Introduction

Welcome to my series of knotted macramé necklaces. This is a terrific way to become familiar with fine nylon macramé jewellery and learn the basic steps in developing your macramé knotting skills. In this booklet I have prepared 4 different designs, several variations and diagrams to help you follow your first steps into making macramé jewellery. I hope you enjoy them.

ALWAYS THE ARTIST
Dina Goebel

Contents

1. Materials
2. Basic techniques
   i. Starting your project
   ii. Tying overhand knots
   iii. Plaiting
   iv. Square knots
   v. Adding beads
   vi. Finishing off
3. Pattern 1: Basic Knotted Necklace
4. Pattern 2: Layered Knotted Necklace
5. Pattern 3: Tight Knotted Necklace
6. Pattern 4: Christmas Berries
7. About Dina Goebel
1. Materials

CORD
For each necklace: 10m #18 bonded nylon thread – I have always used C-lon

BEADS
Glass seed beads sizes 8/0 and 11/0 – my favorite are Japanese Tohos
Czech pressed glass beads, basic sizes include:
  • 4mm round
  • 6mm bicone
  • 6mm glass pearls
  • 12/7 glass leaves
Feature beads such as:
  • Lamp work beads up to 12mm lentils
  • Gemstones maximum 10-12 mm
  • Beaded buttons or polymer features
18GA Artistic wire for decorative spirals

FINISHES
Jewellery clasps and leather ends

TOOLS
- Clip-board
- Tape measure
- Scissors
- Jewellery pliers
- Craft glue
- Needle or nail for knot tying

2. Basic Knotted Necklace Techniques

These techniques are used for all the knotted necklaces in this booklet. As you look through the patterns you will see variations of length and style ... HAVE FUN trying them all!

Finished size: 50 - 80cm multi-strand necklace

1. STARTING THE NECKLACE
Depending on the pattern you choose, cut the nylon cord into the nominated lengths.
Tie all the cords together at one end using a simple overhand knot then determine your finished necklace length by trying it on for size in front of a mirror, note this measurement (eg 40 – 80 cm). Do not cut the cords any shorter!
Secure your knotted end onto a clip board to hold in place.

2. OVERHAND KNOTS
Throughout the patterns you will be tying overhand knots to hold the beads in position. An overhand knot is simply the one you use when tying off a piece of cotton for sewing. Use a large pin to help slide the knot into place or prevent it from closing tightly before you are ready!

3. PLAITING
Some patterns require a segment of plaiting to start.
Separate the cords into 3 bundles. Treat one bundle as a single cord and commence plaiting the three bundles firmly. Plait for a length which goes from the back of your neck around to your collar bone – approximately 12-20cm. Try your necklace on for size, where the plait finishes the beading will begin. Close your plait by tying two full square knots as shown in the next instruction.
6. FINISHING OFF

When you have finished your necklace pattern, you will have either a group of plaited or knotted cords at each end to attach to the necklace findings to.

Attach a ‘leather end’ at each end of the cords as follows:

- If finishing with plaited cords, fit the leather end over a plaited segment before the final knot so the knot and loose cords can be trimmed off later.
- Add a dab of glue inside the leather end to ensure the cords can’t slip out later.
- With flat-nose pliers bend one side of the leather-end firmly over the cords pressing flat, then bend the other side over the first.
- Trim the cords and sizzle any frayed ends with a lighter. Alternatively you can keep one end long and thread with beads tying off to create a cascade finish.
- Attach a jump ring /parrot clasp at one end, then another jump ring with necklace tag at the other end.

5. ADDING THE BEADS

To attach the beads, tie an overhand knot on your first cord, thread on1, 2 or 3 beads then tie another overhand knot to seal the beads in place. Randomly move along the cord, tie another overhand knot to repeat the process and continue to complete each cord individually to the desired length.

- You can control the position of the knots if you use a large needle or fine nail to slide the knot along.
- Remember to keep trying on your necklace for size and progress ... it is easy to get carried away and have an unbalanced or too long project!

TIP/ Aim to have a large heavier bead at the lowest middle point or evenly spread along the cords to balance the hanging weight!
Pattern No 1: Basic Knotted Necklace

A popular and delicate design, these loose cord necklaces have been created using my favourite Czech glass bead blends and hand-made lentil beads.

CUT CORDS
6 x 100cm #18 nylon thread

STARTING YOUR NECKLACE (using step 1 instructions on page 4)
Tie an overhand at one end of all your cords. Determine your finished necklace length by trying it on for size in front of the mirror, note this measurement (eg. 40cm) – do not cut the cords at this stage.

BEADING (using step 5 instructions on page 5)
• Toho seed beads - sizes 11/0 and 8/0.
• Blend Czech pressed glass beads – 4mm round, 6mm bicone, 6mm glass pearls, 12/7 leaves
• Feature lamp work beads or gemstones if you want.

To plan your design for your necklace length sprinkle all types of beads along the cords to create the density you desire. Position your feature beads evenly along the cords also.

Each cord will be beaded individually throughout the design.

To attach the beads, tie an overhand knot on a cord, thread 1-3 beads then tie another overhand knot to seal the beads in place. Randomly move along the cord, tie another overhand knot to repeat the process and continue to complete each cord individually.

Remember to keep trying on your necklace for size and progress... it is easy to get carried away and have an unbalanced or too long project!

FEATURE BEADS
To attach feature beads which may have larger holes you may need to place a smaller bead or two on each side to prevent the feature from sliding over the knot. In this pattern, I have used handmade lampwork ‘lentil beads’.

Aim to have a large heavier bead at the lowest middle point or evenly spread along the cords to balance the hanging weight!

FINISHING OFF (using step 6 instructions on page 6)
Finish off the an overhand knot to rejoin all the cords. Add leather ends and findings.

Variations of No 1 - Basic Knotted Necklace
Pattern No 2: Layered Knotted Necklace

This layered design uses two different cord colours and a collection of Czech pressed glass beads and seed beads.

**PREPARATION**

Using the #18 nylon cord cut the following lengths:

- In one colour: 1 x 50cm, 1 x 70cm, 1 x 90cm
- In another colour: 1 x 60cm, 1 x 80cm

Follow step 1 instructions on page 4: tie all the cords together at one end using a simple overhand knot. Secure your knotted end onto a clipboard to hold in place.

**ADDING THE BEADS** (using step 5 instructions on page 5)

To plan your design for your necklace length sprinkle all types of beads along the cords to create the density you desire. Position your feature beads evenly along the cords also each cord will be beaded individually throughout the design.

To attach the beads, tie an overhand knot on your first cord, thread on 1, 2 or 3 beads then tie another overhand knot to seal the beads in place. Randomly move along the cord, tie another overhand knot to repeat the process and continue to complete each cord individually to the desired length.

Remember to keep trying on your necklace for size and progress ... aim to have a large heavier bead at the lowest middle point on each cord to provide hanging weight!

**FINISHING OFF**

When you have beaded each length of cord, you may need three hands to get the right balance between the cords so they hang neatly and cascade separately and evenly.

Once you are happy with the 'hang', tie an overhand knot to roughly seal them together at the other end.

Using step 6 instructions on page 6: Finish off with leather ends and necklace findings at each end.
Pattern No 3: Tight Knotted Necklace

This popular and delicate design is a combination of plaiting, macramé and loosely knotted cords to create a tight draped necklace.

INGREDIENTS
10m x #18 nylon thread
Japanese Toho seed beads – sizes 11/0 and 8/0
Czech pressed glass beads – 4mm round, 6mm bicone
Jewellery clasps and leather ends

CUT CORDS
9 x 100cm fine nylon thread

STARTING YOUR NECKLACE (using step 1 instructions on page 4)
Tie an overhand at one end of all your cords Determine your finished necklace length by trying it on for size, note this measurement (eg 40cm) – do not cut the cords at this stage!

PLAITING (using step 3 instructions on page 4)
Separate the cords into 3 bundles of 3 cords each. Treat one bundle as a single cord and commence plaiting the three bundles firmly. Plait for a length which goes from the back of your neck around to your collar bone – between 12-20cm. Try your necklace on for size in front of a mirror, when you are happy with the plaited length, lock your plait by tying two full square knots (using step 4 instructions on page 5).

BEADING (using step 5 instructions on page 5)
Using the combination of Toho seed beads and Czech pressed glass beads plan your design for your necklace length. Sprinkle all types of beads along the cords to create the density of beads you desire.
Then, each cord will be beaded and knotted individually throughout the design.
Remember to keep trying on your necklace for size and progress ... once you have reached the collar bone at the other side of your neck, lock the beaded cords by tying two full square knots. Then commence plaiting the second side.

Finish off (using step 6 instructions on page 6) with leather-ends and necklace findings.
Pattern No 4: Christmas Berries

Ingredients
10m x red #18 nylon thread
Japanese Toho seed beads – sizes 11/0, 8/0 gold
Czech pressed glass beads – 4mm round, 6mm bicone, 12/7 glass leaves
Jewellery clasps and leather ends
Beaded buttons or lampwork beads, 10mm gemstones
18GA gold Artisic Wire

CUT CORDS
6 x 100cm #18 nylon thread

STARTING YOUR NECKLACE (using step 1 instructions on page 4)
Tie an overhand at one end of all your cords. Determine your finished necklace length by trying it on for size, note this measurement (e.g. 40cm) – do not cut the cords at this stage!

BEADING (using step 5 instructions on page 5)
Plan your design for your necklace length. Sprinkle all types of beads along the cords to create the density you desire. Position your feature beads evenly along the cords also. Each cord will be beaded individually throughout the design using the general overhand knot shown on page three.
To attach the larger gemstones and beaded buttons which may have larger holes you may need to place a smaller seed bead on each side to prevent the feature from sliding over the knot.
Remember to keep trying on your necklace for size and progress ... it is easy to get carried away and have an unbalanced project!

SPIRAL CHARMS
To create the gold spiral charm cut a 4cm length of the 18GA wire and create a small curl at the end. Using the bent-nose pliers hold the small curl and wrap the wire by hand around the curl to create a spiral. Leave enough wire at the end to make a small loop with the round-nose pliers which will attach over your cords randomly and hang between beaded segments. Make and attach 5-8 spirals.

Finish off (using step 6 instructions on page 6) your necklace with leather ends and necklace clasp.
“Women are looking for alternative ways to express themselves and satisfy their creative needs but don’t know where to begin.”

I have always been passionate about art and craft and dreamed of giving women an opportunity to do what they love. Having worked with clients from around the globe I turned to teaching art and sharing my knowledge with others who are looking for ways to express their own creativity, relax and master new skills.

Please visit my website www.dinagoebel.com for more ...