HOW TO MAKE A BEADED CORD ROSARY

With no centre medal

YOU WILL NEED:

Cord
Ideally this should be round and twisted. For this Rosary we are using 1.5mm braided, nylon cord. It is slightly flat which is not ideal but, as it is nylon, it will be durable and I am able to fuse the ends with a gentle flame. The length of cord needed is roughly twice that of the finished piece so it will differ depending on how many decades you want to add.

Beads
These beads are 8mm diameter with 2mm drill hole.

Knotting tool
I am using a piece of U shaped umbrella wire. Thicker cord can be wrapped around a finger and a large eye needle used to pass the cord through the loops.

End Crucifix, Cross or Medal
Again, make sure the cord will pass through the hole. You may want to make your own knotted Cross with the same cord used for the beads.

There are two variations of barrel knots used in this Rosary. This first knot is used at the beginning and end of the decades sequences, and along the length of the Rosary to separate the decades.

The second variation is used when the Crucifix is attached.

STEP 1: PREPARE THE CORD

You will need to harden the end of the cord so it will pass easily through the beads and U of the wire. Hardening will also prevent fraying as you work.
I prefer to dip the end of the cord in to nail varnish the day before I need to use it. Other methods are; applying fabric glue or, for nylon, searing with a flame or cord zapper tool.

STEP 2: MAKE THE FIRST KNOT

The first knot is formed about 5-10cm from the beginning of the cord. If you are using very large beads, allow more than this.
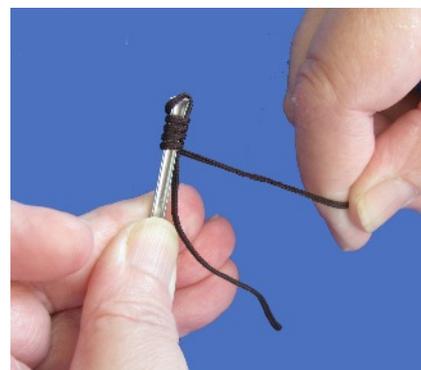
The cord is laid alongside the umbrella wire so the place you want the knot to sit, at the top of the wire and the loose end, at the bottom.
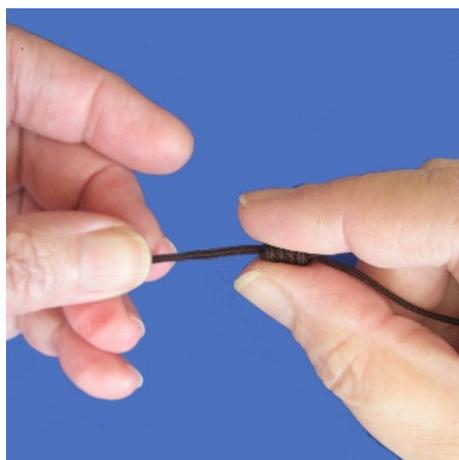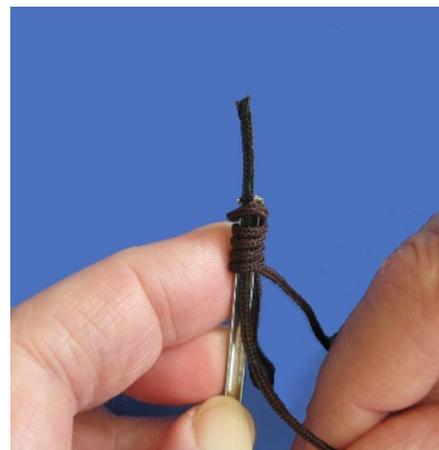
The longer length of cord is then wrapped around the wire 4 - 5 times, crossing over itself on the first wrap.

Tip If you "catch" the cord of first wrap on the end of the wire it helps to hold it in place but you do need to slip this loop fully on to the wire once all of the loops are wrapped.

Pass the end of the cord along the groove of the wire and therefore through all of the loops (including the first one caught on the tip of the wire).

When you have pulled all of the loose cord through the wire, hold the loops of cord between your thumb and fore finger gently removing the wire.
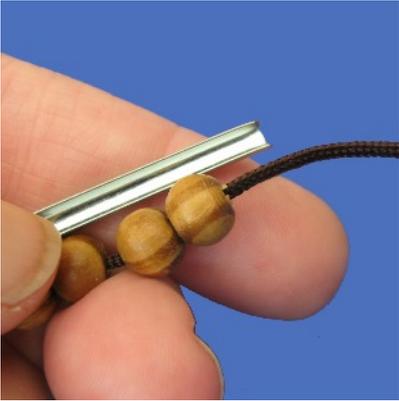
The loops are quite loose at this point and need to be tightened. Roll the barrel of loops between your thumb and fore-finger and, at the same time, gently pull the ends of the cord, gradually tightening the loops. Try not to let the loops pass over one-another. When tightened, you can give the barrel a final, firm tug.
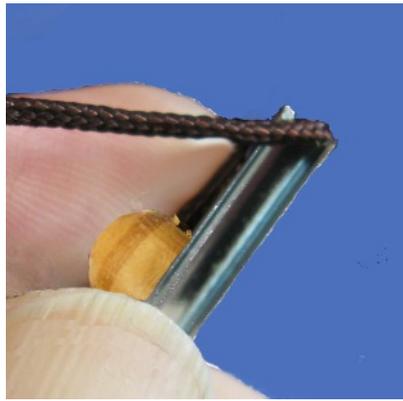
You have made the first knot. Now thread the 10 beads of the first decade on to the cord.

STEP 3: ADD BEADS AND KNOTS IN SEQUENCE

Place the wire alongside the beads with the end about 1cm above the last bead.

Wrap the cord over and around the wire so it crosses over it'self.

Wrap the cord around the wire 4 or 5 times more depending on the length of barrel knot you want.

Thread the cord through the groove in the wire and tighten the knot as in your first knot.

Continue threading beads and creating separator knots until you have all the decades for your Rosary AND a final knot after the last decade.

STEP 4: THREAD BOTH ENDS OF CORD THROUGH A BEAD

Choose a bead with a large enough drill hole to pass both cord ends through. It is easier to do this if the end that has not been hardened is threaded through first.

The Rosary should hang without twisting.

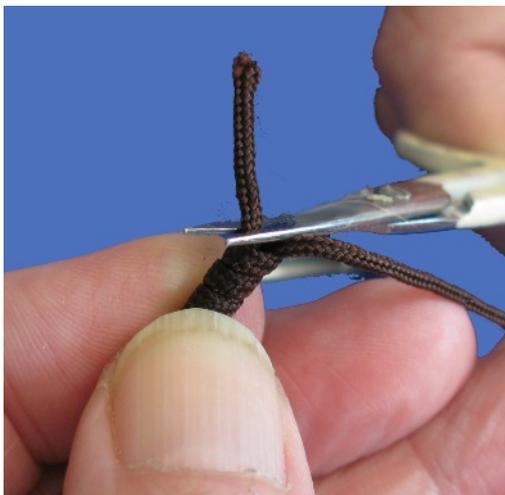If it does twist, roll one of the cords until it hangs straight.

STEP 5: MAKE A BARREL KNOT

This knot will separate the first and second bead of the end sequence as well as enclosing the shorter of the two ends of cord threaded through the joining bead.

It is formed in exactly the same way as the separator knots but to begin both ends of the cord are laid alongside the wire. The longer cord is wrapped around the wire AND the shorter cord.

Place the wire alongside the bead and cords. Wrap the longer cord around the wire AND the shorter cord 4-5 times. Pass the longer cord through the wire groove then remove and tighten the knot.

Unlike the other separator knots, you will have two cords after the knot.

Cut the excess cord off the shorter length.

If you are using Nylon cord, you may wish to carefully sear and fuse the cut end with a gently flame or zapper tool.

If you make the mistake of burning off the longer cord at this point, you will have to begin the whole Rosary again with new

STEP 6: MAKE THE FINAL SEQUENCE

The bead joining the two ends of the Rosary into a loop also acts as the first bead of the final sequence.
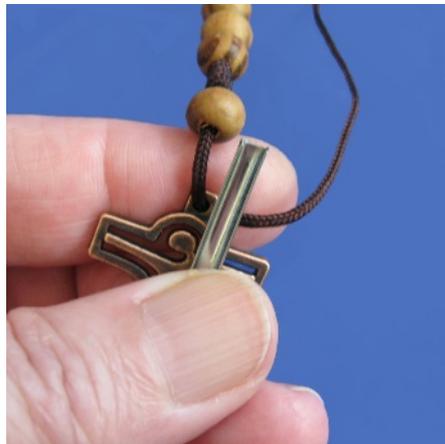
Thread 3 beads, form a knot and thread one bead. Do NOT for a knot after this, final bead.

STEP 7: ATTACH THE CRUCIFIX

The knot attaching the Crucifix is essentially the same as the others in the Rosary…just formed up-side-down.

Tread the cord through the loop of the Crucifix.

Hold the Crucifix and wire together with the end of the wire towards the beads and a gap of about 1cm between the beads and Crucifix.

Wrap the cord around the wire and through the loops as before.

Remove the loops from the cord and tighten the knot so it sits beside the final bead

Now all it needs is prayer.

Rest and be thankful!