

This necklace fools the eye - many semiprecious beads have very small holes so you need to have a strategy to overcome this problem. The agate bead at the centre of the necklace and the pebble shaped stone beads will only take one or two passes of the C Lon thread, but four thicknesses of thread are needed for the side straps of the design - this technique shows you how to cheat

Ingredients

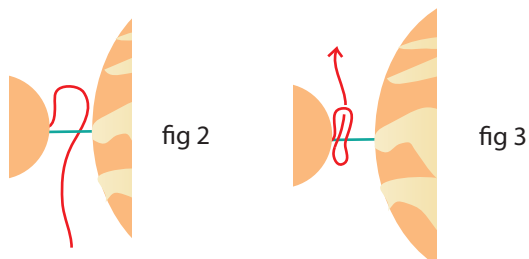
SPST466 Old Yellow Jade small pebbles (A)
 SPST914 Natural red Agate medium pebbles (B)
 4 x GL0336 8mm frost green 8mm beads (C)
 2 x GL0025 frost green small donuts (D)
 SPST789 Large Agate Bead (E)
 1m Peridot C Lon thread
 1.5m Dark Tan C Lon thread
 Pair of FN150 gold large box lace ends
 FN210 poppa fastener
 2 x FN068 large oval gold jump rings

To Make

The central section of this necklace reaches from donut bead to donut bead.

Cut 50cm of dark tan C Lon. Thread the E bead into the centre. Onto each side thread 1A, 1B, 1A, 1C, 1A, 1B, 1A. Now work on one side at a time. Pick up one side of 1D and bring the thread round and back through all of the smaller beads just threaded to emerge just before the E bead. Repeat on the other side of the design.

Carefully bring the beads down to almost meet the large agate bead leaving just 2mm of space to fasten off the thread at either side. The cut end of the thread (X) needs to knot around the thread where it emerges from the agate bead (Y). Work on one side at a time. Make a loop with the X thread behind the Y thread (fig 2). Pass the end of the X thread over the top of Y and through the loop of X (fig 3). Pull the knot up tight to the last bead threaded on this side of the design. Repeat to make a second knot to lie tightly alongside the first knot.



Repeat on the other side of the agate bead with the other thread end. If necessary make further knots on each side until the Y thread no longer shows to either side of the large central bead. Carefully dab the knots with clear drying nail polish or glue and leave to dry thoroughly. When the sealant is dry you can trim the threads neatly.

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Jean's Knotted Agate Necklace

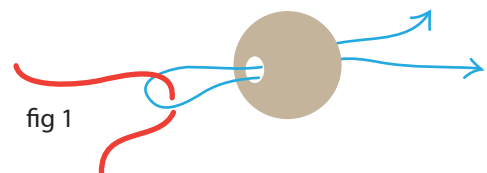
If you have not made a knotted necklace before you may find it useful to read the Knotting Techniques download, and the Threading with Thong download for tips on using box lace ends

Bead Holes Too Small?

First of all semi-precious beads have varied hole sizes - sort through the beads and pick out the ones with the biggest holes for where you need to make two passes of thread (the centre front section).

Next prepare your thread - paint the last 2-3cm of the C Lon thread with a little nail polish - run this bit of the thread through your fingers to force the varnish into the fibres and leave to dry. Once dry you can trim the thread back a little (at an angle) to give you a pointed, stiffened end to work with.

Still not working? Make a saddle.....cut 10cm of normal beading thread. Pass both of the ends through the troublesome bead leaving a loop of thread on the outside of the hole. Pass the thicker thread through this loop and pull on the two thinner thread ends - the thin thread will pull the thick thread through the bead (fig 1).



You will now thread the back of the necklace one side at a time.

Cut 50cm of dark tan C Lon and pick up the far side of one of the donuts just threaded so that it sits at the centre of the length. Pass both ends of the thread through 1A, 1B and 1A.

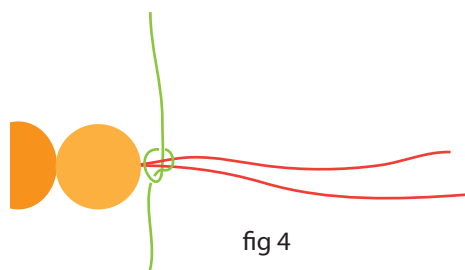


fig 4

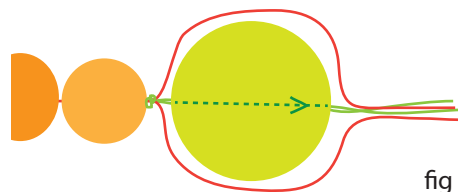


fig 5

Cut 50cm peridot C Lon. Make a simple overhand knot in the centre of this thread over the dark tan thread up closely to the last A bead threaded (fig 4). Pass both strands of the peridot thread through 1C bead. Wrap the tan threads around the sides of the A bead to bring all four threads together (fig 5). Make a single overhand knot through all four threads on the far side of the C bead.

The four threads are now separated out and treated individually until brought back together in the lace end. Following these instructions will result in a finished necklace length of 50cm/20 inches. If you would like your finished length longer or shorter than this, this is the section to alter - make the spaces between your knots shorter for a shorter necklace or leave more thread length, and possibly add in more beads, for a longer necklace.

Onto one thread tie a simple knot about 2cm from the C bead. Thread on 1B. Tie another knot 3cm from the B bead. Thread on 1A. Now thread up the other three strands similarly but with slightly different spacings on each strand so that the beads do not all bunch up together on the finished necklace.

Once all the strands have been prepared bring them all together and make a single overhand knot through all four threads about 12-13cm from the last C bead added. This knot will be concealed by the box lace end.

Repeat the last section with the other side of the necklace.

Finally attach the box lace ends and to these the fastener using the oval jump rings.

Box Ends & C Lon Thread

See the [Threading With Thong](#) free [Techniques](#) download for more information about the best way to use these two materials together