

Cascades Necklace

MATERIALS: Knotting fiber, .5mm to .7mm diameter such as C-Lon (about 10 yds), 8mm or larger beads for main strand (14 beads used in this sample), 4-6mm beads to decorate cascades (8 total per cluster), clamshells, clasp and ring, glue

STEP 1 Cut a one-yard length of fiber for the main strand. Cut 6" lengths for the clusters, four strands for each cluster.

STEP 2 Gather four short strands together with the main strand, at the center of the main strand. Tie all five strands together in a simple overhand knot (photo and diagram A). Tighten so the knot lands roughly in the center of the main strand and is also centered on the length of the short strands.

STEP 3 Add the 4mm beads to the short strands. After adding each bead, tie a knot to hold it in place. Vary the placement of the knots for a random effect (see the main photo for an overview). When all the beads are in place, put a small dot of glue on each knot. Allow the glue to dry for a few minutes, then trim off the thread beyond the knot (see photos B & C).

STEP 4 Add an 8mm bead to the main strand on either side of the first completed cluster (See photo D). Repeat Steps 3 and 4, then add another 8mm bead after that cluster. See the larger photo for an overview of spacing. You may use only one cluster for the entire necklace, or add as many as will fit to create the desired length.

FINISHING

Run the thread through the bottom of the clamshell. Make a knot in the desired position. Knot again and again over the same knot so the position remains the same; in effect, you are creating one "super knot" that lands within the clamshell. Put enough glue on the knot so the glue will fill but not ooze out of the clamshell end. Close the end around the knot. Allow the glue to dry for a few minutes, then trim off the excess thread very close to the clamshell. Close the open hook on the clamshell so there is just enough space in the opening to slip it onto the clasp or ring. Slip on the clasp or ring and tighten the hook with pliers. Repeat on both sides.



The necklace is built from clusters of short strands of thread tied together with the main thread



A crochet hook will make the knotting smoother and easier!

