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Mom shared a really fun (and easy!) project with me recently – a crocheted necklace!

These necklaces are fun to make and even if you've never crocheted before you'll be able to do this project. I couldn't resist making a few from some thread I found in my stash (*See Figure 1*)



Figure 1 – an assortment of completed necklaces

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Supplies

Lightweight novelty thread with some texture – approximately 15 yards total (Trellis, Railroad, *See Figure 2 below*)

Crochet Hook size G or H
Use the larger (H) hook if you crochet tightly

One bead with a hole large enough to accommodate threading 10 pieces of your string through the hole.

"Pony" sized beads work well – the bead can be plastic, metal, wood, etc – whatever you like.

Optional supplies: small tapestry needle, small sized crochet hook (for pulling threads through bead)



Figure 2 – examples of thread types

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Here are the dimensions of our finished necklace – it's $^{\sim}32-34''$ in total length, but adjustable for wearing at a shorter length.



Figure 3 – a completed necklace

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<u>Instructions – Crochet Section:</u>

We will be making 5 "strands" that look like this:

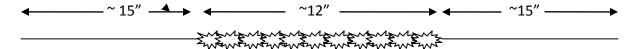


Figure 4 – One strand – Dimensions

1) Measure at least 15" thread from your ball (do NOT cut!) and make a slip knot at this point. (See *Figure 5*) Longer is OK, shorter is not – the extra length given here will allow us to tie a knot when we join our strands.

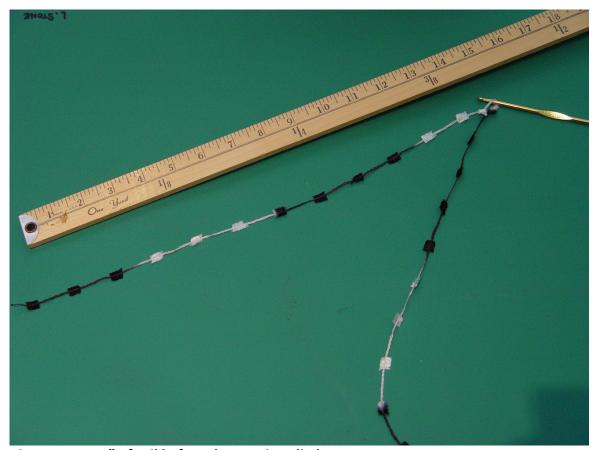


Figure 5 - ~ 15" of tail before the starting slip knot

- 2) Put your crochet hook in the slip knot and cinch it up LOOSELY.
- 3) Double-check that you still have at least 15" of tail thread. If not, undo your slip knot and try again until you do have at least 15" of tail thread from your slip knot.

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4) Chain ~12" LOOSELY. Make sure you are chaining on the thread that attaches to the ball, not on the 15" tail <voice of experience here-oops>. (See **Figure 6**) <Laura's note: it took me about 40-55 stitches here – your mileage may vary>

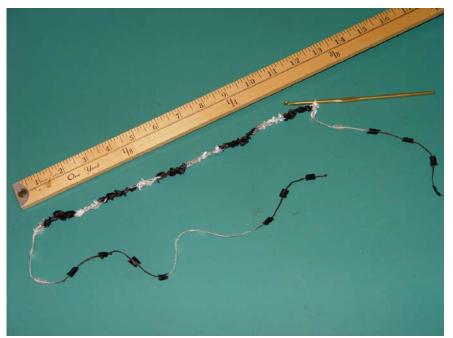


Figure 6 - ~12" of chain

5) Measure ~ 15" from your hook toward the ball and cut thread. (See *Figure 7*) Fasten off.



Figure 7 – just need to fasten off to make this strand complete.

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- 6) You should now have a strand that looks like *Figures 4* and **7** above.
- 7) Repeat steps 1-5 four more times to make a total of 5 strands.

You're on the home stretch – no more crocheting.... Smile $\ \odot$

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<u>Instructions – Assembly Section:</u>

- 8) Gather your 5 strands together and line up one side of the chains (Point A).
- 9) Tie a simple (overhand) knot and snug it tight right next to the chain stitches. I used my hook to help pull the strands through the loop for the knot. (See *Figure 8*)

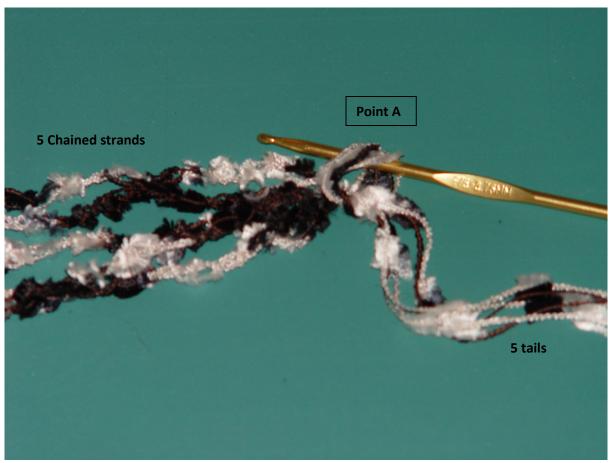


Figure 8 – using the crochet hook to help make the knot

- 10) Gather up the other side of the chains (Point B)
- 11) Tie a simple (overhand) knot and snug it tight right next to the chain stitches.

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You now have your chains held together between two knots, with 5 $^{\sim}15''$ tails extending on each side – see *Figure 9*.

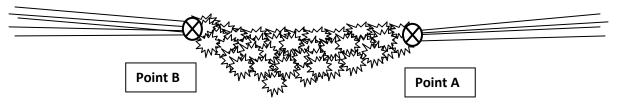


Figure 9 – Ready for the bead

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Now we'll add a bead and finish the assembly.

- 12) Thread each of the 10 tails through your bead don't worry if the tails aren't all even at this point. (**See Figure 10a**) I tried several methods to get the tails through the bead they all worked just fine (Laura's note: Option "a" doesn't require any additional tools and worked well for me)
 - Option a) poke each thread individually through the bead hold previously threaded tails snug against the bead to maximize the bead hole when threading additional tails through.
 - Option b) use a very small crochet hook to reach through the bead and grab each thread and pull it through (individually or a few at a time) (*See Figure 10b*)
 - Option c) use a small tapestry needle with a decent sized eye thread with the tails and feed through the bead (individually or a few at a time) (**See Figure 10c**)

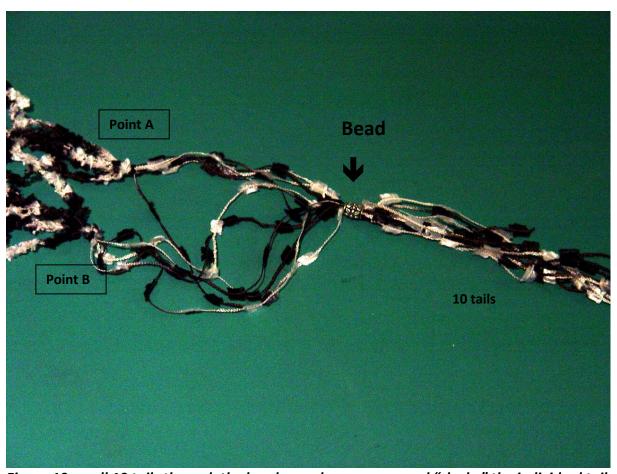


Figure 10a – all 10 tails through the bead – see how uneven and "slacky" the individual tails are?

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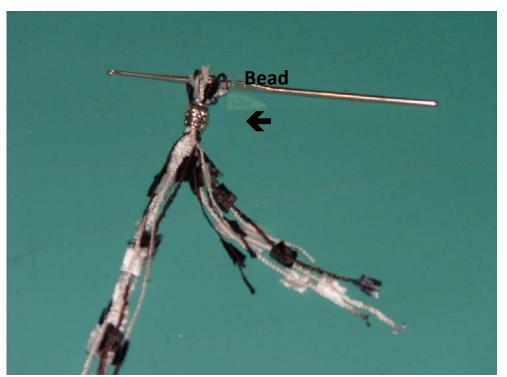


Figure 10b – Option b – using crochet hook to pull all 10 tails through bead

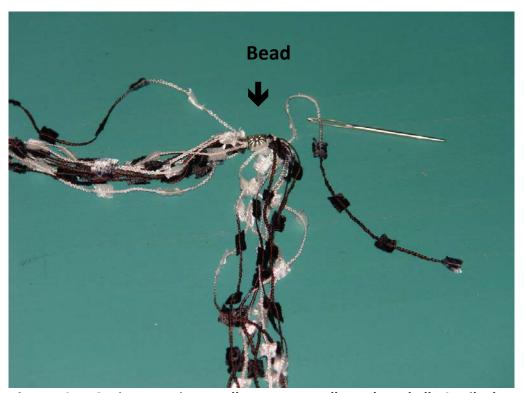


Figure 10c – Option c – using small tapestry needle to thread all 10 tails through bead

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13) Move your bead up on the tails so that it sits snug up against the knots at Point A and Point B. <u>Gently</u> pull your tail threads so there is not excess tail thread between your knots and your bead. (*See Figure 11*).

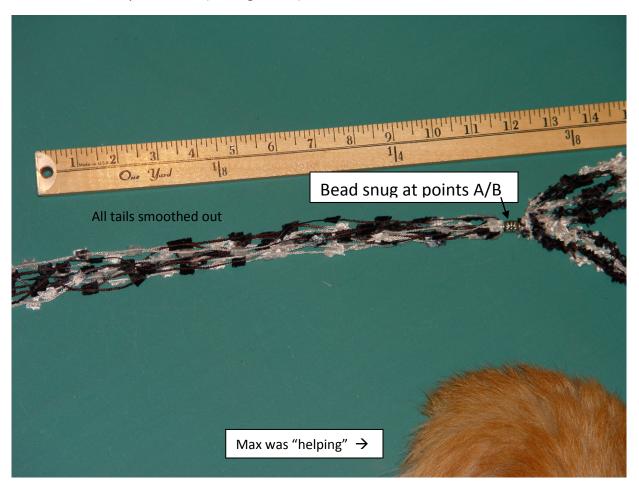


Figure 11 – Position the bead snug against the knots at points A/B – smooth the tails

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14) Gather up your 10 tails that now extend from the bead and tie a simple (overhand) knot at the ~11" point. Make sure ALL your tails extend from the knot! <*Laura's note: I used my crochet hook to maneuver the tail ends through the knot, just like we did for the previous knots in steps 8-11> (See Figure 12)*

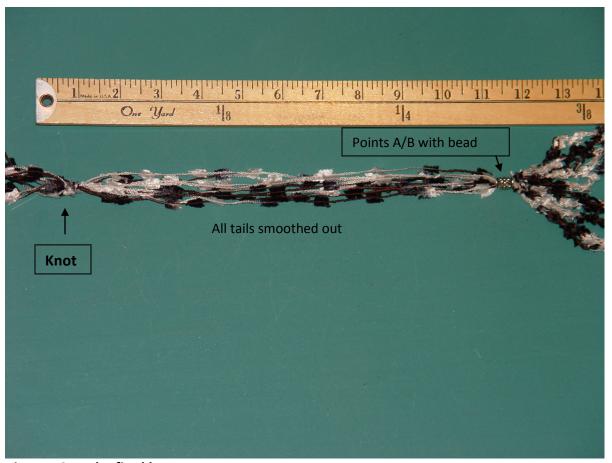


Figure 12 - The final knot

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15) Cut the excess tail thread that extends from the knot, leaving at least $^{\sim}1/4$ " tail thread beyond the knot (this will help keep the knot secure). (See Figure 13)

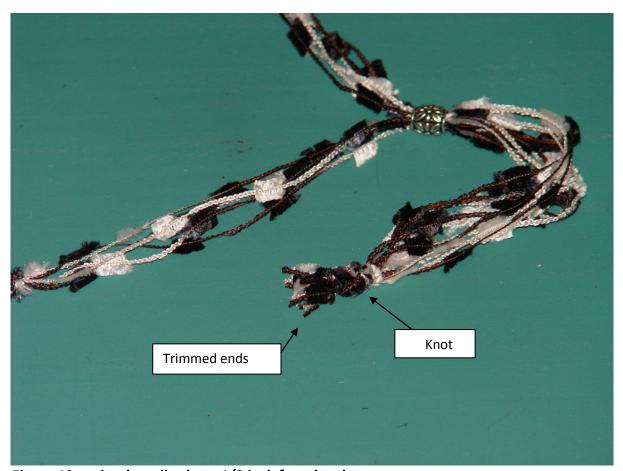


Figure 13 – trim the tails about 1/2 inch from last knot

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16) Slide the bead closer to the knot you just made and try on your new necklace. If you want a shorter necklace, slide the bead closer to the chains to adjust the length of the necklace. (See Figure 14)



Figure 14 – the completed necklace

That's it! You did it – way to go!

Now that you've made one necklace, try out some more. You can play with the colors/textures, add more strands if you'd like (as long as they'll fit through the bead you're good), even try making the crocheted section of each strand different lengths. Use your imagination!