

Michael's

Made by you™

Pearl Knotting



John Deed
ESTABLISHED 1954

What You'll Need

Pearls Strand, such as SKU 10547885 or SKU 10374632
Gudebrod Waxed Polyester Thread, SKU 10720810 or SKU 10720728
Clamshell Findings, SKU 10443278

Collapsible Eye Needle, SKU 10427048
Thread Scissors, SKU 10591717
Knotting Tweezers Variety Pack, SKU 10443470
Beading Mat, SKU 10348546

18K Gold-Plated Lobster Clasps, SKU 10697683
18K Gold-Plated 6mm Jump Rings, SKU 10697675
18K Gold-Plated 4mm Jump Rings, SKU 10697675
18K Gold-Plated Bail Pin Cup, SKU 10697684

Fabric Glue, SKU 10429007

Beginner Pearl Knotting 1-Hour

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Introduction

In this class we will share a spin on classic pearl knotting featuring a method that does not require pre-stretching or pearl reaming. We will show how you can use a strong and versatile cord option, waxed polyester cord, to achieve the classic look with minimal effort and a flawless result every time.

In class we will demo a bracelet length that is approximately 7", finished with an 18K gold-plated lobster claw and chain, with a pearl drop embellishment. You can work with any pearls or even gemstone beads.

Step 1

Cut a length of Gudebrod Waxed Polyester cord that is two times your desired length, plus 10 inches. Thread on a collapsible eye needle and bring it to the midpoint of the cord. Bring the ends of the cord together and tie an overhand knot leaving a 4-inch tail.

Bring the needle through the open (pac man) side of a clamshell bead tip finding. Settle the knot inside. Leave the clamshell open for now and keep the tail in place.

Step 2

We will demo this in detail in class. This is an overhand knot where we use the tweezers to hold position against the bead. String a pearl using the needle onto the cords. Slide it all the way down to settle up against the closed side of the clamshell finding. Drape the cord and cross over your fingers, pinching the point where the cord crosses itself with your thumb. Hold this in place and bring the needle side through the loop formed. Using the tweezers, place the tweezers through the loop and secure them snugly on top of the pearl bead, holding both cords tightly in place. Pull the needle side tightly closing the loop over the tweezers. Remove the tweezers from the knot. Separate the strands and pull them apart to tighten the knot right up against the bead. Pull the tail and working side to even out.

Repeat this step until you are 1 pearl short of your desired length.

Step 3

String the last pearl, but do not form another knot. String a clamshell bead tip finding in the opposite way. Needle in through the closed side. Use your tweezers to form an overhand knot inside the clamshell. Pull the strands apart to tighten.

Apply a dot of glue to the knots inside each of the clamshells and trim away the excess cord. Close the clamshells over the knots. Use round nose pliers to finish closing the clamshell loops. Use chain nose pliers to open jump rings and attach findings and make a jump ring chain. If desired, add a decorative pearl that has been glued into a bail pin to the last jump ring in your chain.

