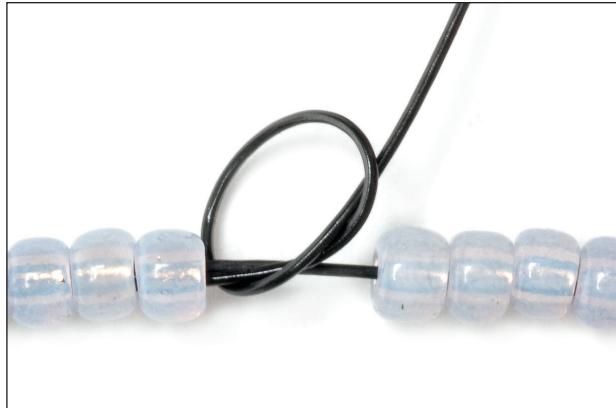




Basics

KNOTTING AND CRIMPING

There are a few basic knots that every beader should know. In this book, you'll mostly use a half-hitch knot to end thread within the beadwork, but I've included a few other useful knots for your information.



Half-hitch knot

To make this knot, you'll tie a single thread around a second thread that's already taut, usually within your beadwork. Come out of your beadwork between beads, and sew under and over the other thread, forming a loop. Sew through the loop, and pull tight.

The half-hitch is simply an overhand knot tied around another thread. To end or add thread in bead stitching, you'll retrace a thread path and place a couple of these knots at various points (see p. 23). Tighten half-hitch knots slowly so you don't end up with little loops of thread hanging outside your beadwork. I like to sew through the next bead right before my knot is completely tightened; when I pull on the thread and finish tightening the knot, the thread is hidden in the bead.



Overhand knot

Make a loop with your thread, and pass the end through. When you tie an overhand knot around another thread, it's called a half-hitch.



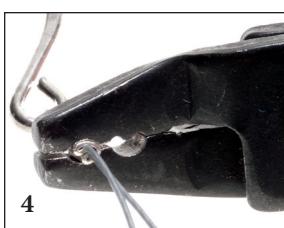
Square knot

This knot requires two threads. Bring the left thread under the right, and pull. Bring the right thread under the left and pull. This knot is often used to make loops of beads, such as in the first stitch of right-angle weave or the first round of tubular peyote stitch.



Surgeon's knot

This knot is a bit more secure than a square knot. It's great for tight spots or when using slick cords, such as elastic. Cross the left thread over the right twice, go through the loop, and pull to tighten. Cross what is now the right thread over the left, go through the loop, and tighten. The extra wrap in the first step locks the knot, making it almost impossible to undo.



Making a folded crimp

1. String the crimp bead and the loop of the clasp or finding, and go back through the crimp bead, forming a small loop.
2. Place the crimp bead in the half-moon opening of the pliers, making sure the wires are not crossed inside the bead. Close the pliers, and compress the bead.
3. Place the crimp bead in the round opening of the pliers, with the dent toward the outside.
4. Close the pliers and compress the bead into a tight cylinder.

If you don't have crimping pliers handy, an option is to simply **flatten the crimp** with chainnose pliers to secure it, again making sure the wires aren't crossed inside the bead.