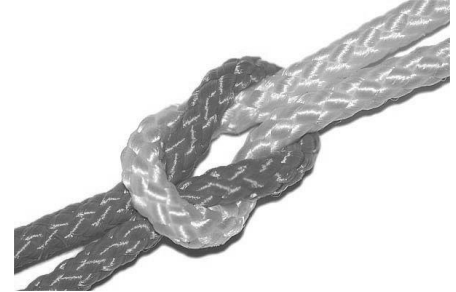


Macramé Keychain

As long as there have been sailors, they have been tying knots. They didn't just use knots for holding and fastening things as they worked. Sailors and riggers use knots to make lovely works of art, too!

Materials

- Two pieces of thick yarn (different colors)
- Keychain loop
- Something to anchor your loop to



Process

1. Mount the yarn on the keychain loop by folding the yarn in half and slipping the yarn through the keychain loop, bring the ends through the loop tying the yarn to the loop.
2. Pick one color to be your outside (working) color. Use this color to tie a half knot (the first step in tying your shoes)
3. Keep tying half knots (always bring the yarn in your right hand right side over the yarn in your left)
4. Be careful to keep your knots loose and even
5. Keep knotting until you are out of yarn. Tie off all of the yarn together so it won't unravel

So What's Happening?

What is known today as *macramé* was a favored way for sailors to pass some of the long hours out at sea. The basic knots that the sailors utilized are the basic knots of macramé today...the half knot, square knot, and the half-hitch knot. As "*Fancy Work*" became popular in the 1800s, knot art became very fashionable. Sailors would use macramé to decorate common objects like knife handles, bottles (like a can cozy), even cloths and tools for the ship! As time passed the skill fell to neglect. It was revived in the 1960s and '70s, which brought revitalization to the ancient skill.

Vocabulary

- **Macramé** – form of textile-making using knotting rather than weaving or knitting.
- **Fancy Work** – ornamental or decorative crafts

For More Information

Wikipedia.org. "Macrame." Last Modified 2011.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macram%C3%A9>