cords need to pass through each of the large beads, so be sure to check the diameter of the hole when purchasing the beads. 6° beads fit several cords through well, while 10° seed beads provide accent color. A classy button completes the look and allows for an easy closure. Finished length is about 7".





Supplies

- Pink C-Lon:
3 cords, 6' each
- 12 6^o pearlized white seed beads
- 80 10^o gold seed beads
- 5 1cm pink floral beads
- 1.5cm button with shank
- Glue

Instructions

1. To begin, place three cords together, then find the center and tie a loose overhand knot (**a**). Pin onto your work surface as shown (**a**).

2. Use the outer cords to tie about 18 square knots (**Basics, p. 11**) below the overhand knot, then undo the overhand knot (**b**).

3. Bend into a horseshoe shape placing all cords together. Tie a square knot with the outer two cords. Test the size by placing the button through the button hole. It should fit snugly. Adjust knots as necessary (**c**).

4. Separate cords 3-3. With the left three cords, tie three square knots. Thread a 6^o white bead onto all three cords. Repeat with the right three cords (**d**).

5. Tie three square knots with each set of cords (**e**).



The square knot can be used in several ways; very often to secure a closure. It can be used alone, or you can tie several in a row, which is called a sennit.



k



l



m



n



o

18. Use the right cord to tie a vertical lark's head knot around all other cords. The spiral should bow out slightly (**l**).

19. Separate cords 3-1. Bead the right cord the same as you did the left. With the left three cords, tie a left spiral knot for a length of about 1cm. (Whenever possible, move the shortest cord into the center of the three cords).

20. With the left cord, tie a vertical lark's head knot around all other cords. The spiral should bow out slightly (**m**).

21. Repeat steps 16–21 until you reach a length of about 7".

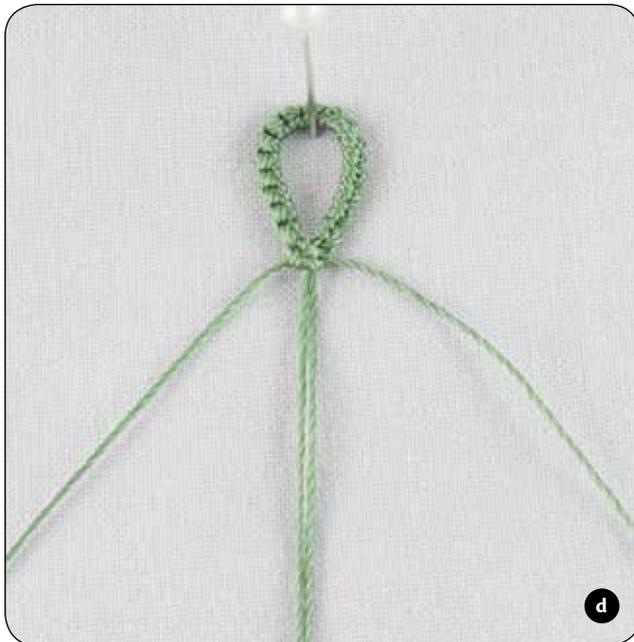
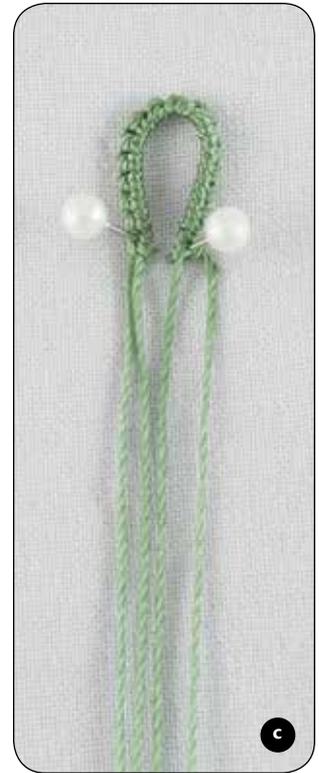
22. Thread the button bead onto the center two cords. Turn the bracelet to the back side and rotate it so the button bead is at the top of your board (**n**).

Hematite beads should not be confused with the Rainbow hematite beads used in this project. Most hematite beads are of manmade materials which means they will be a shiny metallic or dark chrome color. However, Rainbow hematite beads have a rainbow hue due to a titanium treatment to the iron ore. Such a beautiful effect!

23. Bring the two center cords back toward you, laying them on top of the bracelet. Use the outer cord on each side to tie a square knot around the center cords (but not around the bracelet). Place a dab of glue on the last knot and let it dry. Trim the excess cords (**o**).

Supplies

- Fern C-Lon cord:
2 cords, 9' each
- 4 6^o brown seed beads
- 18 6^o light bronze seed beads
- 5 7mm cream pearl beads
- 5 7mm light bronze pearl beads
- 6 7mm bronze pearl beads
- Charm
- 12" 5/8"-wide sheer brown ribbon
- 6mm jump ring
- 1.5cm button
- 2 Pairs of chainnose pliers (optional)
- Glue

**Instructions**

1. Place the two cords together and find the center. Tie a loose overhand knot (**Basics, p. 10**) and pin to the board as shown (**a**).

2. Using the right cord, tie about 19 vertical lark's head knots (**Basics, p. 16**) (**b**).

3. Untie the overhand knot and pin to your work surface as shown (**c**).

4. Place the center two cords together and tie a square knot (**Basics, p. 11**) with the outer two cords. Check to be sure your button fits through snugly. Adjust knots if necessary (**d**).

5. Lay the ribbon on top of the bracelet and pin in place over the square knot. Don't worry about the excess as it will be trimmed off later. Tie two square knots around the ribbon and the center two cords. Set aside the left cord and the ribbon (**e**).

Dark Horizon

Adding a bit of height gives us a cuff-style bracelet design. Let's play with waxed linen cord! Waxed linen is a fairly stiff cord, coated with a light wax that holds its shape well. Being thicker than most cords, we are limited to beads with a large diameter hole. We will use primarily 6° seed beads to enhance the black cord. The finished length is about 6½".



Supplies

- Black waxed linen cord:
12 cords, 30" each
- 6 6^o dark blue seed beads
- 24 6^o light blue seed beads
- 36 6^o silver seed beads
- 48 2mm silver beads
- 108 2mm dark blue beads
- 3.5cm focal piece
- 3-to-1 connector
- 2 Silver jump rings
- Lobster claw clasp
- 2 Pairs of chainnose pliers
- Glue

**Instructions**

1. Fold a cord in half. Attach it to the center of the center piece using a lark's head knot (**Basics, p. 10**) (a).

2. Center a second cord horizontally under these two cords, just below the lark's head knot. Tie it onto the center cords using an overhand knot (**Basics, p. 10**) (b).

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to the right, then again to the left (c).

4. With each set of four cords, tie a square knot (**Basics, p. 11**) with the outer left and right cord around the two inner cords.

5. Find the center set of four cords. Thread a 6^o silver seed bead, a 6^o dark blue bead, and a 6^o silver bead onto the two center cords. Onto each outer cord, thread two 2mm silver seed beads, a 6^o silver bead, and two 2mm silver beads.

6. On the two center cords of the four left cords, thread a 6^o light blue bead, a 6^o silver bead, and a 6^o light blue seed bead. Repeat with the center two cords of the right section (d).

7. On the four left cords, thread two 2mm dark blue beads onto the left and right cords. Thread the right cord through the 6^o silver bead from the left cord of the center section. Thread two 2mm dark blue beads onto this cord and three onto the left cord.

Shimmering Raindrops

This captivating choker is worked with C-Lon cord from the focal bead out. The sides work up quickly, then you create the spiral knot section, and bead a little wire to complete the piece. It has a finished length of about 14" and is designed with an adjustable 3" extender.



Supplies

- Eggplant C-Lon cord:
 - 4 cords, 36" each
 - 6 cords, 60" each
- 26 6^o silver seed beads
- 96 11^o chrome seed beads
- 4cm focal piece
- 76 2mm black beads
- 16 3mm dark red bicone beads
- 6 6mm chrome or black beads
- 6 10mm chrome or black rings
- 3 Flat silver spacer beads
- Silver headpin
- 2 Fold-over crimp ends
- 22-Gauge silver wire:
 - 5" and 4" pieces (one each)
- Adjustable closure with lobster clasp, 3"
- Wire cutters
- Chainnose pliers
- Roundnose pliers
- Glue

Instructions

1. Fold a 60" cord in half. Attach it to the focal piece using a lark's head knot (**Basics, p. 10**). Attach the first cord; then attach the second and third cords in the section below the first cord (**a**).

2. Turn so the focal bead is at the top of your board with the cords running straight down. Tighten the lark's head knots. Tie a square knot (**Basics, p. 11**) with the left and right cords around the center four filler cords.

3. Thread the center four filler cords through a 6^o silver seed bead. Thread three 11^o chrome seed beads onto each outer cord. Tie a square knot with the left and right cords



around the four center filler cords (**b**).

4. Separate cords 2-2-2. On the second cord from the left, thread a 2mm black bead. Tie a vertical lark's head knot (**Basics, p. 16**) with the left cord onto the cord next to it, leaving a slight curve on the outer cord. Repeat twice more (**c**).

5. On the second cord from the right, thread a 2mm black bead. Tie a vertical lark's head knot with the outer right

cord onto the cord next to it, leaving a slight curve on the outer cord. Repeat twice.

6. Thread both center cords through a 3mm dark red bicone bead (**d**). Place all cords together. Tie a square knot with the outer two cords around the four center filler cords.

7. Repeat step 3 (**e**).

8. Thread the center four cords through a 10mm ring. With the outer cords, tie a

square knot at the top of the ring. (Both cords tying the square knot will glide over the top of the ring.) (**f**)

9. Place a 6mm black bead onto the center cords. If possible, thread it onto all four cords. If not, thread the center two cords through the bead and move the other two cords underneath the bead, to the back of the ring. Thread the left and right cords down through the ring, then tie a square knot at the bottom of the ring (**g**).

Morning Starlight

I had an idea about layering and decided to try my hand at it with this pattern. A metal accent piece backs up the knotted work, while a light chain offers another texture to the design. Finished length is about 2".



Autumn Daydreams

Worked from the bottom to the top, half-knots and diagonal double half-hitch knots combine to create these graceful earrings. Copper rose C-Lon cord complements the copper beads and metal connector. The finished length is about 2¼" (measured from the connector bead to the bottom of the dangling bead).



Arabian Nights anklet

Here we take the idea from the Button Clasp Bracelet and expand upon it by adding a row of draping, dangling beads. The unique centerpiece further changes this design from the original bracelet. Choose a center bead with a large diameter hole as this pattern places five cords through it, then embellish it with a complementary charm.

The finished length is about 9".



Supplies

- White C-Lon cord:
 - 1 7' cord
 - 2 6' cords
- 14 6^o medium blue seed beads
- 78 10^o medium blue seed beads
- 90 10^o silver seed beads
- 12 5mm light blue round beads
- 13mm light blue center bead
- 15mm silver charm with jump ring
- Silver jump ring
- 10mm silver ring
- Silver lobster claw clasp
- Glue



Instructions

1. Fold one of the 6' cords in half and attach it to the 10mm silver ring using a lark's head knot (**Basics, p. 10**). Repeat with second 6' cord.

2. On the 7' cord, measure from one end up 1'. Fold here so you have 1' on one side of the cord and 6' on the other. Hold it so the short cord is on the right and place the fold through the silver ring—to the left of all other cords—from front to back. Attach using a lark's head knot. As long as your cord did not twist, you will end up with the short cord being the second cord from the left (**a**).

3. Use the left cord and the right cord to tie a square knot (**Basics, p. 11**) around the remaining cords. Separate the cords 2-4.

4. Using the right four cords, use the left and right cord to tie four square knots. Thread a 6^o blue seed bead onto the center two cords. Thread three 10^o silver seed beads onto each outer cord. Move all four cords together and tie a square knot (**b**).

5. Repeat the previous step six times, then tie three square knots.

6. Working with the left two cords only, use the left cord to tie seven vertical lark's head knots (**Basics, p. 16**) around the right cord (**c**).

7. Thread three 10^o medium blue seed beads onto the left cord followed by a 3mm light blue bead and three more 10^o medium blue beads. Tie a vertical lark's head knot with the left cord onto the right, then slide it up tight against the previous knots. Tie six more vertical lark's head knots.

