Knotted Necklace with Natalie Chanin

Chapter 1 - Introduction
Overview
- In this workshop, I'm going to teach you how to make this knotted necklace, which is an accessories project from my newest book, Alabama Studios Sewing and Design. This a really great project because you can use really small scraps of fabric in different sizes, colors, widths for different effects. The best part of it is that you can get started straight away. ^(slow music)

Chapter 2 - Make Necklace
Make Necklace
- Today we're gonna be working with scraps of 100% organic, cotton jersey. You may already have some small pieces that you can use for strips to make into the ropes. Otherwise, you can just find smaller pieces that we're gonna cut into about one and a half inch strips to make our ropes. We just use a pair of regular, spring loaded scissors. If you cut your strips smaller we would not recommend going any smaller than a half inch. I'll show you a little bit later how the smaller strips make for a more fragile little necklace with smaller knots, which are really great for younger girls or to use as bracelets. Once you have a few strips cut you're just gonna take one of the ends and give it a pull. And what happens is through property of the way knit is made so the physics of the knit, when you give this pull the fabric rolls. When you cut with the grain of the fabric the fabric is actually gonna roll to the back. When you cut across the grain of the fabric it actually rolls to the front. For our necklace today, I believe that most of the pieces are cut with the grain. It really doesn't matter. You can use one way or the other. It doesn't change in any way, shape, and form the durability of the necklace that you're making. It just changes very, very, very slightly the aesthetic of how how the fabric looks. So we just make a lot of little ropes like this. We call them sometimes cotton jersey pulls just because the action of pulling is what actually makes the ropes. You can get started straight away or you can prepare all your ropes in advance, whatever you feel most comfortable doing. The knot is just a very, very simple knot. We've taught children how to make this necklace. So you just make a loop and pull the end through that loop. This is the only action that's required for making this necklace. But we just do the action over and over again. We had those knots fall right on top of one another, which makes those little knots that give the appearance of little pearls across the length of the necklace. And you just continue like this. You know this is a great project for parties for adults. Children can make them. It's a wonderful, wonderful project. The thinnest necklace is great for wearing out at night. I usually keep one on my purse if need to go into a meeting or something, I'll throw one on. When I go back to work I'll just drop it off in my purse. It's really fun, and many people say, stress relieving just to tie over and over again. When you get to the end of the rope and you see that there's not much room to make additional knots, all we're gonna do is add another piece of rope to this end. So I'm just gonna take another strip, pull my strip into rope form, just gonna give it a good little tug here, and then I'm gonna use a square knot to join the two strips together. There's a little poem that I learned as a little girl to make a square knot and it goes, left over right, right over left. If you use this method for making your knot, your knot will not come undone. The physics of the two layers pulling against one another hold it in a permanent knot. So you'll see that we have little ends left over. I'm just gonna continue knotting over those ends and try to work those ends into my knots. You see how that gets hidden right in that little knot. I actually

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like these little pieces right here. You can actually go back if you want to afterwards and just trim those away with your pairs of scissors. So it's very minimal. And you just keep working. You'll find that after you've worked a whole string of knots you won't even be able to find that point that you cut. We made a little sample to show you how those knots build upon one another. The knots build up in a very sculptural way, creating kind of little pearls that wander along the length of the necklace. And you just continue on in this way until you reach your desired length. We add a little logo charm to all of our necklaces, but you can use a piece from a broken piece of jewelry, a little charm that you have left over from something. I have bowls of these things at my house that I never know what to do with. It's beautiful to add a little sentimental touch when you're making a present for someone or for one of your children. There are all kinds of variations that you can do. Here you have the version made with a half inch strip of fabric before the rope is pulled. Here you have a version made with a one inch strip of fabric before the rope is pulled. And here you have the one and a half inch strip that we've been working on. You can see that the variations are great for different purposes. I keep the little half inch version at my house for birthday parties for my daughter's classmates. They make beautiful little bracelets. You can also use them in the hair. They make a great little headband. The medium, the one inch version, is just a little more dainty and the one and a half version is just kind of a bolder, chunkier, statement when you wear it. You can also play with variations in color and combining colors in one necklace for great variation for this project. So there's really nothing more than a simple knot and a few scraps to make this great accessory.

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