

SKILL BUILDER: HOW TO MACRAMÉ

The macramé square knot is one of the most useful stitches we know and we use it constantly to start and finish wrap bracelets. It is a wonderful way of securing your thread to begin and end a laddering project and to make a button loop.

Below we demonstrate the Skill Builder: How to Macramé using 1.5mm leather and 0.5mm Chinese Knotting Cord. Whether your macramé knots are done with cord or thread, the Skill Builder remains the same: the heavier the thread or cord the bigger the macramé knots and visa versa. We will refer to the center fiber as leather and the thread doing the knots as cord. Be sure to cut the length of cord your recipe calls for. Macramé uses up thread rather quickly, especially if your cord or thread is very fine, like Tuff #1 or Micro C-Lon.

Other skill builders to review are:

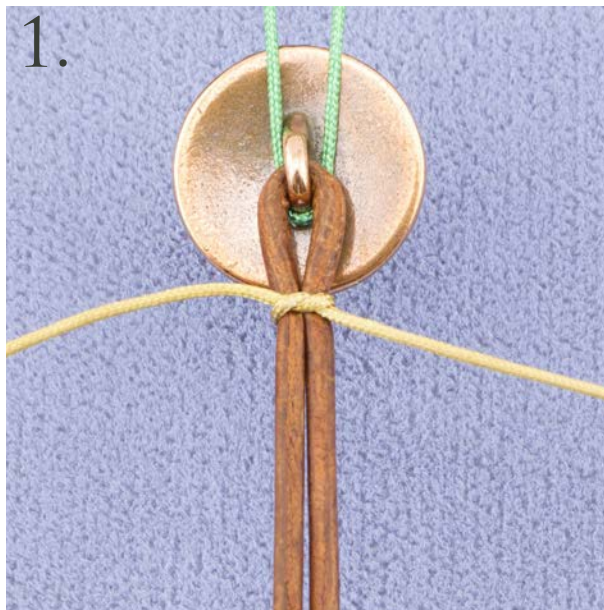
[How to Secure your Project to a Board](#)

[How to Ladder](#)

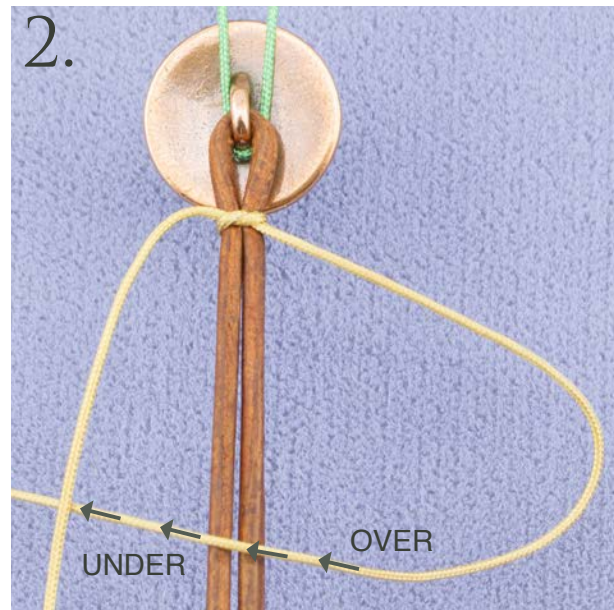
[How to Singe Cord with a Thread Zap II](#)

Successful, happy macramé knotting requires your project be stabilized to a surface before you begin.

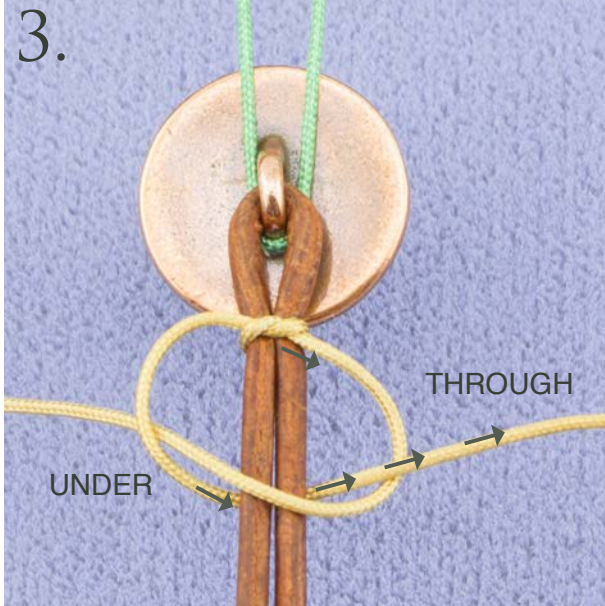
Once your project is secured to a board, here is Skill Builder: How to Macramé:



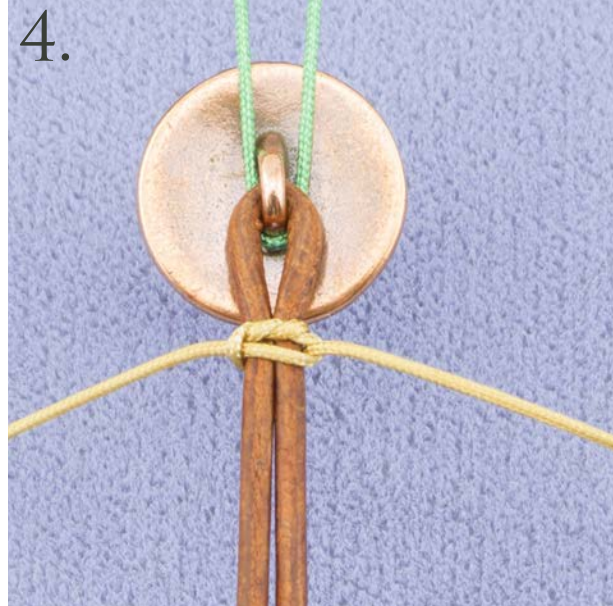
1. Find the middle of your cord and tie an overhand knot around the leather leaving an equal length of cord on the right and left side.



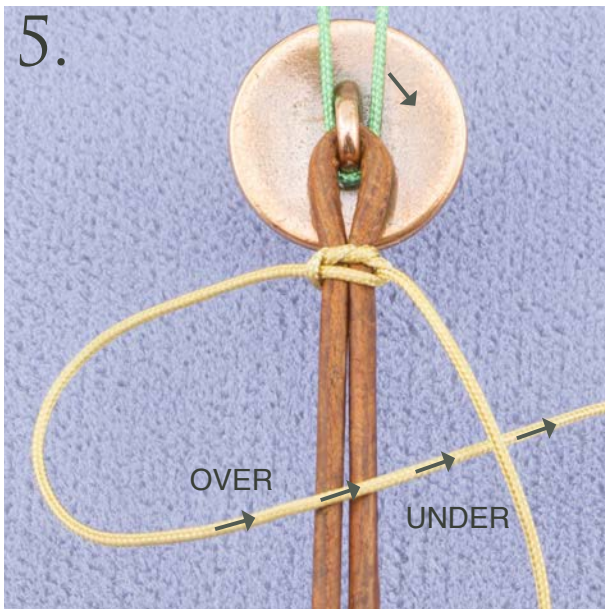
2. With your Right Cord, form a loop OVER the leather and UNDER your Left Cord.



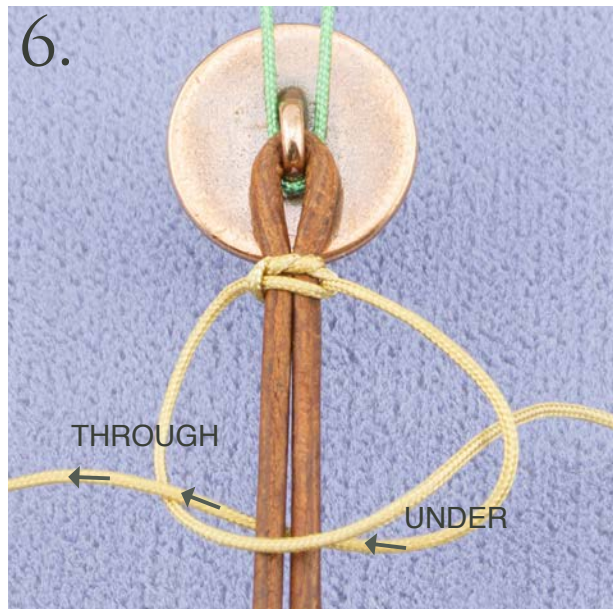
3. Take your Left Cord and bring it UNDER the leather and THROUGH the loop of your Right Cord.



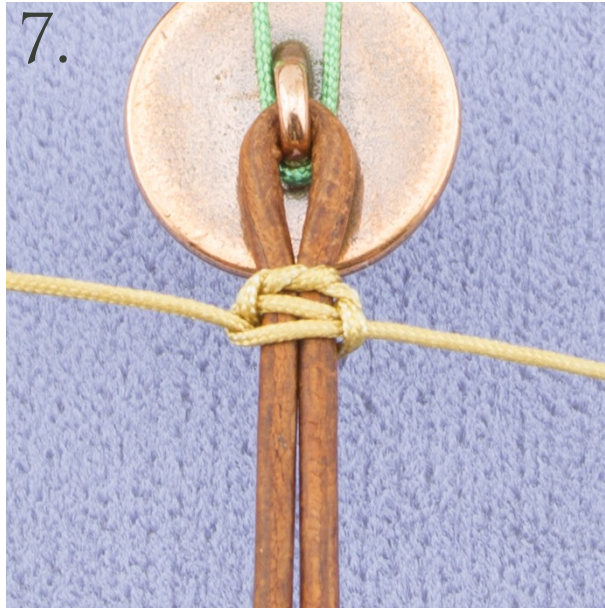
4. Gently but firmly tighten the knot.



5. With your Left Cord, form a loop OVER the leather and UNDER your Right Cord.



6. Take your Right Cord and bring it UNDER the leather and THROUGH the loop of your Left Cord.



7. Gently but firmly tighten the knot.



8. Repeat Steps 2-7 to continue to macramé. If you forget where you left off, always look for the side with the stitch on top; that is the side you will want to start your next macramé loop.

Macramé the desired distance. If your next steps are to ladder beads, please see Skill builder: How To Ladder for further step-by-step instructions.

This skill builder is adaptable to many elements of a project. Maybe you are making a button loop or you want to add a section of macramé stitches in the middle of a design. It is so useful to know. If you are ending your macramé and do not need your cord further, please refer to Skill builder: How to Singe Cord with a Thread Zapper II.



Macramé can be adapted to all kinds of projects and used to add to the design. In this project, Bollywood Bracelets by Brittany Ketcham, (samples by Lacey McAdoo), the macramé stitch incorporates beads and is used as a closure.