

Beadshop LIVE: 7.3.19

Micro Macramé Basics



*With Kate Richbourg on Beadshop LIVE
Project by Kate Richbourg
Photography by Baranduin Briggs and Karen Marshall
Episode Notes by Drea Carbone*

Micro Macramé has been taking the bead world by storm! Bracelets, earrings, and more! Kate did a little bit on a recent Free Tip Friday, which you can see [here](#), and you'll also see plenty of examples on our private FB Group, [The Bead Table](#).

Today we'll work on a pair of macramé knots in Kate's newest bracelet sample, Bluebonnet. It's a great start to Micro Macramé to learn the basics and get an idea of where you can take your new knotting skills down the road!

We had some difficulties on Facebook today...remember, we broadcast live in THREE places, so if one doesn't work, try the next! [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and our [Archive Page](#) all have the live show the day-of and archive the videos after.

Want to skip the chit chat?

Fast forward to **Minute Marker 14:30** to hear about the project and materials, and at **Minute Marker 26:00** Kate gets "knotty!"

Minute Marker 14:30

Remember making friendship bracelets with (and for) all your pals? We do, too! This Bluebonnet project is a more grown-up version. We're loving it! A little bit retro and a lot of curb appeal...yes!

Using .5mm Chinese Knotting cord in this gorgeous Ink Blue, Kate named this project for the pretty Bluebonnet flowers. Having gone through several iterations in working on this sample, Kate shows a few of her steps, missteps, and ideas she had along the way...different clasp ideas, bead amounts, and more. Sometimes a project just creates itself...sometimes we need to work out the kinks and bugs to make it just right!



We're working with two knots today...you've seen us use both before! The flat macramé knot, or square knot, is what we use ALL the time. The second is a larks head knot, which we use from time to time, but not yet in this way! If you watched us on our past few broadcasts, Free Tip Friday's Macramé Lattice Bracelet on 6.29.19 and Beadshop LIVE's New Poetry on 6.26.19, you've seen us work with this knot and make these cute scalloped button loops already.

Ready to go? Let's do it!!



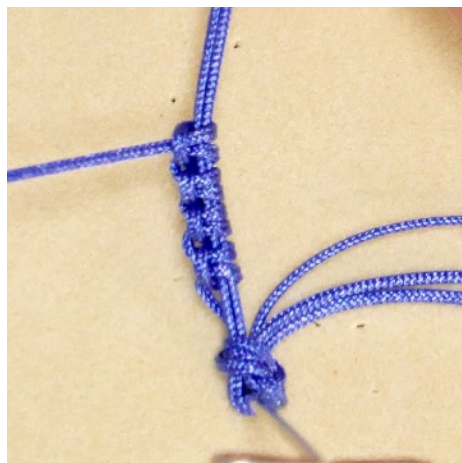
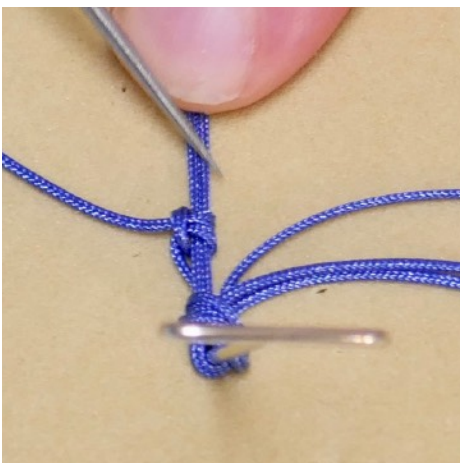
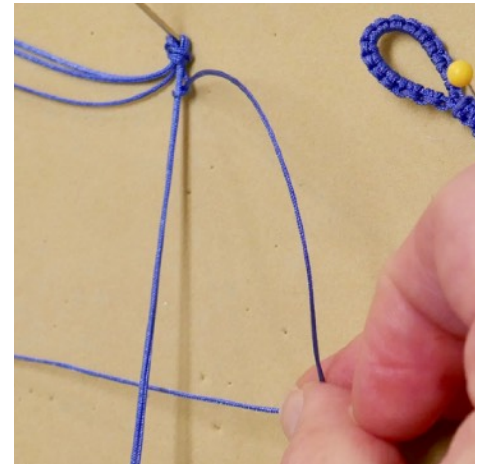
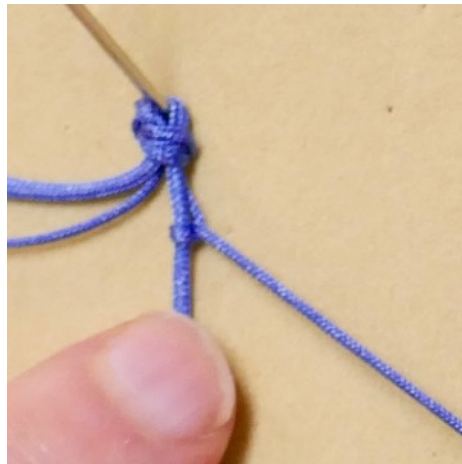
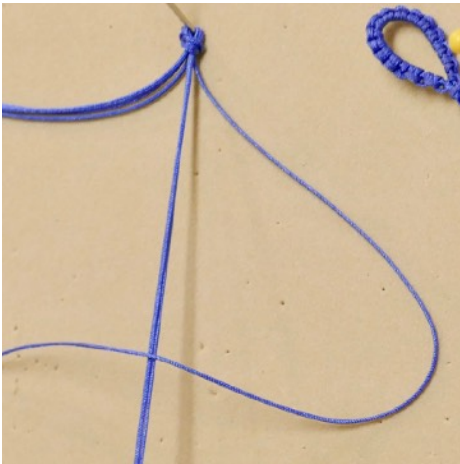
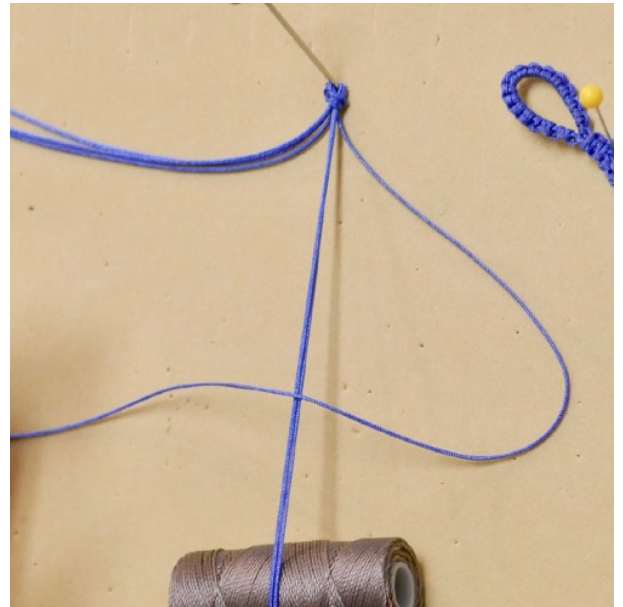
Minute Marker 26:00

With her Macramé Board and three 50-60" strands of 0.5mm CKC (but...you do you! Try it with 0.4mm or 0.8mm!), we're ready to go!

Minute Marker 29:00

With the three strands of CKC side by side, Kate finds the middle, moves slightly to the side of the middle, and makes a simple slipknot which she pins to her board. With two strands coming down the center, one strand to be her macramé cord, and the other three off to the side, she's ready to create her button loop.

Start with your "P" shape with the tail going over your center strands. Bring the tail around and through, and pull tight. Complete the knot by not making the "P" with the tail going *under*...then around and through...pull taught. These two knots create one complete larks head knot. Continue to tie these knots, all on the same side with the same thread, until you have length enough to create a button loop.

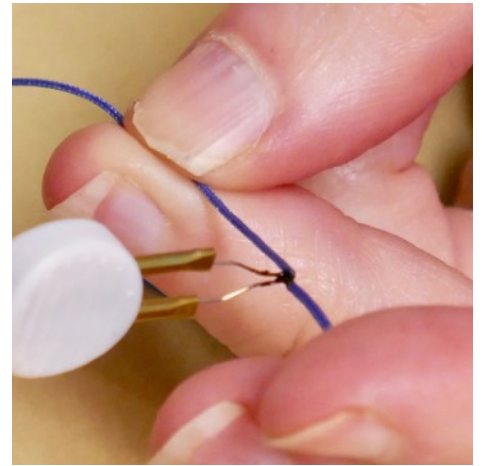
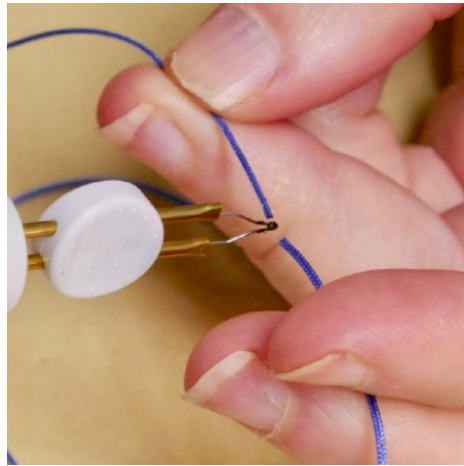
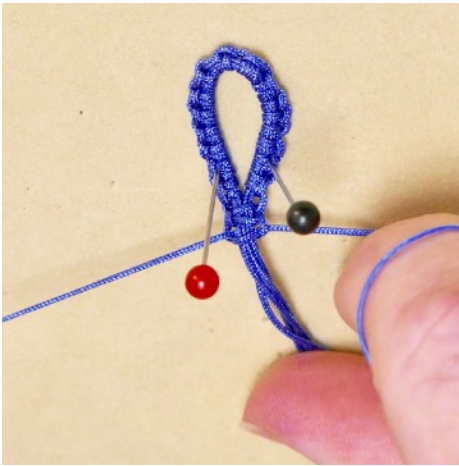


Minute Marker 39:30

with all your cords back together beneath your button loop, use the traditional flat knot macramé to encase everything, bringing it all together and closing the loop.

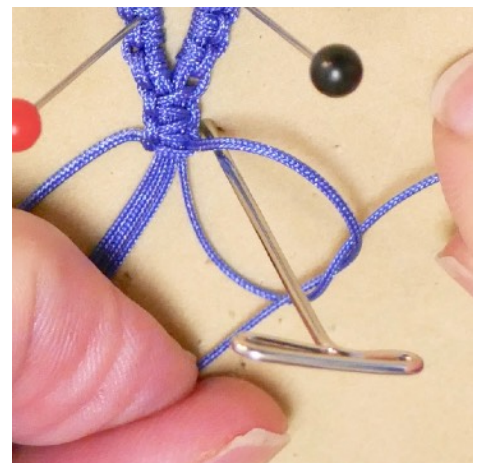
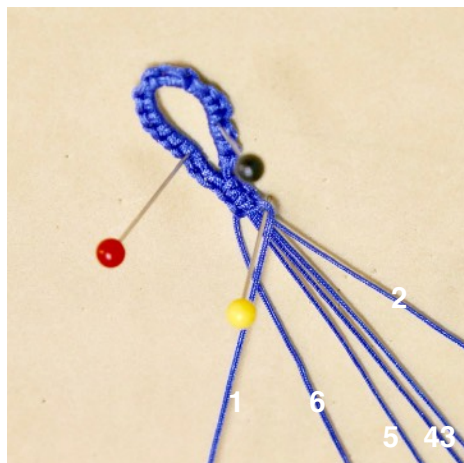
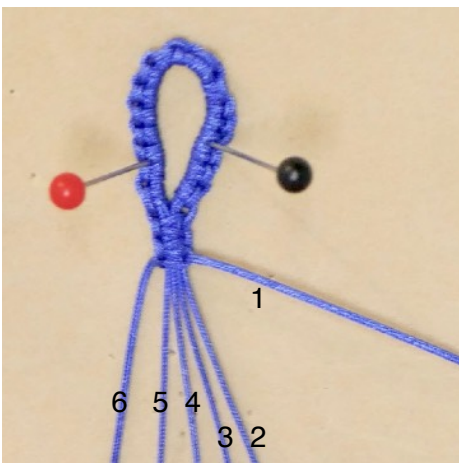
Minute Marker 41:30

Out of thread? That one cord we used to make the button loop's knots has gotten quite short. You could cut that one strand longer to begin with, or you can do what Kate does...splice a new thread onto it! Chinese Knotting Cord can be melted easily... grab your thread burner and carefully melt a new thread end onto your old. Give a gently tug to make sure it'll hold. Don't worry if it's a bit bulky...it won't be noticeable within all your knots.



Minute Marker 44:00

Time to knot the body of the bracelet! Separate your strands. Going right to left, we have Cords 1-6. Kate put a pin between Cords 1 and 2, then brings Cord 1 across Cords 2-6. Making a P with Cord 1, Kate brings Cord 2 up and over 1, through the loop, and pulls tight, right around the pin. Cord 2 is now on the far right...the order from right to left is now 2-1-3-4-5-6. Repeat this knot a second time. Cord 2 is still on the far right. Kate will demonstrate again on the video with a larger thread.

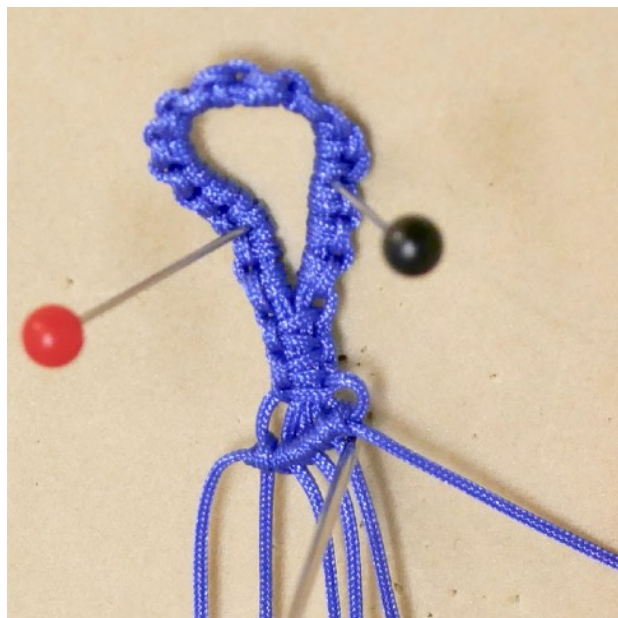


Minute Marker 53:00

Continuing with Cord 1, now tie your pair of knots around Cord 3. Bring Cord 1 around Cord 4 next, again tying two knots...continue through til you've tied your two knots around Cord 6. Each time, you're using Cord 1 to tie the knots.

In the photo to the right you'll see that Cord 1 has now been tied around Cords 2-6.

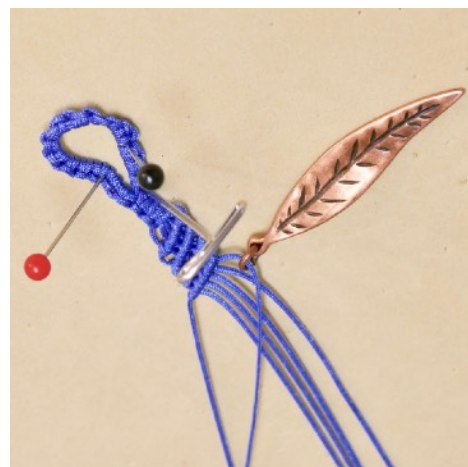
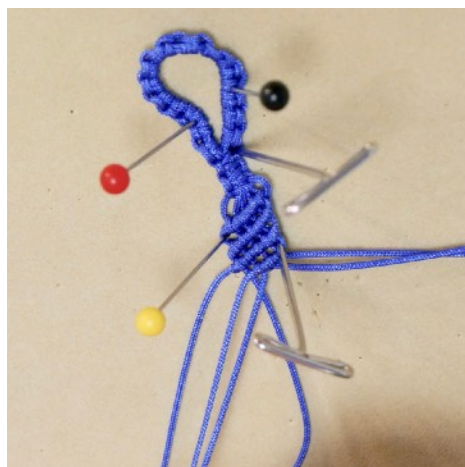
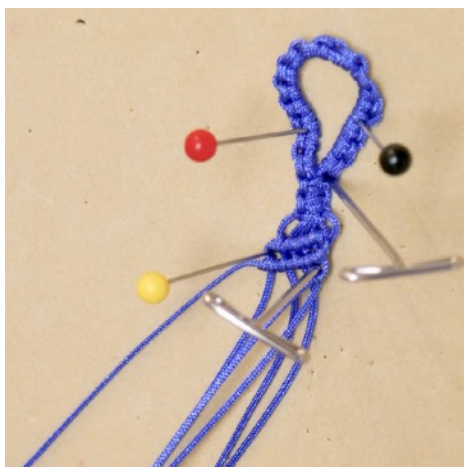
Next you'll be repeating the process with Cord 2! Move your pin down and begin!



Some tips to help you keep track of your threads? Tie a single colored seed bead on the bottom of each, color-coded so you know which cord is which number. Or, try using pieces of Washi Tape, or coloring with markers...whatever works for you!

Lather, rinse, repeat! As you complete each row, move your pin down to the first cord on the right to help tie the first knot and keep everything in place. want to add beads? You can! We'll get to that shortly. First, kate shows how you can easily add a charm, sliding a Willow charm on the first thread and knotting along as usual.

See how the rows grow? Below you can see two complete rows on the far left. In the middle Kate is just about to finish her fourth row. On the far right you can see the charm added at the beginning of the fifth row.



Minute Marker 1:05:00

Grab your Little Shadows! You can use any bead as long as it fits on your CKC...but of course Kate had to use her faves! She adds a single bead to each thread except the strands on each end (so, four beads total on the inner threads). Making self-needles at the tails of each thread can be helpful...just a dab of glue on a plastic baggie, slide the very tips of the tails through, and let cure... you've got nice hard ends now that will allow beads to be added on quickly and easily.

Now then! We've got our beads on, and it's time to tie your next row of knots beneath them. Cute! You can add more or less beads...check out Kate's variations in her practice samples. You do you, right?

Minute Marker 1:13:00

Goin' rogue...!!! Kate has some ideas about using other types of beads, too. Here we go!

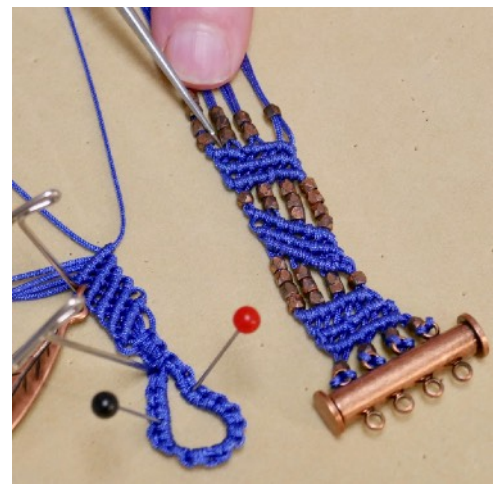
The beads she's using are:

Little Shadows- Copper Plate

O Beads- Crystal Cerulean Blue

Aged Brick AB Glow 8/0

Kate arranges them on the fly in a few different ways... let's see how this goes...



Well...it's in need of a little finessing. The 8/0s might be a hair too big and the beaded sections too long. We love the idea! But it's trial and error when you're designing!



Minute Marker 1:29:30

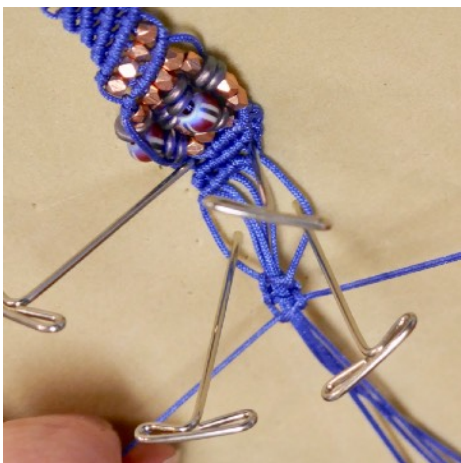
Time for the grand finale! A button attached in Janice's Trail's End style...a kind of infinity loop or figure-8 made with leather and a silk wrap. We love this...it's an easy way to attach a button to a project *and* it's easy to adjust for size.

Kate cuts a few inches of 1mm leather and loops it around onto itself, creating two loops, with her button slid onto one loop. Next, she silk wraps around the exact center of the leather, holding

those two cords in place for good! You can use nearly any size...1mm is great, so is 1.5 and 2! Add a dab of glue under your silk wrap to hold not only it in place, but also your leather...you don't want one end to tug out!

Minute Marker 1:34:30

To attach this leather loop to your bracelet, we're going to macramé over all out strands again. Use your outer strands to tie your knots over all of the inner. Kate is using her pins to leave a small amount of space between her last row of knots and the beginning of her macramé loop. Once the loop is looped around you will come back and cover that space, and the whole thing looks seamless! Loop this through your leather loop and back on itself, then macramé over your tails *and* the space you intentionally left open. Add a dab of glue to that open space, too...extra security is a good thing! When the open space is covered up, thread burn your macramé cords away, and make a tassel with those four inner threads that are hanging out...trés chic!



And there we have it! Now you've got the techniques and the tips and tricks...now go out and make one of your own! Be sure to share with us on Facebook...we love to see all that you create on [The Bead Table](#)!

Happy beading!!



Need pins? Check out your local craft shops and office supply stores! That's the best spot to find them. We've found the T-Pins at Staples and Amazon...we love them!

Hey, need to practice? Try kitchen twine! That's our go-to.

Links to Events and More...

- Last Week's Episode: [New Poetry](#)
- [Beadshop LIVE Youtube Playlist](#)
- [Beadshop LIVE Archive Page](#)
- [Free Tip Friday Youtube Playlist](#)
- [FTF Archive Page](#)
- [The Journey Bead Retreat](#)

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Links to This Project's Ingredients...

[Micro Macramé](#) and [Recipe](#)

Bluebonnet

1 [Tea Leaves Button- Copper](#)

1 Spool [.5mm Chinese Knotting Cord- Ink Blue](#)

1 Pkg [1.0mm Distressed Light Brown Leather](#)

1 Strand [Little Shadows Copper](#)

Plus, on the live show Kate adds:

[O Beads- Crystal Cerulean Blue](#)

[Aged Brick AB Glow 8/0](#)



You will also want to have...

A [Macramé Board](#) and pins, [Thread Clippers](#),
[Thread Burner](#), [Clampers](#), and [Zap Glue](#)