

HOW TO MAKE A BEADED CORD ROSARY

WITH A 3 LOOP 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.

Centre Medal

Most centre medals are not suitable for using with cord of more than 1mm thickness due to the size of the loops. My advice is to ask the retailer about this before buying if the loop size is not given.

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.

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: ATTACH THE MEDAL (First type of barrel knot)

There are two variations of barrel knots used in this Rosary. The first is used when connecting medals or Crucifixes.

The second variation is used for knots that separate the decades along the length of the Rosary



In this first knot, the cord is passed through the medal loop (hardened “working” end first) until you come to last inch or so. Fold this over so you can hold the two cords together.

The umbrella wire is then laid alongside the double cord facing **away** from the medal.





The longer length of cord is then wrapped around the wire crossing over both itself and the short end of cord connected to the medal.

In making barrel knots, the position of the cross of the cord over it'self is a crucial factor in producing a neat knot. Be sure the cord crosses itself on the first wrap around the wire.



Now wrap the cord around the wire 4 or 5 times more.

Catching the cord on the tip of the wire helps to hold it in

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, tightening the loops. Try not to let the loops pass over one-another. When tightened, you can give the barrel a final, firm

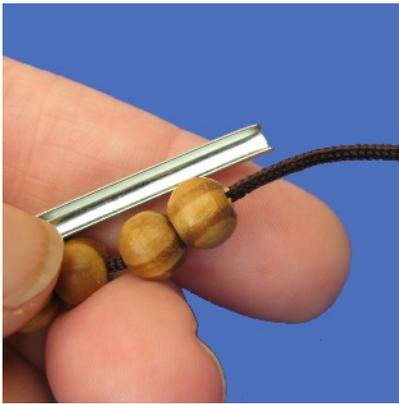


You have made the first knot. Now thread the 10 beads of the first decade on to the cord.

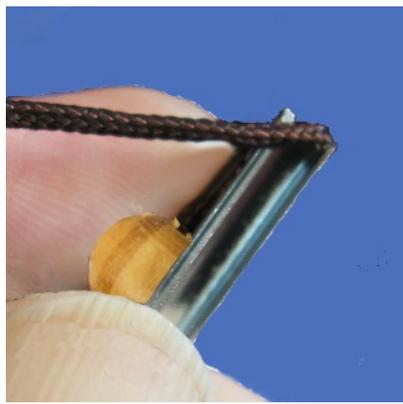
Now trim the short end of cord off the knot.

When nylon cord is used, the end can be very carefully seared with a flame or battery cord zapper to fuse it.

STEP 3: CREATE A SEPARATOR KNOT



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. Do NOT make a knot after the last decade is threaded.

This Rosary is a six decade, Carmelite Rosary. Most Rosaries have 5 decades.

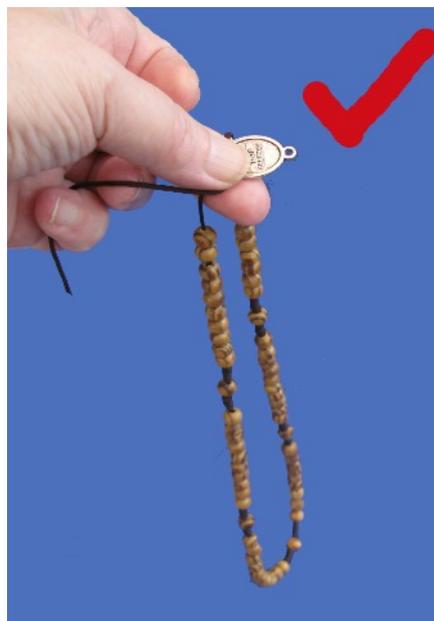


STEP 4: ATTACH TO THE SECOND MEDAL LOOP

Pass the cord through the second loop of the medal taking care not to twist it.

The Rosary should hang without twisting.

If it does twist, roll the cord until it hangs straight.





This is the most fiddly knot of the whole Rosary but it is really just a repeat of the first knot.

Lay the wire along the cord, away from the loop. Wrap it round the wire 4-5 times.

Remove the wire and tighten the loops of the knot.

Cut off excess cord.



STEP 5: ATTACH THE FINAL SEQUENCE



To attach the cord to the last loop of the medal with a barrel knot, repeat STEP 2.

Add beads and create separator knots in sequence. Do not make a knot after the last bead.

Thread the Cross onto the cord and make a barrel knot as in STEP 4, when you made the second attachment to the medal.

Now all it needs is prayer.

Rest and be thankful!

