

Knots made with consistent tension form a precise spiral. Embellish your macramé with spacers or other large-hole beads.

inspiration

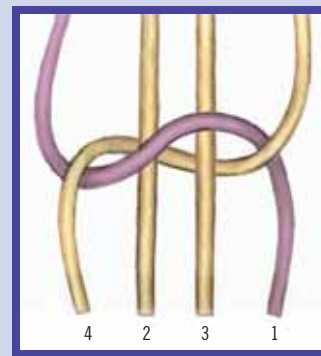
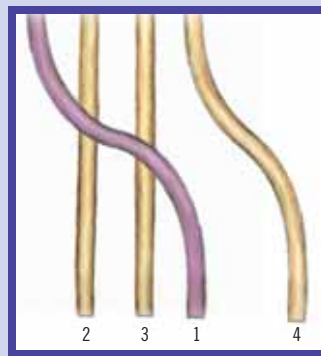
nature



Indigo

A macramé necklace interspersed with silver beads supports an opal pendant

What better way to re-enact the magic of a Blue Morpho's wings than with opal? The stunning characteristic of both is iridescence: color created by the reflection and refraction of light. I paired the opal with indigo-colored cord, which picks up the deep blues that define the butterfly's silhouette, and frayed the cord ends to echo the motif of fluttering wings.



1 Cut two 50-in. (1.3m) and two 30-in. (76cm) lengths of cord to make an 18-in. (46cm) necklace. Gather four ends together and bring the cords through the loop on half the clasp. Slide the clasp to 8-in. (20cm) from one set of cut ends. Tie all the cords together with a double overhand knot (see Basics). Slide a spacer over the four long cords and next to the knot.

2 Attach the cords to a workboard by placing T-pins through the clasp loop. Arrange the working cords in a row so the two shortest are in the middle. Number the cords from left to right. Bring cord 1 over cords 2 and 3.

3 Bring cord 4 over cord 1, under cords 3 and 2, and up through the hole created by cord 1. Pull the outer cords tight to move the knot up to the spacer.



4 Renumber the cords 1–4 after every knot. Continue knotting from the left so the knots create a spiral. Make $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (1.3cm) of knots. String two spacers over all four cords and slide them up against the knots.

5 Knot for $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. (3.2cm). String an accent bead over all four cords and slide it against the knots. Repeat until you have strung a total of three accent beads. Keep your knots tight against the accent beads.

6 Knot for $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. (3.8cm) and string a spacer over all four cords. Knot for $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and string two spacers. Knot for $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. and string a spacer bead. String the opal focal bead over all four cords and slide it against the last spacer. Check the fit and adjust the length, if necessary, by adding or removing knots before the opal and spacer.

7 Reposition the T-pins to hold the opal in place at the top of your workboard. Complete the second half of the necklace to mirror the first.

editor's tip

When choosing accent beads for any macramé project, make sure the holes are large enough to accommodate your cords.



8 Slide the remaining clasp half over all four cords and tie a double overhand knot around the clasp loop. On each tail, string a fire-polished bead and two 8° seed beads. Vary the position of the beads and tie a double overhand knot on each tail.

9 Dot all the overhand knots, including those attaching the clasp, with glue and let dry. Trim the tails to 1 in. (2.5cm) past the knots, and fray the ends by rubbing the cords back and forth between your thumb and index finger. – D.N. *

materials

necklace 18 in. (46cm)

- boulder opal focal bead (Eclectica, 262-641-0910 or Opal Illusions, (707-699-7887)
- 6 13mm silver accent beads (Fire Mountain Gems, 800-355-2137, firemountaingems.com)
- 14 7mm star-shaped silver spacers
- 8 4mm faceted round fire-polished beads, blue
- 16 8° seed beads, dark blue
- box clasp (Jess Imports, jessimports.com)
- Tuff cord, size 3, navy (Shor International, shorinternational.com)
- G-S Hypo Cement
- macramé workboard
- T-pins