

How to Make Knotted Cord Rosaries

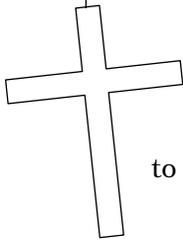
Materials

Nylon cord or twine. #36 twine - 6 yards #48 twine - 7 yards
#60 twine - 9 yards #72 twine - 10 yards #96 twine - 12 yards

Your finger or a blunt pencil

Cigarette lighter or matches

(An adult should use these to melt the end of the cord to keep it from fraying. Be careful, the melted end will be very hot for a few seconds.)



Directions

The Rosary Body

First make the rosary "body", the main section of Hail Mary's and Our Father's.

1. Drape the cord about 10 inches from one end over your left "pointer" finger or over a pencil held in your left hand, and hold it in place with your thumb. The free end will be held against your left palm with your other fingers.

2. With the remaining cord held in your right hand loosely wrap it clockwise (away from you) around the cord and your finger. Make three wraps around your finger or the pencil, each wrap closer to your hand.

3. Then push the cord under all the wraps and pull the entire length through. Slide the loose knot off your finger and tighten it. The nylon cord slides very easily and the knot is quite easy to tighten (this is especially helpful when placing the rest of your knots). This is your first Hail Mary knot.

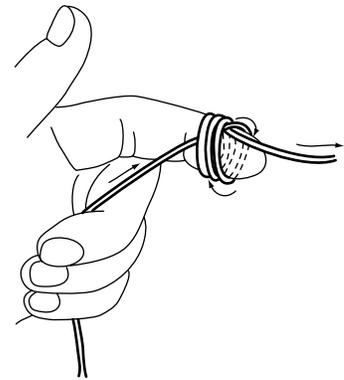
4. Make another knot as directed in the first step, with your first knot held against your left pointer finger with your thumb. When you slide the second knot off your finger, move the loose knot along the cord until it is close to the first knot.

5. Then as you tighten your second knot by drawing the cord through, maneuver it a short distance away for spacing. To maneuver the knot into place, hold the cord and existing knots with your left hand, and simultaneously rolling and nudging the new knot into place with your right thumb and pointer finger while pulling on the free end with your remaining right fingers.

6. Make another eight knots this way. This is your first decade.

7. Next comes an Our Father knot. They are made the same way as the other knots, but the cord is wrapped around six times, to make a larger knot. When you slide the loose Our Father knot off your finger, remember while you're tightening it to leave a larger space between it and the last Hail Mary knot. Then as you begin the next decade, again remember to leave a larger space between the Our Father and the first Hail Mary than the spaces between the Hail Mary's

8. Repeat these steps to make the next four decades.



The Rosary Tail'

Next, join the body together and form the "tail".

1. Holding both the first Hail Mary and the last Hail Mary against your left "pointer" finger with your thumb, wrap the doubled cord around your finger clockwise three times. You'll notice that one cord is longer than the other.

2. As with all the other knots, push the remaining cord through the loose knot on your finger and pull the entire length through.

3. You may have to push each piece of cord through separately, start with the shorter cord and do not take the knot off your finger until you have both cords through. (Even though you've wrapped it only three times, a total of six turns have been made - the knot will end up the same size as the other Our Father knots.)

4. Leaving the short cord free, use the long cord to make: one Our Father knot, leave a space, three Hail Mary knots, leave a space and a final Our Father knot.

The Rosary Cross

Finally, make the cross. The cross is formed of five six-turn knots (Our Father knots) made and tightened very close together.

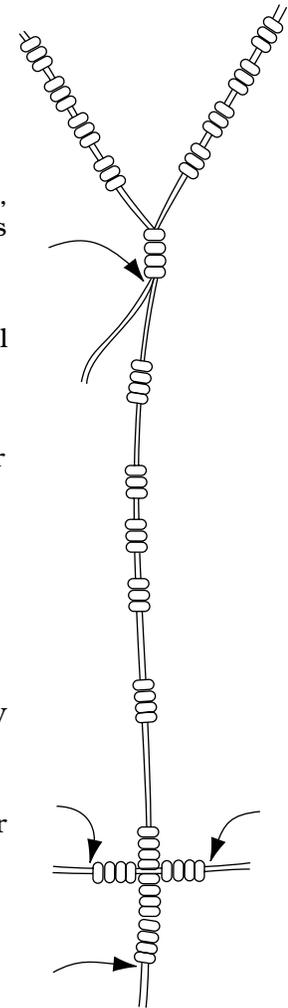
1. Leaving a space (the same distance as you have left between Our Father knots and Hail Mary knots) from the last completed Our Father make another Our Father knot. Then make two more Our Father knots, the second right up against the first, and the third right up against the second.

2. The cord that is remaining at the joining knot should be burnt off by an adult (not cut, it will fray too much) and used for the cross bar of the cross.

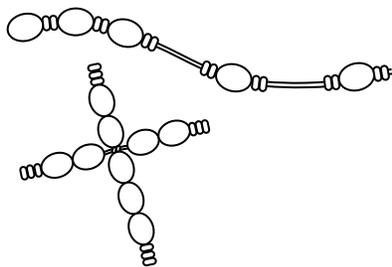
3. Now make the cross bar. Lay the piece you just burnt off flat on your lap or a table and place your rosary over it with the cord running underneath and between the first and second Our Fathers of the last group. Bring each end up and tie a knot around the rosary cord. This tied knot will slip in between the first and second Our Father knots. Tighten the knot well.

5. Make an Our Father on each end of the tied cord, to form the cross bar of the cross. Be sure that these knots are very tight.

6. To finish the rosary, carefully burn off the loose ends on the cross bars of the cross and at the beginning of the "tail", indicated by arrows in the illustration. If you find this cross too big, a smaller cross can be formed from three knots for the upright and two knots for the cross bar.



Making a Bead and Cord Rosary



Use the knot described above to separate the Hail Mary beads in a decade and the Our Father beads between decades.

Use the illustration as a guide.

Make a cross with beads as shown