
Make a Monkeyâ€™s Fist Knotted Necklace with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Make a Monkey's Fist Knotted Necklace

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(light playful music) - Hi, I'm Courtney from Creativebug, and I'm gonna show you how to make a monkey fist knot. Traditionally you may have seen this on a larger scale, for something like a bookend or a doorstop. But I'm gonna show you how to scale it down, and make a really sweet little necklace, that's slightly nautical inspired. It's really easy to make and it's a really fun knot to do. You'll need a bit of twine, or cording, about six and a half or seven feet. You can also use decorative rope. You will also need a little bit of decorative twine, this is gonna be as an accent for our closure. So you'll need just a yard or two of that. You'll also need tacky glue, a sharp pair of scissors, and then something to go inside to hold the monkey's fist knot together, I'm using a wooden bead, but you could also use a marble. The first thing you're gonna need to do is cut your rope, or twine, I have about six and a half feet here, that I'll be working with. And I'm just using a medium weight natural colored twine. Because we're gonna be doing a necklace I'm leaving about 12 inches of a tail. And we're gonna start by wrapping our three fingers. So take your first three fingers here and you're gonna wrap. Your monkey fist knot can have two wraps, three wraps, four wraps, and so on. For this size bead we're gonna do about a four wrap. So we wanna remember that number. And we've got them all lined up, all four wraps. You can see them here. And then we're gonna pinch this with our thumb, and start wrapping this way. So slip out your middle finger, we're gonna start wrapping through this little opening you've just created. And you'll see as we start to stack these wraps on top of one another what this looks like. And this twine is somewhat stiff, which actually makes it a little easier to work with. So you could do something like a pair of cord as well. You can see I have the four wraps here. Before we go any further, we wanna add our bead. So you can slip that in, and we're actually gonna remove our fingertips and twist this slightly, which is a little tricky, just be patient. And now we're gonna be wrapping through this hole, and down and coming through the bottom opening. So if you need to adjust anything here you can. Just try not to lose all your wraps. Now we're gonna wrap through the top. Around the side and out the bottom. And we're gonna do four wraps here as well. Make sure as you're wrapping that your wraps are lining really neatly one on top of the other, or right next to each other, depending on how you're looking at it, you don't want them to criss cross, 'cause that will make a very messy looking knot. And to get it through here we're just gonna loop it back to complete that fourth loop. And it's gonna come out from the top. We've got one, two, three, four on every side. And now is the fun part which is a little bit tricky, but we need to tighten this up, so that we get a really crisp looking monkey fist knot. So maybe helpful to kinda follow the cord around as it goes, so I know I just tightened this band of four. Now I'm gonna come down and tighten this band. Hold everything in place 'til things start to tighten up, and that's what's gonna give you a really crisp looking knot I have a little crossover happening here, I'm just gonna correct that as I tighten these cords. You can see overall how much tighter that all is. I'm just gonna go and just make sure everything is laying really nice and flat. A little tiny bit of my wooden bead is showing, through my knot, because these colors are similar, I'm not worried about that, it's not something you're gonna notice while you're wearing the piece. But it's something to keep in mind if you're using a marble or a bead that's a different color. To change that what you can do is decide to make more wraps. So I could've done a five wrap monkey fist knot. It just really depends on the size of cording, how tight you're pulling on all your cords as you

work, and how large the interior ball or bead is. So for me I'm good with this. I'm gonna show you how to do a little closure, and add a little bit of color. Figure out how long you want your necklace. So you may wanna hold it up or try it on. I'm gonna clip these cords here, make sure they're even. Overlap the ends of your cord about an inch, or an inch and a half. And then take a contrasting cord. I like this to be slightly thinner. And we're gonna start by just tying on a knot, just anywhere on here. Usually start just slightly to one side. You can do a double knot if you want. We don't need quite this much, maybe about eight inches at most. And then I actually like to take the tail, and just loop it over toward the way that I'm gonna be wrapping. So I'm gonna be wrapping this way, and so that tail is gonna be covered in my wraps. We're just gonna very quickly, but securely wrap these two ends together to make our closure. The length of this wrap is really up to you, depends on how large a band of color you'd like to add at the neck of your piece. Getting to the end here. And when you have just a little bit left, you're gonna grab your tacky glue, this will dry clear. I like to have a little bit more glue than not enough, so that I can just finish my wrap with that. And it's really as simple as that. Of course you will have to practice this knot, and you can scale it up or down, and you can have some really fun design choices, by switching up your cord. So I have a few other necklaces I can show you here. I've done the exact same simple twine necklace in this one. Added my closure just like we've done. And then I did the exact same technique to add bands of color on the side of the necklace. So you can use that wrapping twine technique, finishing it off with a little bit of tacky glue. And add bands of color anywhere that you wanna have a little bit of color. You could even try some metallic, that would be really fun. You can also switch up your cord choice. There's a lot of great cords on the market that have fun neon or great prints. And I've done one here in a neon yellow, with a gray wrap at the top for a closure, and another one with a bright magenta pink. And the same simple closure that we've done before. Another really fun treatment you could do, is using a simple cotton rope, and then adding some color blocking. I made this entire necklace just like we've done together. And then with some craft acrylic paint, just very carefully colored each little band of rope. So you can see, you can pick whatever colors you like. And of course you could scale this back up to a larger size just by using a styrofoam ball or a cue ball, or even a bocce ball. The heavier it is, the more weight it will hold. And so you could do it as a book end, or a door stop. You just wanna increase the gauge of your rope, and you can add more wraps. So this one happens to be a six wrap monkeys fist knot. This knot is so fun to do, and it's easy to learn. Just practice and just by changing up your color, and the thickness of your cord, you can create a lot of different, versatile designs.