

# Simple Macrame Square Knots & Beaded Bracelets



This is a really simple technique that can be mastered very quickly by crafters of all ages. These fashionable bracelets use a medium-weight knotting or macrame thread and a few choice beads. The easy closure means there is no metal clasp - so choose your beads carefully and you can have a go anywhere design.



## C-Lon Tex

BT902 - BT948

0.9mm twisted specialist macrame thread available in many colours.

Also available in a thinner 0.5mm version in even more colours  
BT500 - BT603

## Materials

**For the black bracelet we used**  
 3m of black C-Lon Tex BT903  
 Six 8mm diamante set rounds DR202  
 Two 6mm black fire polished glass beads FG616

**For the purple bracelet we used**  
 3m of purple knotting thread BT358  
 Seven 10mm crystal AB fire polished glass beads FG1011  
 Two 6mm crystal AB fire polished glass beads FG637

**Tools** - a pair of scissors, a darning needle and a scrap of thin wire



## Knotting Thread

BT349 - BT359

0.6mm in diameter this woven thread makes smooth neat knots - it's available in eleven colours.

## Square Knotting

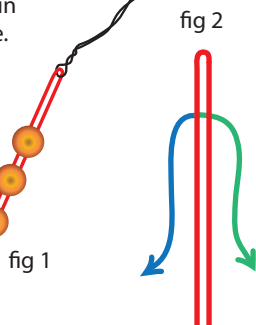
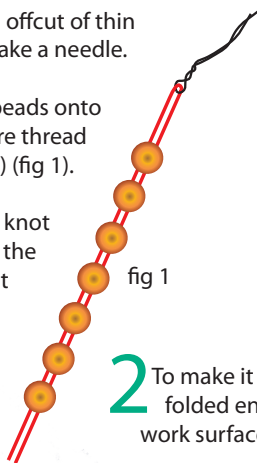
You need four thicknesses of thread to make a square knot - two for the core and two to make the knots. You will use two pieces of thread each folded in half to give you the four thicknesses that you require

**To Make the Bracelet** - Cut 50cm of thread and put aside for the sliding clasp. Cut 75cm of thread and fold it in half to give you the two thicknesses for the core. The remaining 1.75m will make the knots around the core.

**1** Use a small offcut of thin wire to make a needle.

Thread your beads onto the folded core thread (shown in red) (fig 1).

Make a loose knot at the ends so the beads cannot drop off.



**2** To make it easier to work stick the folded end of the core down to your work surface with a bit of sticky tape.

Slip the knotting thread underneath the core so the middle of the thread is 10cm from the top of the core with one side sticking out to the left (A blue) and one to the right (B green) (fig 2).

Tie a tiny knot at the very end of A so you know which is which.

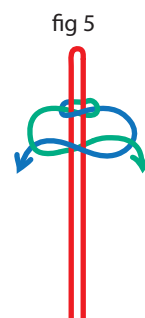
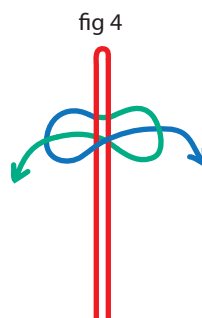


**3** Pass A over the top of the core leaving a loop to the left (fig 3). Pick up thread B.

Pass it over the top of A on the right of the core.

Pass it under the core and up through the loop left by A on the left (fig 4). Pull gently on A and B to tighten the work - this completes the first half of the square knot.

Make sure the knot is sitting about 10cm from the folded end of the core.



**4** Thread A is now on the right and thread B on the left.

Pass thread A over the top of the core leaving a loop to the right.

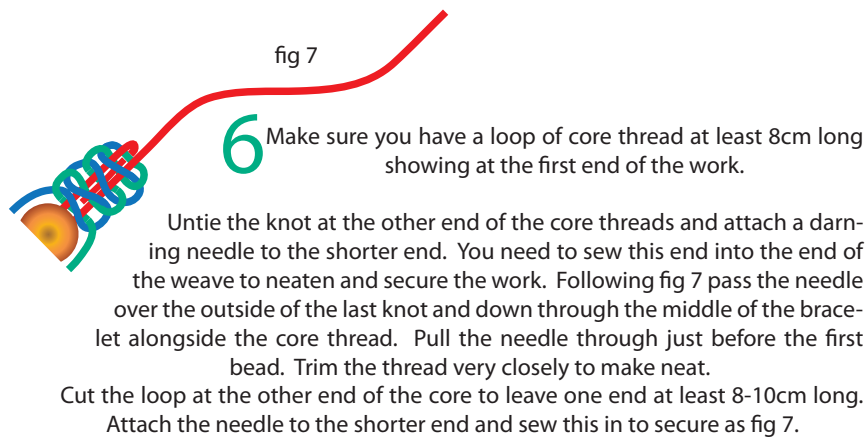
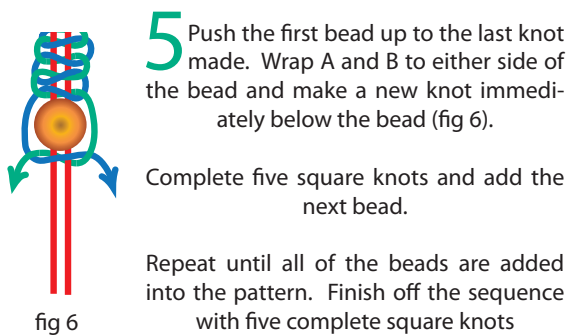
Pick up thread B. Pass it over the top of A on the left of the core.

Pass it under the core and up through the loop left by A on the right (fig 5). Pull gently on A and B to tighten the work.

This completes the first square knot - note that A passed to the front of the core both times and B to the back.

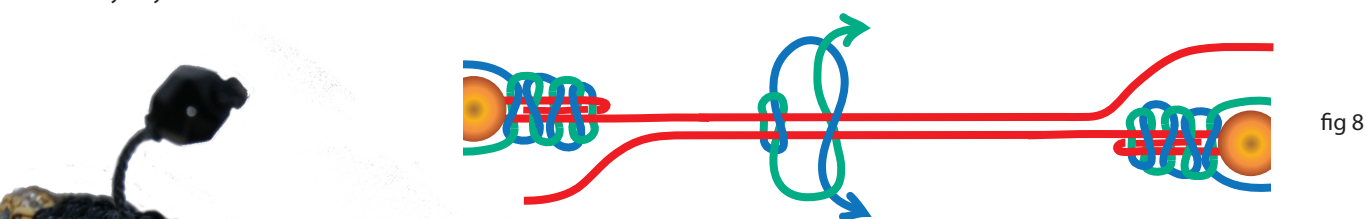
Repeat steps 3 and 4 four more times to make four more square knots before you add the first bead.

Continues over.....



**7 The Clasp** - Lay the remaining tails of the bracelet parallel as shown in fig 8. Using the 50cm of thread reserved at the beginning of the work start a length of square knots using the two tails as the core threads (fig 8). Make at least seven complete knots.

This time you need to sew in the knotting threads not the core threads. One at a time attach the knotting thread ends to the needle and pass into the short length of knots just made (as fig 7). Take the needle all the way to the other end of the knotted clasp if you can fit it through. Trim as neatly as you can.

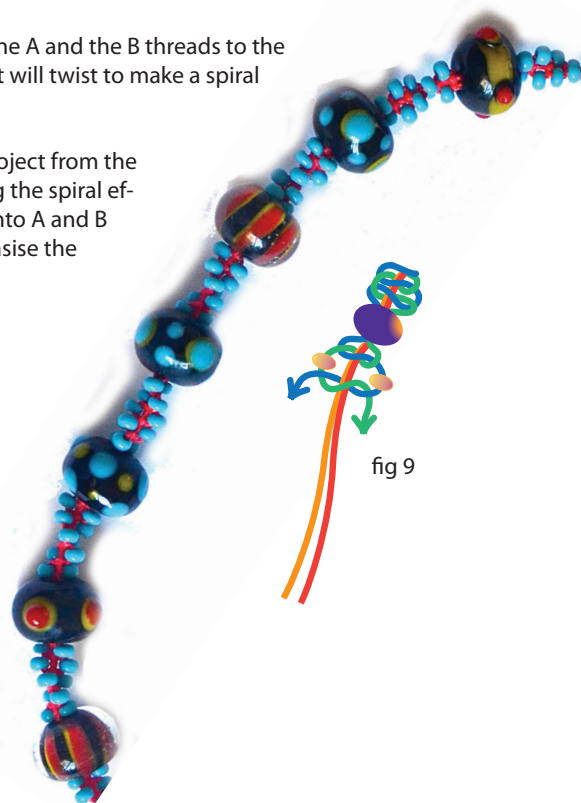


**8** The bracelet is made bigger and smaller to fit over the hand by sliding the core threads backwards and forwards through the short knotted clasp just made. To stop the core threads from pulling all the way through the clasp tie a 6mm bead to each end of the core threads with a single knot to either side of each bead.

The threads can be trimmed quite close to the final knot. Both the C-Lon thread and the knotting thread are made from synthetic materials which can be fused with a thread zapper or very carefully with a tiny flame to stop any further fraying.

**Variations** - if you alternate the A and the B threads to the front of the core the square knot will twist to make a spiral effect.

The example on the right is a project from the Autumn 2011 brochure showing the spiral effect. A seed bead is threaded onto A and B before the knot is tied to emphasise the pattern (fig 9).



### Now Experiment With Your New Skills

The beads need to have a hole large enough to take two core threads but other than that the design is up to you.

Try different numbers of knots or group the beads together with just single knots to separate them out.

Try a different colour core thread to the knotting threads.

Try different knotting materials - cotton thong, rattail, Scoobi-doo laces and wire.

Try a mini version with the standard thickness of C-Lon - perhaps make it a multi-row design.

Make a necklace to match or an anklet for the beach.

Add dangles on jump rings or make the end tags into something really special with extra beads or feathers.