

# Basic Macramé Knots

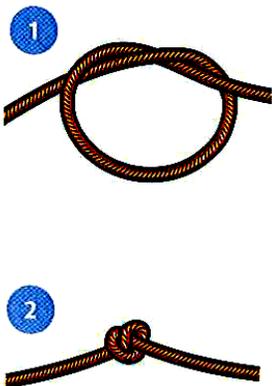
**Overhand Knot**—The Overhand Knot is the most basic knot in macramé.

You've probably tied this one many times before.

The overhand knot is the most basic knot in macramé. Here is how to tie it: You will need a piece of cord no shorter than 4 in (10 cm) in length.

1: With the cord horizontal and straight, make a loop by crossing the right end over the left end. Feed the right end up through the loop.

2: Pull both ends of the cord to secure the overhand knot.



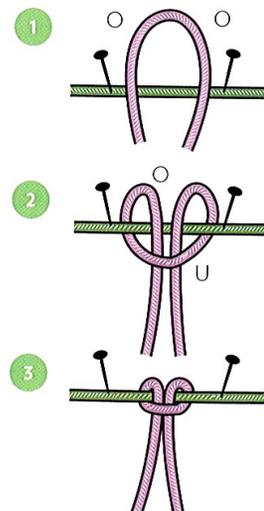
**Lark's Head Knot**—The lark's head knot is one of the simplest and most commonly used knots. It is often the starting point for many pieces as it is a useful way of attaching a working cord to a holding cord or ring.

1: Take a length of cord, about 12 in (30 cm) in length, and fold it in half, ensuring the ends of the cord are even. Pin a short holding cord—about 4 in (10 cm)—to your working board. Lay the folded cord (working cord) over the holding cord with the loop above the holding cord. You can replace the holding cord with a dowel, ring, or any other item you wish to attach your project to.

2: Fold the loop down behind the holding cord. Feed the two free ends of the working cord through the loop and pull.

3: When all the cord has passed through the loop, pull to set the lark's head knot.

You can also create a reverse lark's head knot by bringing the loop of folded cord under the top of the holding cord, then tucking the free ends through the loop.

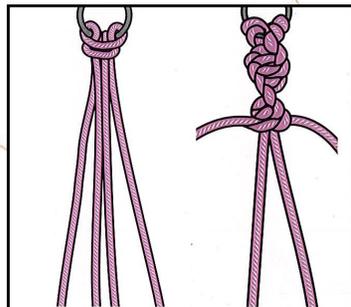
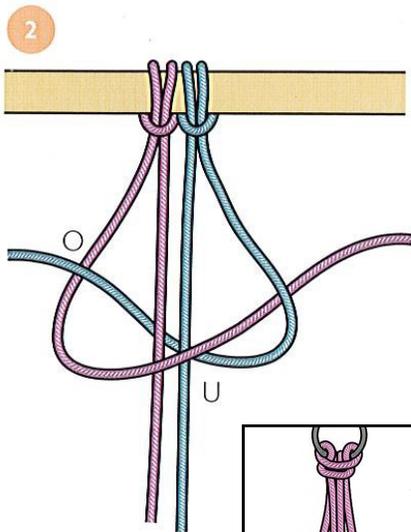
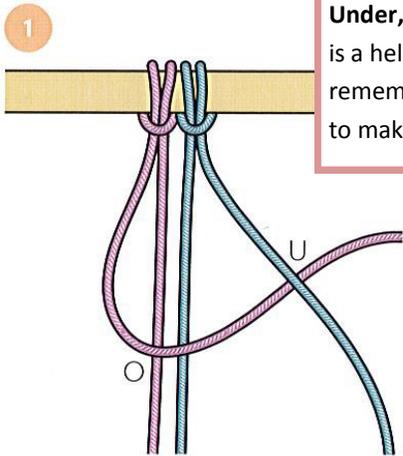


**Half Knot**—The Half Knot is the foundation for a range of other knots, including the Square Knot.

1: Secure two 5-in (12-cm) lengths of cord to the dowel using a lark's head knot (see page 18). Take the left cord over the two cords in the center and then under the right working cord. Some macramé enthusiasts know this as the C-step because of the "C" made by the cord.

2: Take the right cord under the two cords in the center, making a "D," up through the center of the "C," and over the left cord. Pull on both cords gently to secure the knot.

**Tip:** The mantra "Over-Under, Under-Through" is a helpful way to remember the motions to make this knot.



Repeated Half Knots result in a twisted design. >>>

**Square Knot**—The Square Knot is one of the most versatile of all the macramé knots and a great one to master early! It is a combination of a Half Knot started from the left and a Half Knot started from the right. Repeated, a group of Square Knots creates a Square Knot Sinnet.

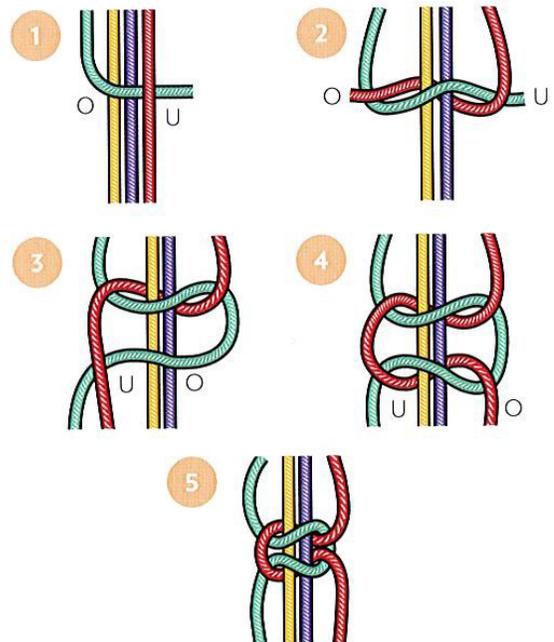
1: Secure four lengths of cord, about 24 in (60 cm) in length to your working board. Take the left cord over the two filler cords in the center and then under the cord on the right. This is known as the C-step.

2: Take the right cord under the two cords in the center, making a "D," and then bring the cord up through the center of the "C," and over the cord on the left.

3: Bring the cord now on the right (shown here as the green cord) over the center filler cords and under the cord now on the left (shown here as the red cord.)

4: Bring the left cord under the center filler cords and then up through the center of the "D" and over the right cord.

5: Pull to set the square knot. If you repeat this knot, you create a square knot sinnet (see page 62).



## Josephine Knot

### How to Tie a Josephine Knot

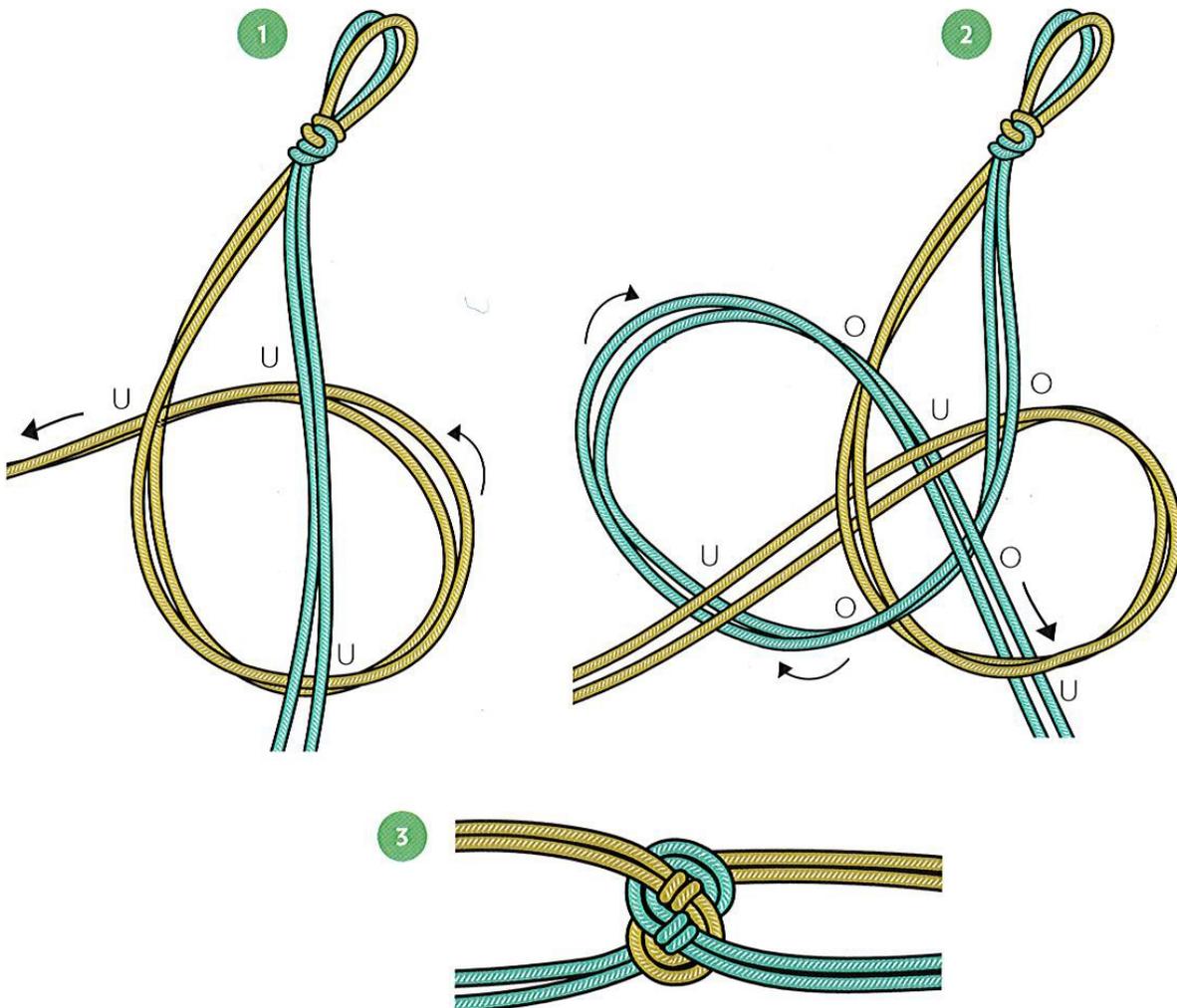
1: Cut two pieces of cord 25 in (63.5 cm) in length each. Fold the cords in half and tie together using a basic overhand knot (see page 9). Secure to the working board by pinning the top of the loop to the board. Group the four cords into two pairs of working cords.

2: Loop the pair of working cords on the left under the other cords and under itself to make a circle.

3: Take the ends of the pair of working cords on the right and thread them under the trailing ends of

other cords. Forming a loop, take the right working cords over the other cords and then under the cords at the top of the first circle, over itself, and then under the cords at the bottom of the first circle. A second circle has been formed to make a figure eight.

4: Pull gently on the cords to tighten, adjusting as you go to ensure that the knot is even. If you want to keep practicing, repeat steps 1–4 a few inches down from the first knot.



## Macramé Books in CAFÉ

You can find a number of macramé books through the library's CAFÉ catalog. Just perform a keyword search for "macramé," "paracord," or "knots" to find books for adult and kid crafts.

### A few that we like:

*The New Macramé: contemporary knotted jewelry and accessories* by Kate DuMont

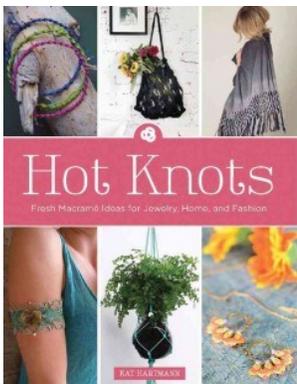
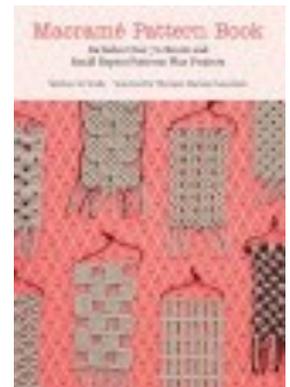
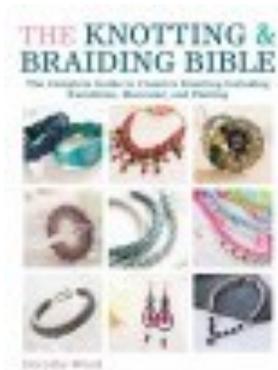
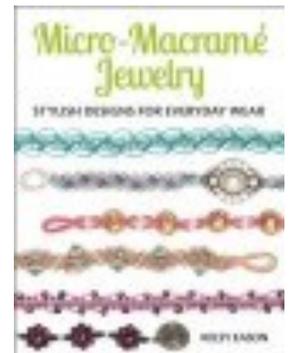
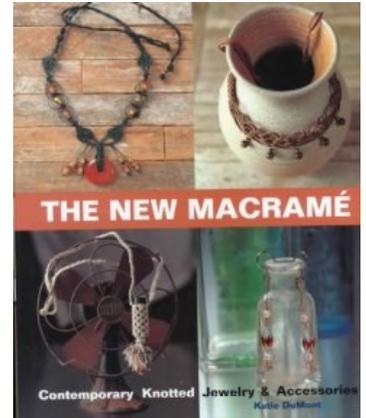
*Making beautiful hemp & bead jewelry : how to hand-tie necklaces, bracelets, earrings, key-rings, watches & eyeglass holders with hemp* by Mickey Basket

*Micro-macramé jewelry : stylish designs for everyday wear* by Kelsy Eason.

*Amazing macramé* by Claire Rougerie.

*The knotting & braiding bible : the complete guide to creative knotting including kumihimo, macramé and plaiting* by Dorothy Wood

*Macramé pattern book : includes over 70 knots and small repeat patterns plus projects*



**Hot knots : fresh macramé ideas for jewelry, home, and fashion**

by Kat Hartmann

Knot description and illustrations used in this handout were taken from *Hot Knots*.