

KNOTTING

Knot your average pearl necklace

Use two styles of knots to accent large-hole pearls strung on leather cord

designed by **Ayla Phillips Pizzo**



You'll be surprised at how easy it is to tie beautiful (and intentional!) knots with 1.5 mm round leather cord. Coiled knots take on the look of accent beads while simple overhand knots are the perfect stoppers for pretty pearls.

stepbystep

Toggle loop

[1] Cut a 21-in. (53 cm) piece of leather cord, and make a bend $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. (16.5 cm) from one end. Pinch the doubled cord to form a loop (**photo a**).

[2] Loosely coil the short end around the doubled cord three or four times, coiling toward the loop (**photo b**). Feed the short end back through the coil, and tighten the coil by pulling on the loop and the short end (**photo c**).

[3] Test the size of the loop with a 10 mm pearl, which will serve as the

toggle bead. The pearl and a small knot must be able to pass snugly through the loop. To make the loop bigger, pull on the loop. To make the loop smaller, pull on the short end.

[4] Trim the short end close to the coil, and apply glue to the coil. Let dry for two to three minutes.

Center pearl

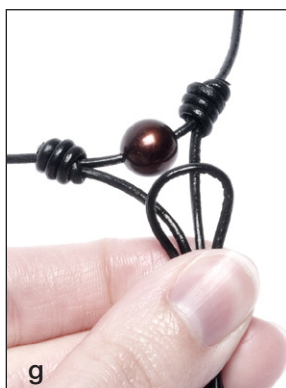
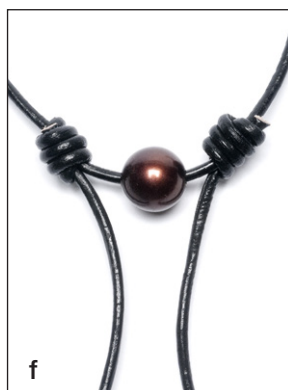
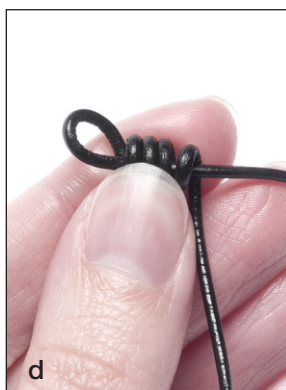
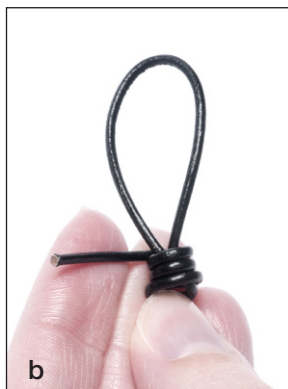
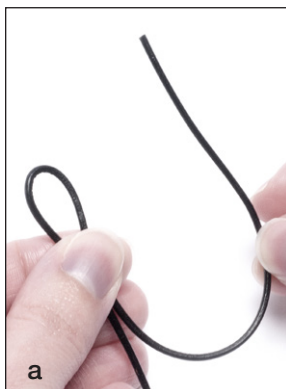
[1] Make a bend in the cord $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. (19.1 cm) from the other end, and pinch the doubled cord to form a very small (4–6 mm) loop.

[2] Loosely coil the short end around

the long end three or four times, coiling away from the loop (**photo d**). Feed the short end back through the coil, but do not tighten the coil.

[3] Cut a 3-in. (7.6 cm) piece of cord, and feed one end into the coil. Tighten the coil by pulling on the short end, causing the loop to disappear and become part of the coil (**photo e**). Make sure that there is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. (19.1 cm) of cord between the toggle loop coil and the coil just made. String a pearl on the 3-in. (7.6 cm) cord.

[4] Cut a 21-in. (53 cm) piece of cord, and make a bend $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. (16.5 cm) from one end. Work as in step 2 to create a loose coil. Holding the pearl in place, feed the other end of the 3-in. (7.6 cm) cord into the coil. Tighten the coil. Trim the 3-in. (7.6 cm) cord close to the coils (**photo f**), apply glue to both coils, and let dry.



Pearl dangles

[1] Cut a 9-in. (23 cm) piece of cord, fold it in half, and hold it against the two cords that extend below the center pearl (photo g).

[2] With one half of the 9-in. (23 cm) cord, loosely coil around the other three cords three or four times, coiling away from the fold (photo h). Feed the short end back through the coil, and tighten the coil. Trim the short end close to the coil (photo i), apply glue to the coil, and let dry.

[3] You should now have three cords that extend below the center pearl. On one cord, string a pearl, and tie an overhand knot (Basics) below it. Repeat

with the remaining cords, adjusting the knots so that the pearls hang at the desired lengths. Trim any excess cord below the knots, apply glue to the knots, and let dry.

Toggle bead

[1] On the remaining cord opposite the toggle loop, string a pearl. Tie an overhand knot above the pearl so that the pearl will line up with the toggle loop. Trim any excess cord.

[2] Slide the pearl down the cord, and apply glue to where the pearl was positioned previously. Slide the pearl back in place. Apply glue to the knot as well, and let dry.

materials

necklace 17–18 in. (43–46 cm)*

- 5 10 mm large-hole pearls (maroon)
- 1½ yd. (1.4 m) 1.5 mm leather cord (black)
- Super New Glue
- wire cutters

* Kits for this necklace are available by calling (847) 328-4040 or visiting www.aylasoriginals.com; search for “Leather Elegance.” Kits are also available for the Design Alternative necklace, called “Cascading Pearl Bouquet.”

Ayla Phillips Pizzo fell in love with beads after randomly picking up a beading kit to break the boredom of an Illinois winter. She now owns her own store, Ayla’s Originals in Evanston, Illinois, and her Ayla’s Own Jewelry line has received national attention. Contact her at info@aylasoriginals.com, or visit www.aylasoriginals.com.

