

# Introduction to Macrame



# What is macrame?

- a craft by which many items may be created using simple knots.
- a “textile art” that uses a variety of types of cording.
- This goes far beyond the original concept which included projects such as plant hangers and owls.



# Origin of Macrame

- believed to have originated with 13th-century Arab weavers.
- These artisans knotted the excess thread and yarn along the edges of hand-loomed fabrics into decorative fringes on bath towels, shawls, and veils.
- The Spanish word *macramé* is derived from the Arabic *migramah* (مقرمة), believed to mean “striped towel”, “ornamental fringe” or “embroidered veil.”



# Origin of Macrame

- After the Moorish conquest, the art was taken to Spain, then to Italy, especially in the region of Liguria, and then spread through Europe
- It was introduced into England at the court of Mary II in the late 17th century. Queen Mary taught the art of macramé to her ladies-in-waiting



# Origin of Macrame

- Sailors made macramé objects in off hours while at sea, and sold or bartered them when they landed, thus spreading the art to places like China and the New World.
- Nineteenth-century British and American sailors made hammocks, bell fringes, and belts from macramé.
  - They called the process "square knotting" after the knot they used most frequently. Sailors also called macramé "McNamara's Lace"





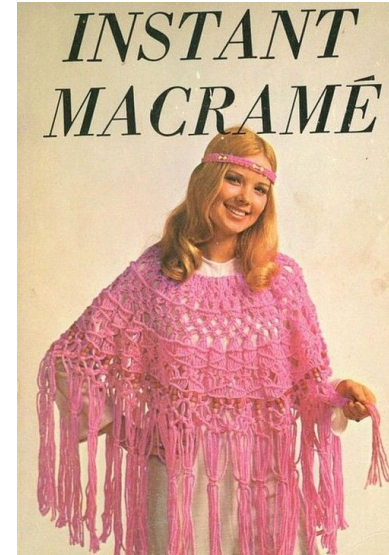
# Origin of Macrame

- Macramé was most popular in the Victorian era.
- *Sylvia's Book of Macramé Lace* (1882), a favorite, showed readers how "to work rich trimmings for black and coloured costumes, both for home wear, garden parties, seaside ramblings, and balls.
- Most Victorian homes were adorned by this craft.
- Macramé was used to make household items such as tablecloths, bedspreads and curtains.



# Origin of Macrame

- Though the craze for macramé faded, it regained popularity during the 1970s as a means to make wall hangings, articles of clothing, bedspreads, small jean shorts, tablecloths, draperies, plant hangers and other furnishings.
- By the early 1980s macramé had again begun to fall out of fashion as a decoration trend.



# Macrame Today

- Macramé has recently become popular again.
- This time in the form of jewelry, such as necklaces, anklets and bracelets.
- Using mainly square knots this jewelry often features handmade glass beads and natural elements such as gemstones, bone or shell.





# Supplies - Types of String

- There are several types of cord used in macrame.
  - **Natural cords** are made from plants such as:
    - Jute
    - Sisal
    - Manila
    - Flax
    - Hemp
    - Cotton
    - Raffia
    - Linen
  - **Synthetic cords** are made from a variety of synthetic materials such as rayon, nylon, plastic, and polyethylene. These cords are washable, and can also be brushed and heat fused. They are also fade proof



Jute



Hemp



Synthetic

# Supplies - Types of String

- Cords are available in varying thickness ranging from .5 to 8mm
  - the larger the number the thicker the cord so 8mm is the thickest.
- Cords should be strong enough to stand up to the abrasion of the knotting process and shouldn't have a lot of elasticity or give to them.
- Choose your cords based on:
  - Location and Weather
  - Use
  - Tension and Strength
  - Coloring and Aging



# Types of Knots - Square Knot

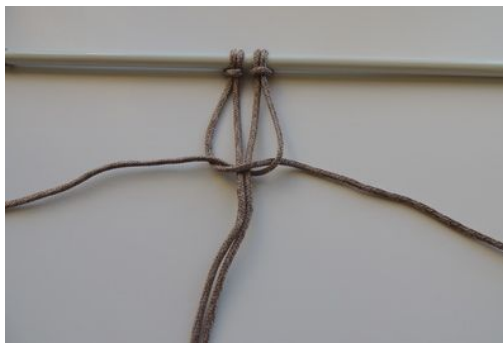


# Types of Knot - Square Knot

1.



3.



6.



4.



7.



2.

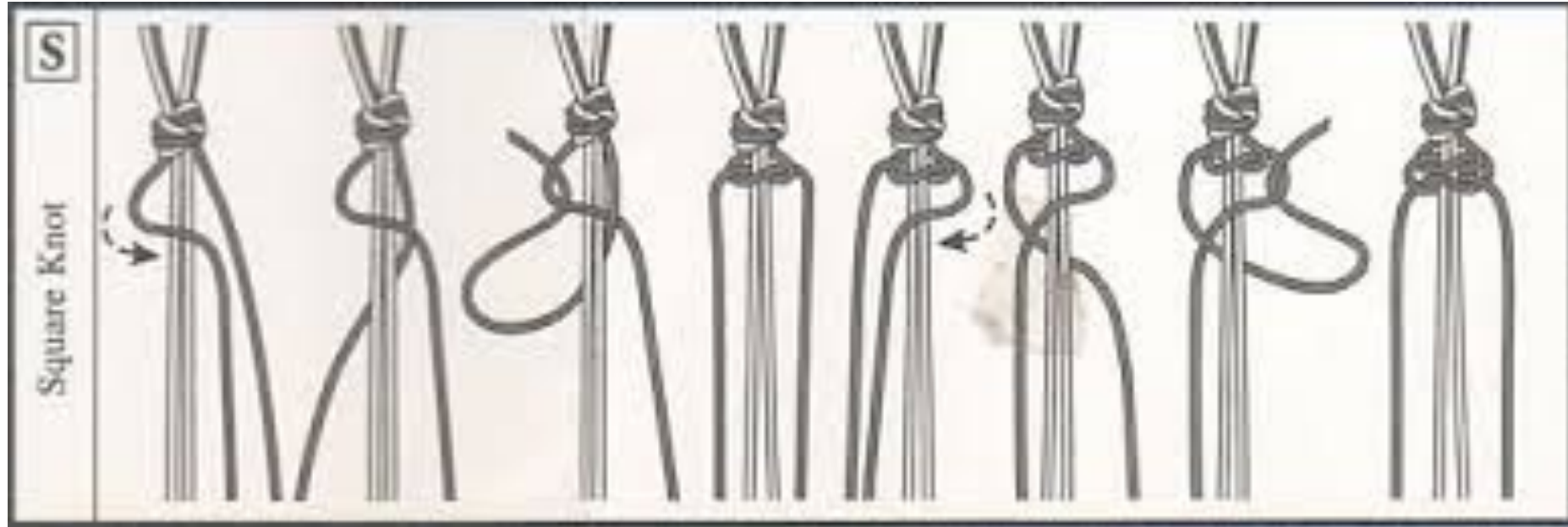


5.





# Types of Knot - Square Knot



# Types of Knots - Twist



# Types of Knots - Twist

1.



2.



3.



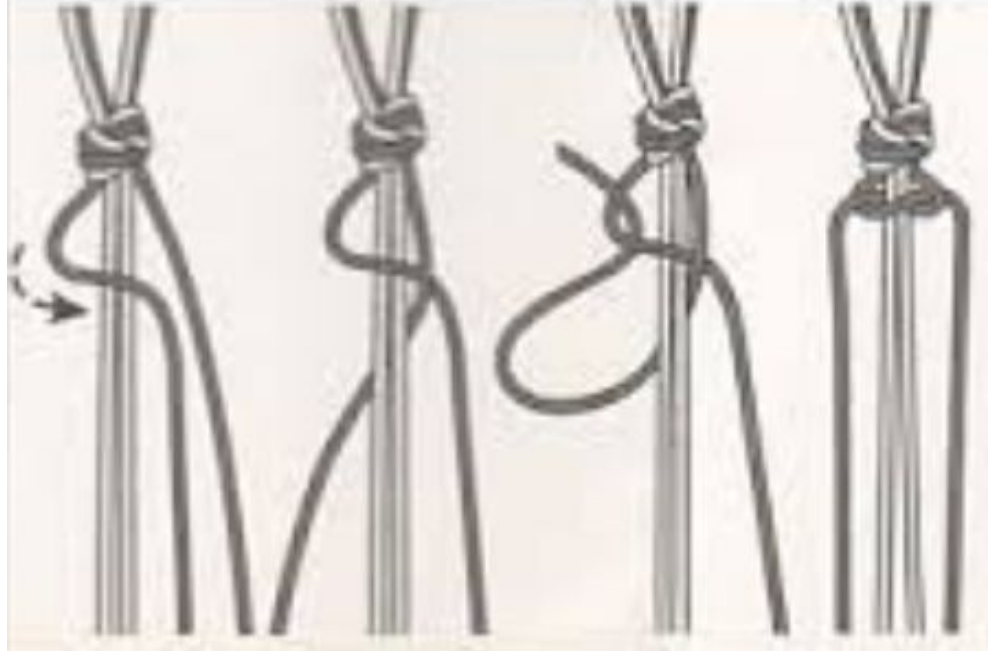
4.



5.



# Types of Knots - Twist





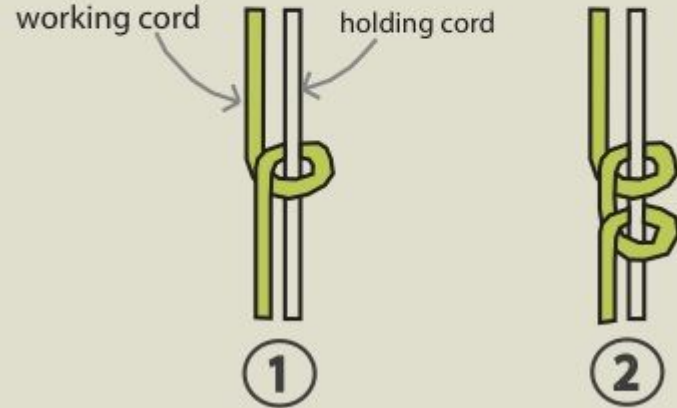
# Types of Knot - Half Hitch Spiral



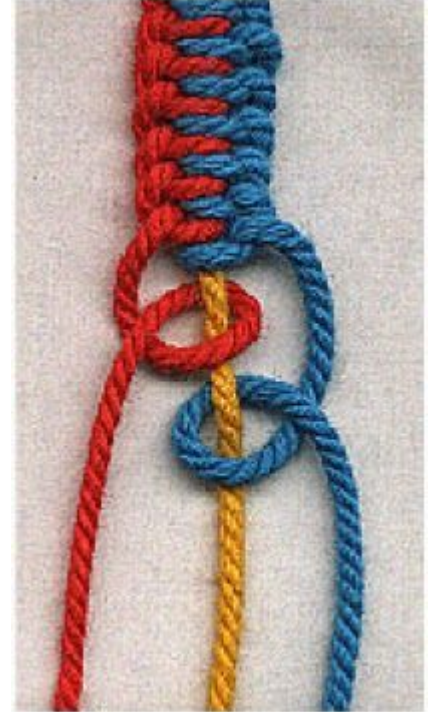
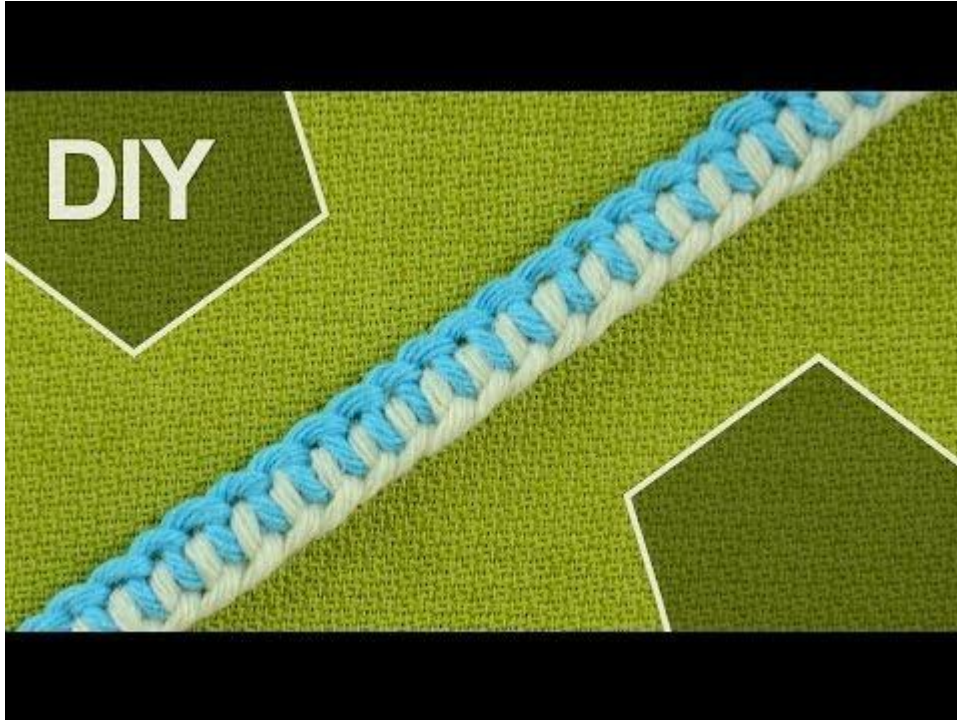
# Types of Knot - Half Hitch Spiral



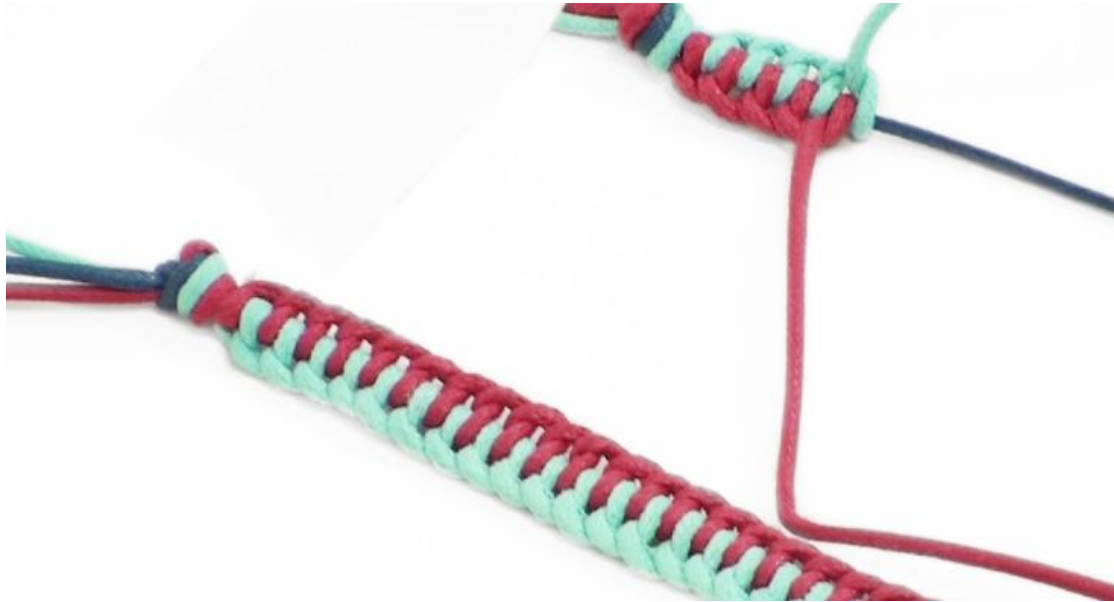
## Haft Hitch Spiral



# Types of Knot - Half Zipper



# Types of Knot - Half Zipper



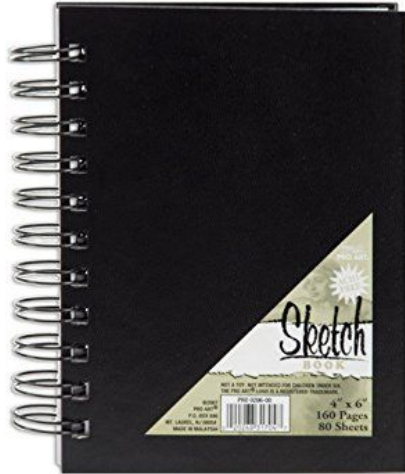


# Getting Started



# Step One: Plan out your design

1. In your sketchbook, layout which types of knots you plan to use. Create two different designs.
2. Pick out your cords and colors that work best for your project and glass fusing design



# Step Two: Prepare your cords

1. Make sure that your cords are **LONG enough**. Measure your neck and make them almost double in length. You can always trim them down.
2. Knot your cords so that you have four strands using the reverse larkshead knot
3. Start with the half knot or the square knot and continue to tie
4. Check for mistakes as you work
5. Remember to measure the length around your neck as you work and stop when you like the desired length

