

Knotted Friendship Bracelet

This is the traditional bracelet we made as kids for friends to wear until they fell off. They're fun to make on road trips because they're portable—but they take a LONG time. These instructions show you how to make a chevron-patterned bracelet.



What you'll need

- Embroidery floss or pearl cotton, in 4 different colors
- Scissors
- Tape or large safety pin
- Ruler or tape measure

How to make it

1. Measure and cut 8 strands (2 of each color) from your string, each at least 60 inches long. *Tip: You can use more or fewer than 8 strands. Just make sure you cut 2 of however many colors you decide to use.*
2. Gather all the cut strands together with ends lined up, and knot them together about 3 inches from 1 end. Tape the ends to a table or pin them to a pillow (or your pants' leg) with a safety pin to secure.
3. To begin, separate the strands so that they're a mirror image of each other. So, for ours pictured, the strings are lined up left to right as follows: dark blue, light blue, yellow, white, white, yellow, light blue, dark blue.
4. Starting with the strand on the farthest left (String 1), make a loop around String 2 (the next string to the right), and pull it up to the top knot, following Diagram 1. Be sure to hold String 2 taut as you make the loop around it with String 1 to keep the knot from "jumping" over to String 2. Make another loop and pull it up underneath your first loop. String 1 should now be to the right of String 2.
5. Now make 2 loops around String 3 with String 1 in the same manner as Step 4. See Diagram 2. Repeat process again with String 4. Now your String 1 should be in the very middle of all the other strings. They should line up left to right as follows: light blue, yellow, white, dark blue, white, yellow, light blue, dark blue.

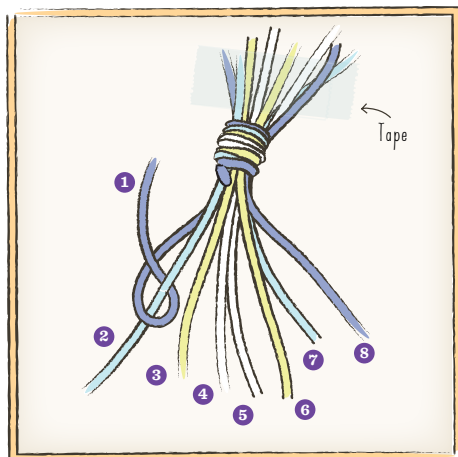


Diagram 1

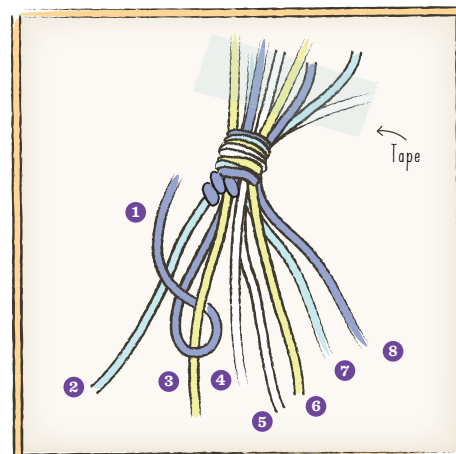


Diagram 2





6. Set the 4 left strings off to the side to concentrate on the right strings for a bit. Start with the farthest right strand (String 8) to loop twice around String 7 in a mirror image of Diagram 1. Repeat with String 6 and then String 5. Your strings should now line up left to right like this: light blue, yellow, white, dark blue, dark blue, white, yellow, light blue.
7. Continue steps 4 through 6 using the light blue strands (your new String 1 and String 8) to make the loops towards the center. Then repeat the steps again with the yellow strings, and then again with the white.
8. As you work down, you can re-pin or re-tape the bracelet to keep the area you're working on secure. Every once in awhile, take up the bracelet and wrap it around your friend's wrist to check the length.
9. When the bracelet is long enough to fit your friend's wrist comfortably, remove the pin or tape and make a knot at the other end of the bracelet. Knot the string ends together around your friend's wrist and have him or her make a wish. Legend has it that the wish will come true when the bracelet falls off.
10. Now it's time to rest your arms before starting on your own bracelet!

