

How To Create Button Knots

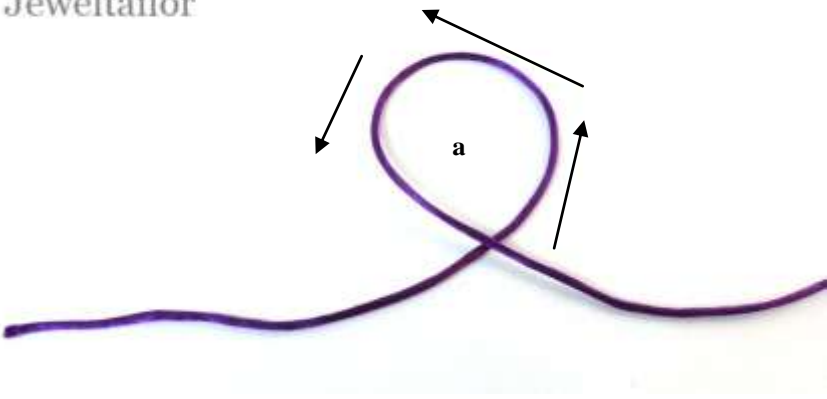
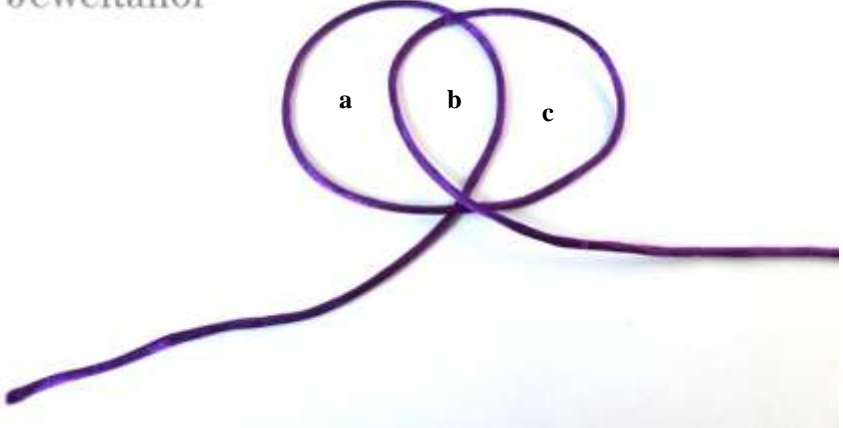
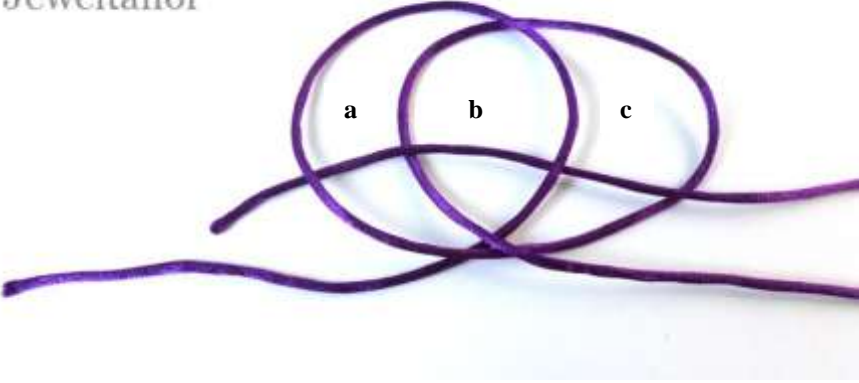
Courtesy of *Jeweltailor.com*

The traditional button knot is, in Chinese tradition, believed to represent good luck and can be practical as well as decorative.

Button knots can be tied using a wide variety of materials, however for the beginner, silky cord or (rattail) is ideal. When you have mastered the basic knot try experimenting with two different colour cords together or even 4 to create more chunky designs.

Before you begin, please ensure that you are sitting comfortably with adequate lighting and everything you need is close to hand.

Instructions

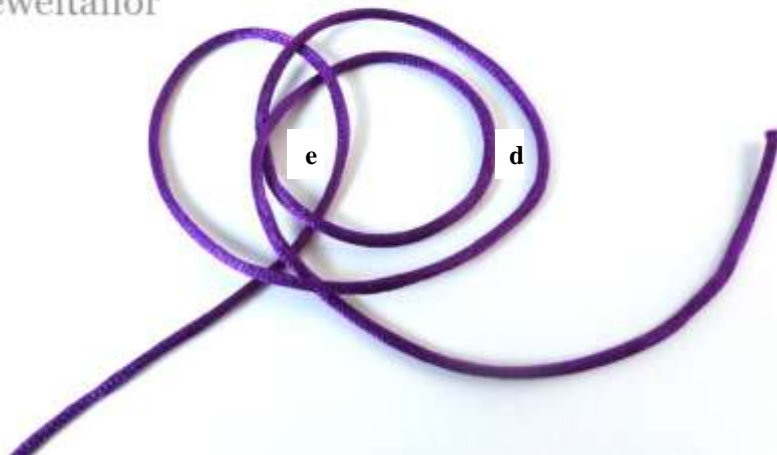
<p>1. Using around 20 inches of cord, start with the majority on your right hand side. Hold your cord between your thumb and forefinger and make a small loop from right to left.</p>	<p>Jeweltailor</p> 
<p>2. Make a second loop so that it overlaps the first (similar to a venn diagram) and you should have 3 spaces in your cord shown as a,b c.</p>	<p>Jeweltailor</p> 
<p>3. Now take the end of your cord and thread it down through loop c, up through loop b and then down through loop a (similar action to weaving in between each loop) and pull the end of the cord round to the right hand side</p>	<p>Jeweltailor</p> 

4. You should be left with a series of interconnected loops but you only need to focus on the outer loop (**d**) and the central loop (**e**) as shown.

Take the end of your cord down, through the outer loop **d** and then up through the central loop **e**.

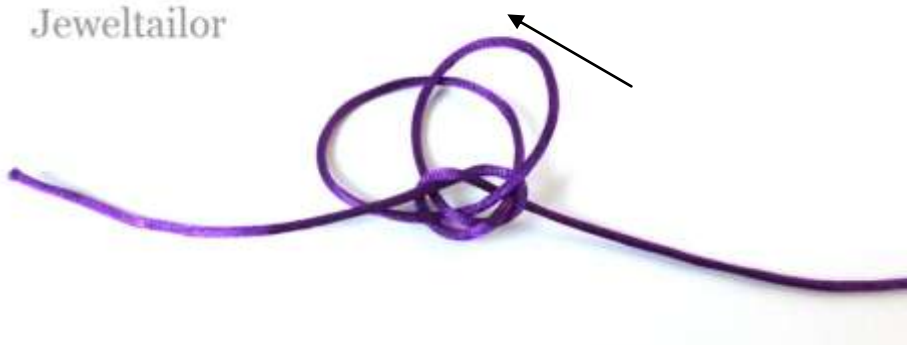
Now gently pull both ends of the cord until you see the material gather together. You should have at least 1 loop that remains open and this needs to be manipulated by hand to create the button shape.

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5. Taking each open loop in turn, slowly rotate the top of the loop away from you (from right to left). Your aim is to follow the path of the cord and reduce the slackness in the material, by loosening and then pulling to tighten.**

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6. As you rotate the knot and pull the protruding cord through, you should notice the loop getting smaller. Pull the left and right cords gently and the knot should form.

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7. Your finished button knot should look like this.

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*** This part does take practice as you need to rotate the knot carefully and it's a good idea to always work around the knot in one direction.*