

KNOTTING / WRAPPED LOOPS

Knotty flower ring

designed by **Lilian Chen**



Decorate your digits with beaded rings

A traditional folk art in China, knotting is used extensively for personal adornment. In this ring, the Chinese flat knot, which is the same as the macramé square knot, makes a sturdy base for a fun floral accent.



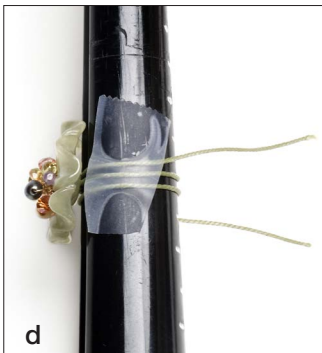
a



b



c



d



e

stepbystep

[1] Cut 2½ in. (6.4 cm) of wire, and string a 2–3 mm bead one-third of the way onto the wire. Bend the wire ends so they cross, and then make a wrapped loop as for a top-drilled bead (Online Basics and **photo a**). Repeat with the remaining beads.

[2] Cut 9 in. (23 cm) of satin or nylon cord, and center all of the dangles made in step 1. Pass the cord ends through the jade flower, front to back (**photo b**), and pull the cord ends in opposite directions to tighten.

[3] Find the measurement on the ring mandrel that is one size larger than your ring size. Align the flower with the groove on the mandrel (opposite the measurement marks), and wrap each cord end around the mandrel once. You'll have two cords on the "back" of the mandrel (opposite the flower), and the cord ends will go in opposite directions. The two wraps around the mandrel will become the "core cords." Tape the cord ends in place temporarily. **Photo c** shows a top view of this arrangement, and **photo d** shows a side view.

[4] Cut 2 ft. (61 cm) of cord, and slide it through the groove in the mandrel. Center the cord under the flower, and pull the ends to one side so they are straddling the core cords. Tie a macramé square knot (Online Basics) around the two core cords and the tail that is emerging from this side of the flower (**photo e**). Make sure the knot is snug at the base of the flower. Tie a second macramé square knot around all three cords.

[5] Remove the ring from the mandrel, and continue tying square knots, but omit the tail so that you are only tying around the two core cords. As you're knotting, you may want to occasionally put the ring back on the mandrel to check the fit. Tug on the tails as needed to make small adjustments. When you get close to the end (at the other side of the flower), lay the remaining tail next to the core cords, and tie the last two knots over all three cords. Dot the spots where the cords are emerging from the band with G-S Hypo Cement, and let dry. Trim the tails. ●

MATERIALS

ring

- 23 mm carved jade flower (You and Me Findings, Inc., youandmefindings.net, 866-619-2626)
- 10–12 assorted 2–3 mm beads
- 25–30 in. (64–76 cm) 28-gauge wire
- 33 in. (84 cm) 1 mm satin or nylon knotting cord (You and Me Findings, Inc.)
- grooved ring mandrel
- G-S Hypo Cement
- chainnose pliers
- roundnose pliers
- wire cutters

EDITOR'S NOTE: Try Lucite or glass flower beads instead of carved jade. Make sure the bead has a hole in the center that is large enough to accommodate two thicknesses of the cord. – Julia

Lilian Chen began beading five years ago. Contact Lilian at (626) 643-3034 or (626) 286-2626, e-mail her at lilian888crystals@yahoo.com, or visit her Web site, community.webshots.com/user/luckyperidot88.

