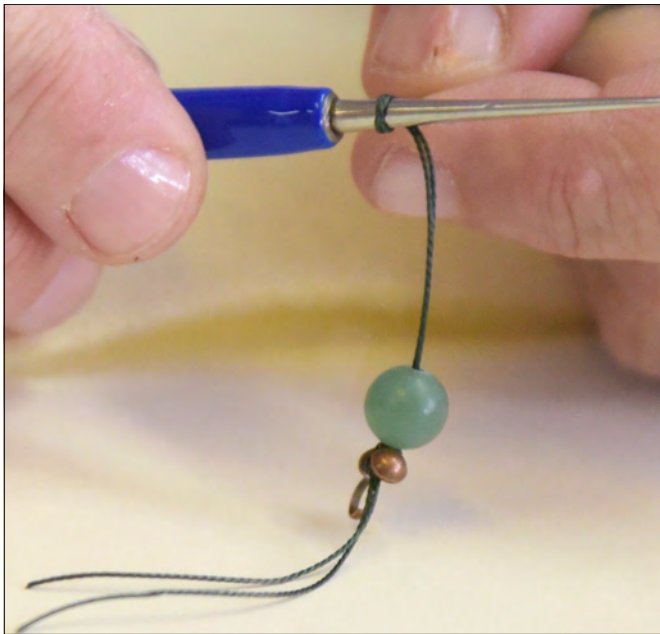


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facebook LIVE: 10.25.17

Contemporary Bead Knotting



This week on Facebook LIVE with Emily Miller and Grace Noland, we review an age-old technique that eludes so many jewelry makers...bead knotting.

Well, Emily really does take the mystery out of it and gives it a contemporary spin by mixing her beads and adding chain for an endless look. In her no-nonsense approach to beads, threads, and stringing, Emily dials back the anxiety and simply demonstrates step-by-step how to get a knot right up against the bead.

We hope you enjoy watching this Facebook LIVE episode.

The project learning begins at **Minute Marker 23:00**, if you want to skip ahead.

We will be doing knotting on Facebook LIVE more than once and we'll share learning Emily didn't have time to cover (like bullion and gem knotting) and additional technique tips that we have learned over the years, but for now, let's learn to knot!



Knotting beads can be used with almost any material and done in any fashion you can conceive. But it all starts with finding the right thread to match your bead holes. If you have beads with big holes you can even knot with leather (above, left). For a bold and creative look, you can use knots as spacers between beads (right).

We're going to keep it simple right now and help you just focus on getting the knot close to the bead using a doubled thread and an awl. As Emily says, the advantage to two threads is that you can tighten the knot after you place it next to the bead and gently tug to get the knot right up against the bead... you can't do this with a single thread!

Thread seems to be the biggest mystery and the scariest aspect to beginning knotters. After all, in every other project, the instructor tells you what you need to string on, but with knotting, bead holes vary.

With bead knotting, it can require some experimentation. That's why having multiple choices available on your bead table before you begin is essential.

When you go to select a thread for your beads, the size of the beads and the holes can make your decision easy or challenging; that's why having a variety of materials to choose from is really important.



Regular, Fine, and Micro C-Lon in a mixed photo

#### C-Lon:

Emily uses Fine Weight C-Lon and Micro C-Lon in the video. C-Lon comes in a variety of weights, we carry four of them. Here they are in order of heaviest first:

1. C-Lon (too thick for stones in episode)
2. Fine Weight C-Lon (used on 4mm Czech Fire Polish and 8mm Dakota Stones)
3. Micro C-Lon (used on freshwater pearls)
4. C-Lon Size D (similar to Nymo Size D but smoother and more consistent).



C-Lon Size D:  
Fine Gem Knotting



KO:  
Fine Gem Knotting

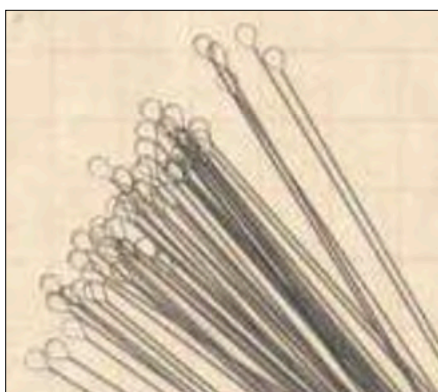


Tuff Cord:  
Many sizes and colors. A bit stiffer than C-Lon but also useable for knotting.

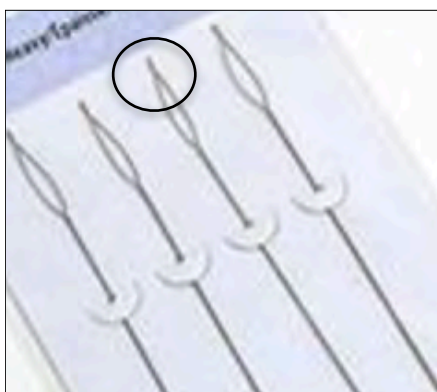
## Needles and Tools:

When you double your thread, whatever thread you choose, you need a needle so you can string your beads on. As much as we love the collapsible eye needle (below, middle), the one we always recommend for bead knotting is the flexible (below, left). Why?

Do you notice that pointed tip on the Collapsible? Just that extra twist of the wire adds unnecessary thickness to the needle and thread trying to get through a bead hole...weight we just don't need! When you string your beads, the point where the thread and needle meet is always going to be bigger than any other point, and if you have to tug to get your beads onto the thread, look first to the size needle



Flexible Eye Needles



Collapsible Eye Needles



Awl



Knotting Tweezers



Thread Snips



Round Nose, Chain  
Nose and Flush  
Cutters

## End Tips and Bead Tips:

It is so easy to get confused over bead tips! Every knoter you meet will tell you s/he has a favorite. Emily showed you hers, which is the Clamshell End Tip. On the other hand, I (Janice) love the Traditional End Tip used in conjunction with a bead cap on the first and last bead. In our next episode on knotting, we will get into the differences in bead tips and how to use them in detail. For now, here are the names and photos for each style. They also come in different sizes and have different hole openings...just to confuse us more! This is similar to the array of crimp tubes, beads, covers, and guardians you can purchase for Soft Flex. It can seem like a minefield!



Clamshell End Tips (used in this project)

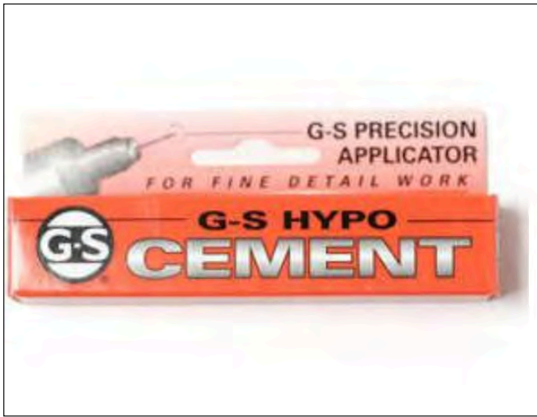


Traditional End Tips (Janice's favorite)



Foldover Bead Tips (we don't carry these)

Bead Tip photos courtesy of Rio Grande.



### GS Hypo Cement

I want to reiterate what Emily said in the episode: GS Hypo is the best glue to use...I once had a customer who used pink nail polish on the security knots and couldn't understand why it looked wrong! So, please use this glue!

We have some excellent handouts that are free to download. We think they can add to your knowledge of knotting, threads and techniques.



Pearl Knotting, Class Handout  
The Bead Shop



Tin Cup, Class Handout  
The Bead Shop

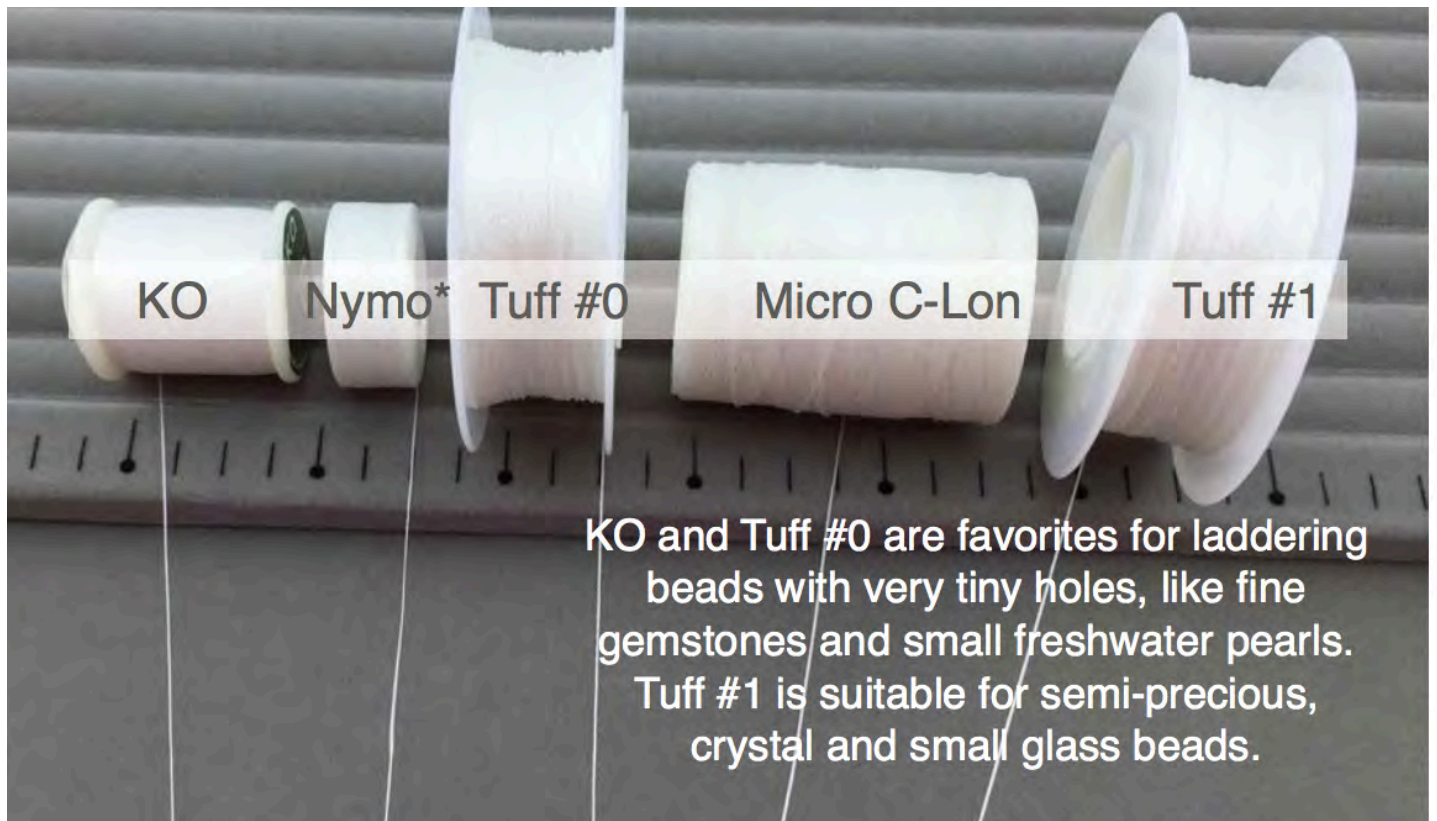
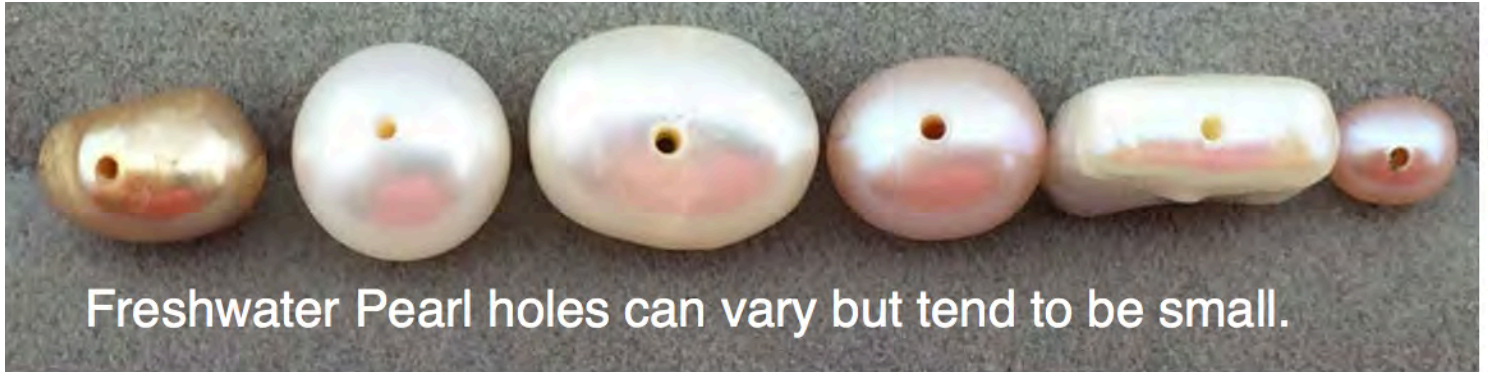


Gem Knotting, Class Handout  
The Bead Shop

The learning never ends...if you want to know more about hole sizes and threads, we recommend our handout for Tricks to Laddering, Pages 2-6.

The information is pretty extensive, if I do say so myself!

It's more a primer on thread and bead holes than anything else.



## Measuring your Thread:

We all see, to get confused with how much thread to cut.  
I use the same formula that Emily shared with you...

When you are knotting with your thread doubled:  
Cut 3 times the finished length x 2

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You may end up with a bit extra, but you should have enough for knotting beads sizes 4-8. If you're knotting beads 2-3mm\*, you will need to cut more thread. In that case, err on the safe side and cut 4 times the finished length x 2.

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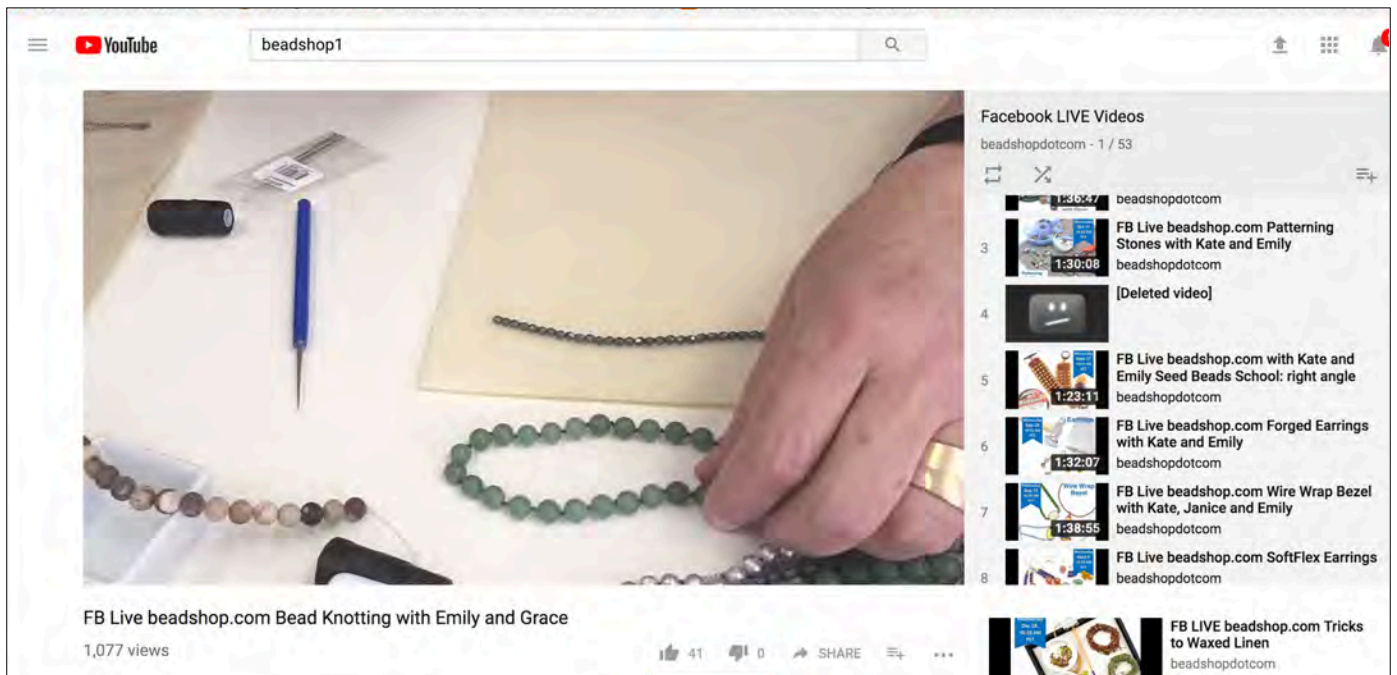
\* Think twice about knotting beads this small...Are you sure you want to?



We hope you've enjoyed Episode Notes and today's broadcast. There was a lot packed in, but have faith you can bead knot...just remember, it's only thread you lost if you have to start again.

See you next week!





So many videos to watch! You can see them all on our Youtube channel. And to download Episode Notes, go to our [Facebook LIVE archive page](#) on our website, click on the project you want to see, and for many there will be a link to Episode Notes on the left side of the page under the photo. Sorry, the earliest FB videos don't have them.

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[Beads, Baubles, and Jewels Website](#)  
[Janice & Drea's Bead Meetup Video](#)  
[Grace's Etsy Shop](#)

## Links to This Project's Ingredients...

[Contemporary Bead Knotting Project Page](#)

[Basic Recipe Page](#)

[Tres Chic](#)

2 Ft [Circle Back Chain- Antique Silver](#)

1 Spool [Micro C-Lon- Charcoal](#)

1 Spool [Fine C-Lon- Black](#)

1 Strand [8mm Matte Wood Opalite Rounds](#)

1 Strand [5mm Freshwater Pearls- Cream](#)

1 Strand [4mm Silver](#)

1 Pkg [0.36mm Clamshell End Tips- Ant. Silver](#)

1 Pkg [Flexible Eye Needles](#)

1 Tube [GS Hypo Cement](#)

[Green Guardian](#)

2 Ft [Circle Back Chain- Antique Copper](#)

1 Spool [Micro C-Lon- Forest Green](#)

1 Spool [Fine C-Lon- Forest Green](#)

1 Strand [8mm Matte Green Aventurine](#)

1 Strand [7mm Freshwater Pearls- Soft Gray](#)

1 Strand [4mm Turquoise Moon Dust](#)

1 Pkg [0.36mm Clamshell End Tips- Copper](#)

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[My Fair Lady Chain & Little Lentil Chain](#)

[C-Lon, Micro C-Lon, Fine C-Lon](#)

[SoftFlex](#)

[Craft Wire](#)

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