

TURK'S HEAD KNOTS

This is a very ancient and elegant knot. The continuous pattern of the Turk's Head knot was regarded by the Christian Celts as a symbol of connection and continuity for eternity. Its name is believed to have originated from the similarity between this knot and a turban.

Turk's Head bangle

The bangle is made with one single cord which is woven around a cylinder to make nine circuits; three to make the basic plait and six more circuits to treble the plait. It is continuous and the join is invisible on the outside. The knot is constructed around a cardboard cylinder about 7cm (2¾in) in diameter. A larger cylinder may be needed depending on the wrist size. You are actually making a three-stranded plait (see page 30) but because the cord is continuous, you make it with one cord at a time instead of three. This bangle has three circuits of the cord plaited over and under each other eleven times to make a total of eleven 'scallops' or curves on each side. Generally the number of 'crossovers' depends on the size of the cylinder you are working around. To make the steps clearer here, I have made the knot around a glass so that you can see the back of the knot as well as the front.



You will need

3m (118in) 2mm braided macramé cord

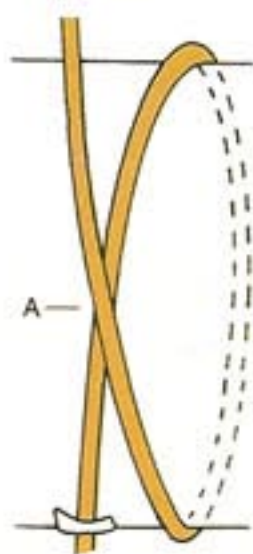


Diagram 1

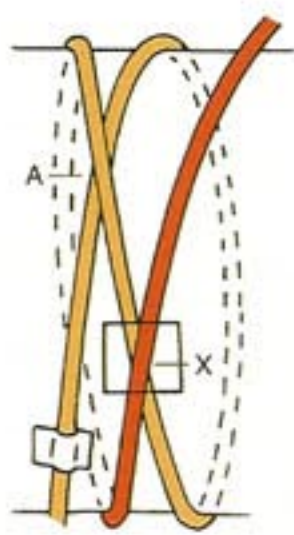


Diagram 2

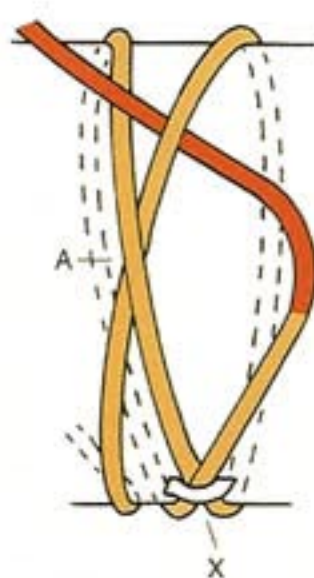


Diagram 3

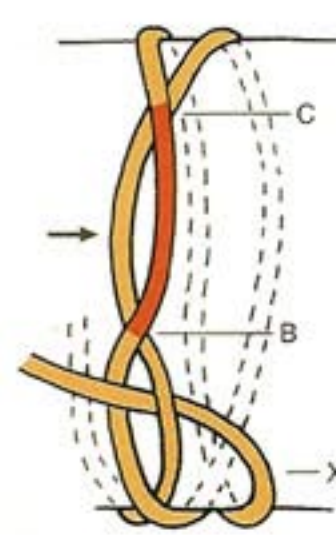


Diagram 4

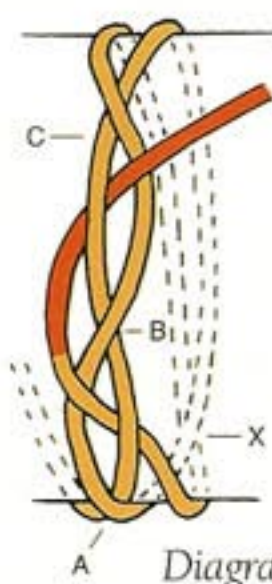


Diagram 5

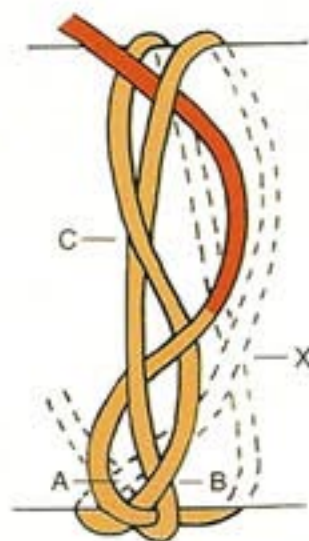
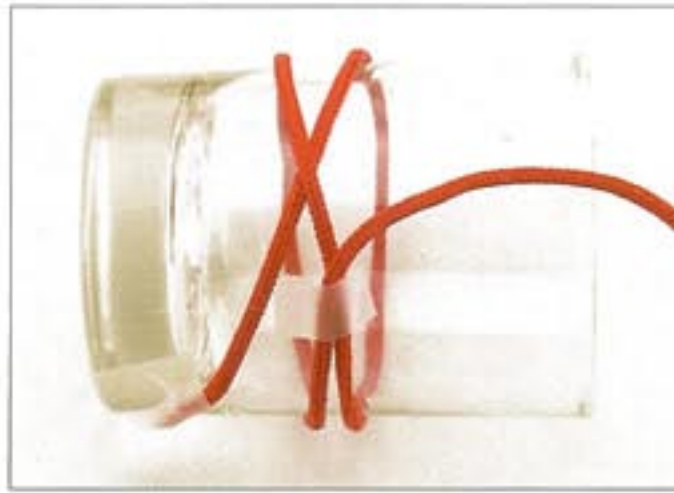


Diagram 6

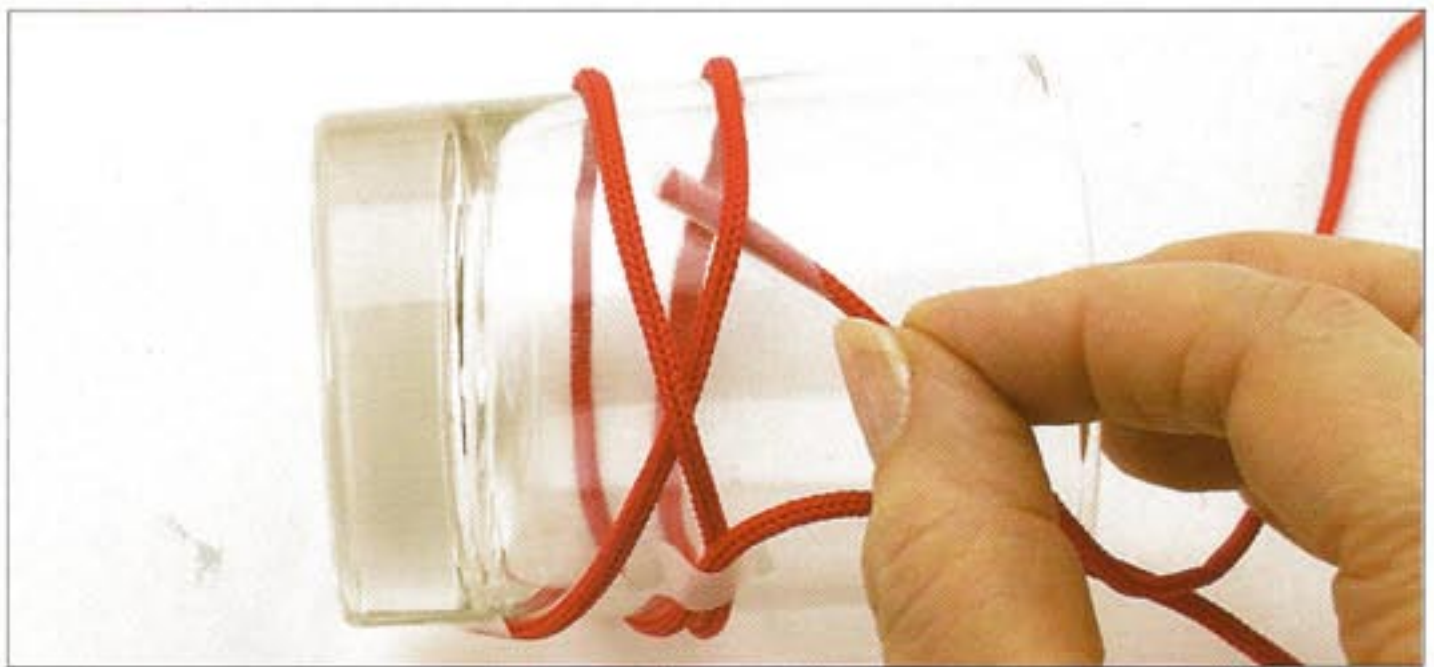


1. Imagine that the glass in the photograph is a cardboard cylinder. Stiffen the mobile end of the cord (see page 17). Tape the fixed end of the cord to the left side of the cylinder and make one rotation of the cord, crossing at point A (see diagram 1).

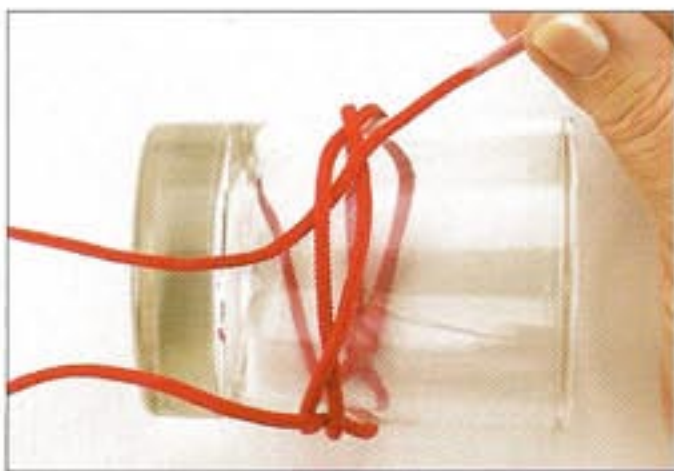


2. Make another rotation of the cord and bring it round to the front in between the two cords already there, crossing over the right-hand cord at point X (see diagram 2). Anchor this crossing temporarily using sticky tape (see bottom of diagram 3) as it tends to uncross during plaiting later on.

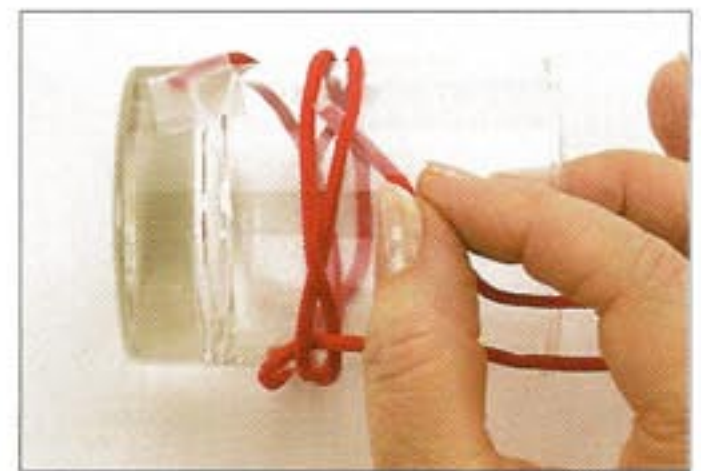
3. Thread the cord underneath the top cord on the right-hand side, as in diagram 3.



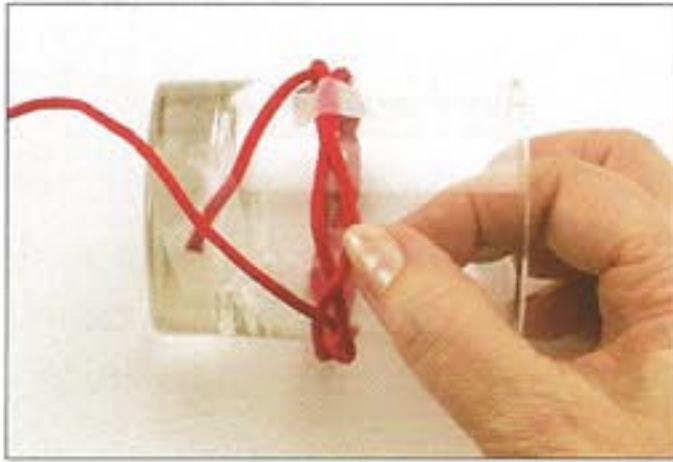
4. Pull the cord through, in between the two cords. Rotate the cylinder towards you, then cross the left-hand fixed cord over the right-hand one (see diagram 4). The new crossing points are shown as B and C.



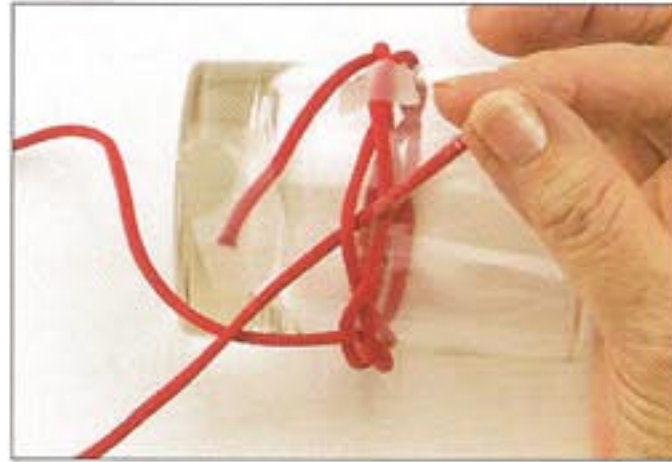
5. Take the end of the mobile cord and thread it underneath the left-hand cord and over the right-hand cord between B and C (see diagram 5). You can see that the plait is beginning to take shape.



6. Rotate the cylinder slightly towards you, and above crossing C, thread the mobile end under the right-hand cord (see diagram 6).



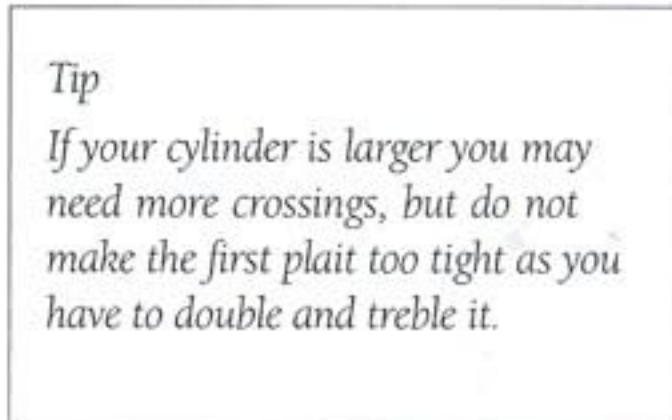
7. Repeat step 4.



8. Repeat step 5.



9. The cord goes over the right-hand side then above the crossing and underneath the right-hand side cord, as in step 6. Repeat steps 4, 5 and 6 until the desired number of scallops is reached.



Tip

If your cylinder is larger you may need more crossings, but do not make the first plait too tight as you have to double and treble it.



10. By now, you should have reached your starting point. Follow the path through again to make the plait double.



11. Continue following the cord through until you reach the starting point again. Follow the path around again so that the plait is trebled.



12. Bring the cord ends to the inside and trim the ends off, leaving about 1cm (1/2in) to be glued down.



13. Seal the ends with a thread zapper or a lighter and secure with instant glue gel. Coat the bangle with diluted PVA glue to keep the shape (see page 14).

You can make your bangle in any colour you wish; see page 18 for instructions on dyeing cords.

