

Macramé Bookmark

Difficulty: ★★★★★ - Difficult

Time: ~1.5 hours (depending on length and design)



Materials

- Book that needs a bookmark
- Embroidery floss, or non-stretch thin yarn
- Scissors
- Pillow
- Pins
- Beads (optional)

Terminology

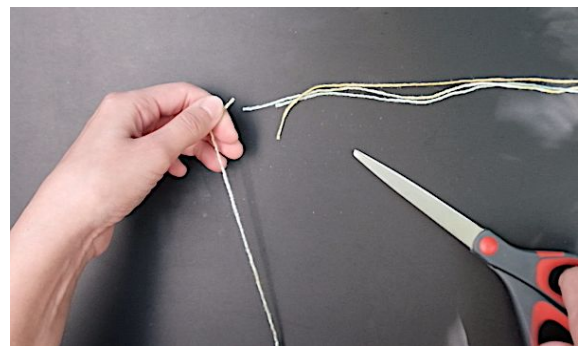
- **Working Cord** – These are the cords that you'll be using to make certain knots.
- **Bearing Cord** – These are the cords that you'll be using to wrap your knots around.

Steps

1. Cut a piece of yarn about 8 times longer than the length of your book.



2. Cut six more pieces of yarn the same length as the first. These 7 cords will be your starting **working cords**.



3. Take a pillow and cut another piece of yarn to wrap around the pillow. Wrap it as tightly as possible and secure with a knot. This will be your starting **bearing cord**.



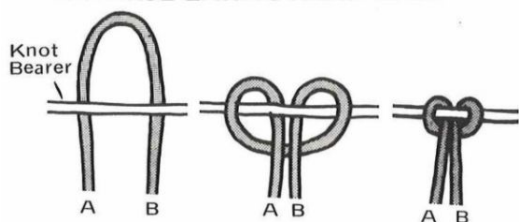
4. Attach the first working cord to the bearing cord using the **reverse lark's head knot**.



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REVERSE LARK'S HEAD KNOT



To do this, fold the working cord in half, then place the folded end under the bearing cord, forming a loop.



Bring the loop around the bearing cord, and pull both ends through the loop.



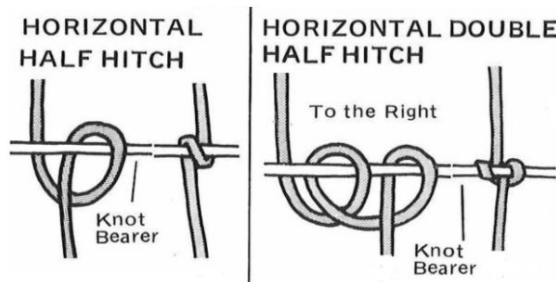
Pull the ends to tighten the knot.



5. Repeat for the remaining 6 working cords.



6. Make a row of horizontal **double half hitch knots**¹.



The leftmost cord will be your bearing cord for the horizontal row. Hold it horizontally over all other cords, pulling to the right.



Take the first working cord on the left and bring it over and around the bearing cord going to the left (1). Pull its end through the loop (2). This is the **half hitch knot**.



7. Using the same working cord, make a second half hitch knot. Now, there should be two knots next to each other. This is a **double half hitch knot**.

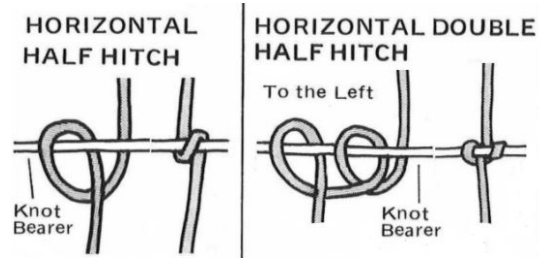
8. Continue making the double half hitch knots all the way across the row. You can use pins to keep everything in place.

¹ The double half hitch (or clove hitch) forms lines in your macramé work. In order to get a diagonal or vertical clove hitch, simply change the angle of the bearing cord.





9. The next row will be made of diagonal double half hitch knots. The steps will be similar to the horizontal double half hitch you've just made, only mirrored and shifted diagonally.



The rightmost cord will be the bearing cord for this row. Pull it diagonally above the other cords.



10. Take the first working cord on the right and bring it over and around the bearing cord (1). Pull the end through the loop to make the half hitch knot (2).

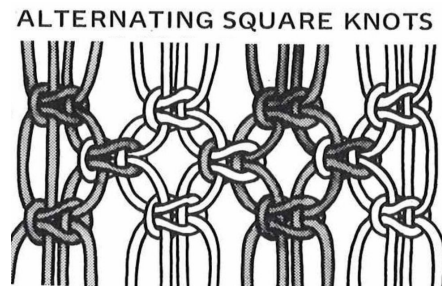


11. Make a double half hitch knot with the same working cord.

12. Continue making the double half hitch knots all the way across your row.



13. Fill in the space below the diagonal line with a variation of *the alternating square knot*².



We will make a triangle with *square knots*: one square knot on the left, two in the middle, and three on the right.

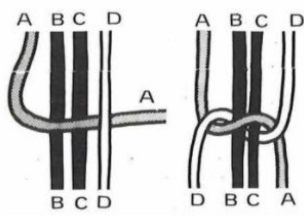


There are two parts to the square knot. You have to complete one side (*left half square knot*) and then the other side (*right half square knot*) to make the full square knot.

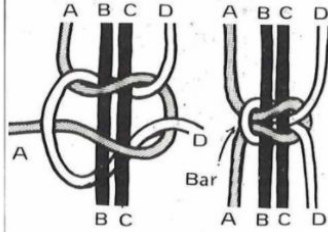
² The square knot is a decorative knot used in macramé projects to create a flat design on its surface.



HALF KNOT



SQUARE KNOT - BAR-ON-LEFT



14. Take 5 cords on the right. The two outer cords will be your working cords, and the three middle cords will be your bearing cords for the square knot.



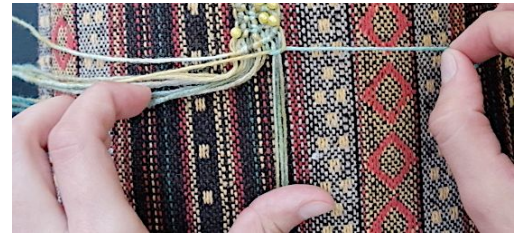
Take the left working cord and place it over the three middle cords and under the right working cord, moving to the right.



Then, take the right working cord and, shifting to the left, pass it under the three middle cords (1) and up through that loop formed by the left cord (2), passing above it.



Pull both working cords to tighten the knot, while holding the middle cords in place. You now have one side of the square knot, this is the *left half square knot*.



15. Mirror step 14, so now the right outer cord should be placed over the three middle cords, and under the left outer cord.



16. Take the left outer cord and pass it under the three middle cords and up through the loop created by the right cord.



17. Pull both working cords to tighten the *right half square knot*, which should be right under the previous knot. You have completed the full *square knot* now.

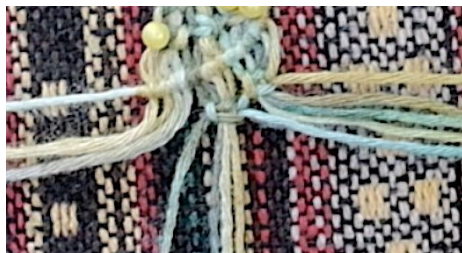




18. Take the left cord from the square knot you just made and the four untied cords to the left of it to create another square knot.



Basically, the left outer cord from the previous square knot becomes the right outer working cord for the middle square knot. Repeat steps 14 to 17.



19. When the middle square knot is complete, move left. Again, the left outer cord from the previous square knot becomes the right outer working cord for the new knot. Repeat steps 14 to 17.



20. By now, you should have 3 interconnected square knots below the diagonal line.



21. Add a second square knot to the right, using the rightmost 5 cords. This time, the right outer cord of the middle square knot becomes the left working cord for this knot.



22. Add a second middle square knot using the outer cords from the knots to the sides of it.



23. To complete the triangle, add a third square knot on the right, using the 5 rightmost cords.



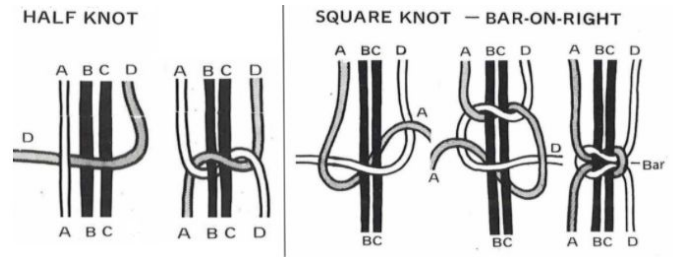
24. Add a row of diagonal double half hitch knots below the triangle. Follow steps 6-8, moving diagonally.



25. Add a new triangle with square knots, mirroring the one above. It should have one square knot on the right, two in the middle, and three on the left.



26. Repeat steps 14-23 starting from the left 5 cords and creating the right half square knot first and ending with the left half square knot as shown below.



27. Frame the triangle of square knots with diagonal double half hitch knots.



28. Continue adding to the design with triangles and diagonals until you reach your desired bookmark length.



29. Finish your macramé with two horizontal rows of double half hitch knots.

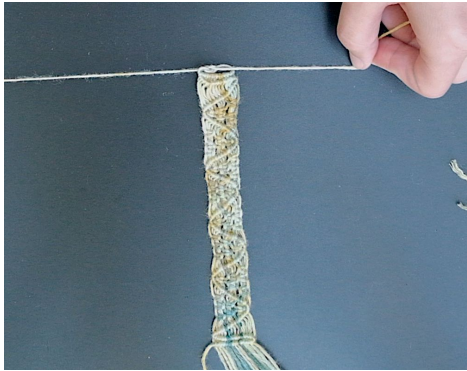


30. Cut off the excess ends.

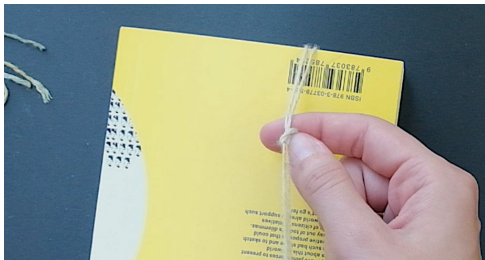




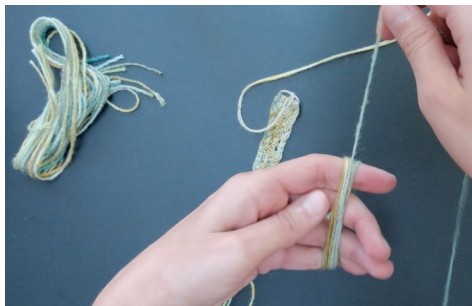
31. Untie the top cord that was wrapped around the pillow and tie a simple double knot at the top of your bookmark.



32. Make another simple knot 2-3 inches from the previous knot. (Optional) Add beads if you like.



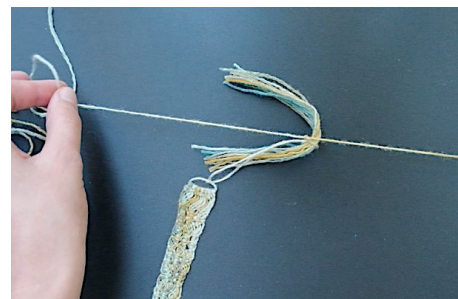
33. Make a tassel to decorate your bookmark. Wrap a new piece of yarn around your palm. The more you wrap, the fuller your tassel will be.



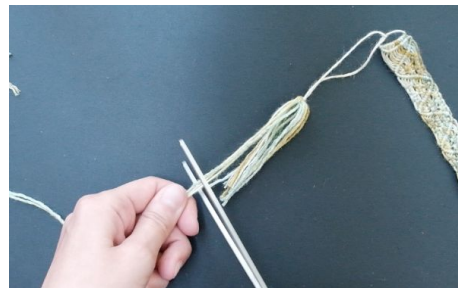
34. Holding the wrapped yarn together, carefully remove it from your palm and cut it on one side.



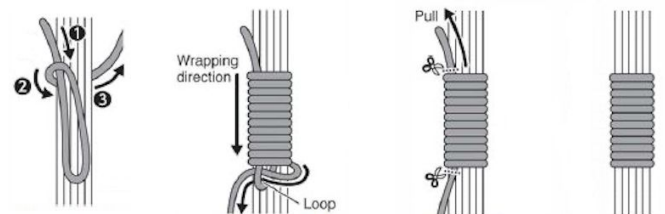
35. Center the bundle of yarn between the two pieces of yarn at the knot you created in step 32. Tie the two pieces of yarn around the bundle with a simple knot.



36. Fold the ends of the tassel down and smooth them together. Cut off the excess.



37. Cut a new piece of yarn at least 10 inches long to make a ***gathering knot*** around the neck of the tassel.



Place it in position with one end pointing toward the bookmark.

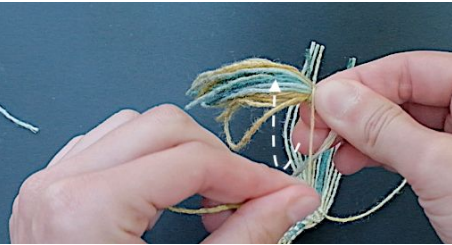




Fold the yarn about 2 inches below the starting point to create a loop and secure with your fingers where they intersect.



Wrap the yarn around your tassel.



After a few circles, poke the end of your wrapping cord through the loop.

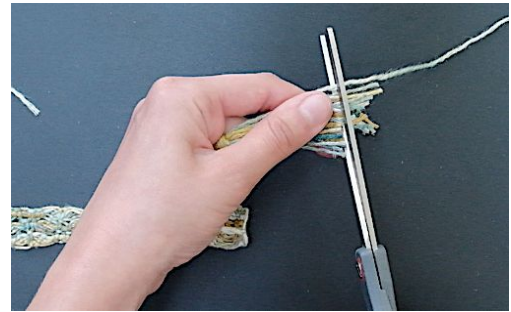


Slowly pull the top end holding the other end together with the tassel. Pull tight until the loop disappears into the neck of the knot.



Once it has disappeared, cut off the top end as close to the neck as possible.

38. Trim the ends of the tassel to even them up.



Yay! Your bookmark is complete. Isn't this beautiful lace-like pattern impressive?



Now you can experiment with these knots and use them to create lots of different things!



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