

Raindrop Earrings



by Joan Babcock

Delicate and demure, these Victorian Era inspired earrings are relatively quick and easy to make. They're great to make as gifts for others and for yourself.

Skill Level - Beginner and up

Micro-Macrame Knots Used - Larks Head Knot Chain, Overhand Knot

Materials

Findings:

(2) Earring wires

Cord:

18g. Nylon Cord (S-Lon, C-Lon, Conso, etc...) 2 lengths @ 38"

Beads :

(36) 11° seed beads

(22) 3 mm drop/fringe beads

(2) 6° seed beads

(2) 8° seed beads

(2) 6 mm crystal rondelles

(2) 7X11 mm drop-shaped crystals

Tools, etc :

Macrame Board

Quilting Pins or similar

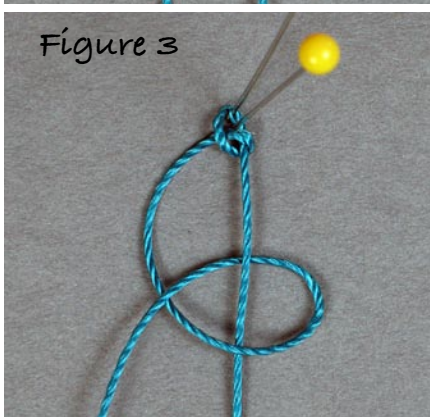
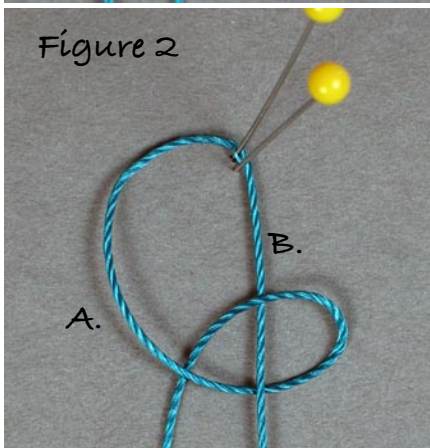
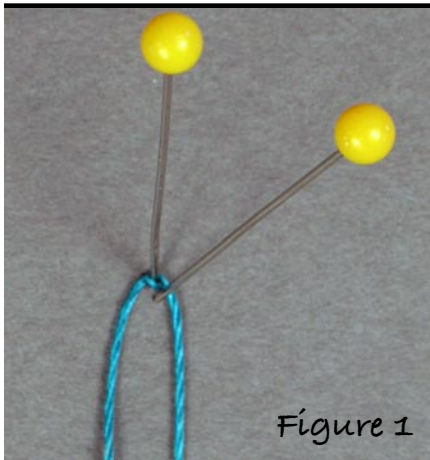
Scissors

Crewel embroidery needle (size 2 or similar)

Beading needle (average size) and thread

Clear nail polish

Chain nose pliers (to attach earring wires)



Raindrop Earrings Directions

Part I - The Larks Head Knot Chain (LHKch)

1. Pin through one cord and attach it to the board so that a 12" section falls to the right and a 26" section to the left (see Fig. 1).

2. Place a second pin directly below the cord and the first pin. This will serve to keep a small loop open at the top of the chain (see Fig. 1).

3. Thread an 11° seed bead, followed by a 3 mm drop bead on the left hand 26" length of cord. Continue alternating (1) seed bead, and (1) drop bead until you have threaded (12) seed beads and (11) drop beads onto the cord. Make an **OVK** (Overhand Knot) at the very end of the cord to prevent the beads from sliding off (see Fig. 6 for bead sequence).

4. The 26" cord will serve as the **KC** (Knotting Cord)(see Fig. 2a) and the 12" cord will serve as the **AC** (Anchor Cord) (see Fig. 2b). Start the **LHK** chain by making a **HH** (Half Hitch) with the **KC** first passing under the **AC** (see Fig. 2) and tighten. Then make a **HH** with the **KC** passing over the **AC** (see Fig. 3) and tighten. These two steps make a complete **LHK**.* Refer to the knot diagram on page 6.

***Note** - My book diagrams frequently show the **LHK** made with an over then under **HH** sequence rather than an under then over sequence as in this project. Either way is correct, but when using beads between the **LHKs**, the under then over sequence creates a smoother look to the chain.

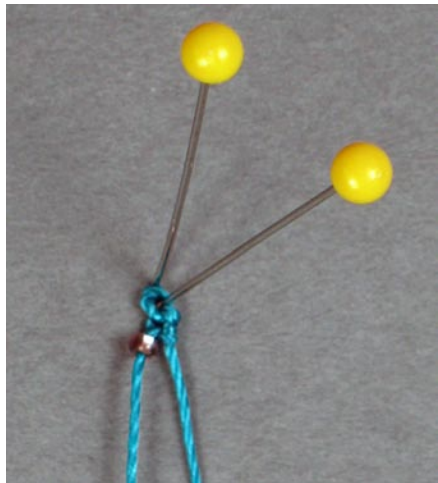


Figure 4

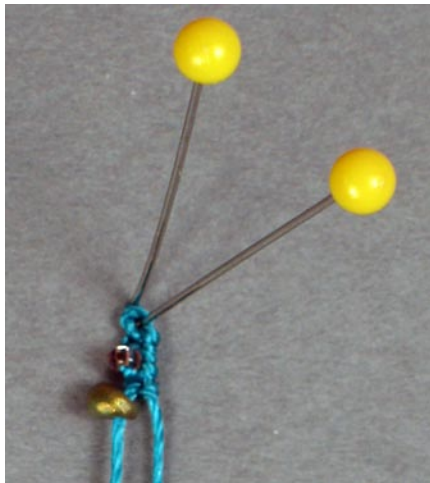


Figure 5



Figure 6

5. Slide the first seed bead all the way up the **KC** next to the first **LHK** (see Fig. 4). Make a **LHK** below the seed bead. Slide the first drop bead all the way up the **KC** next to the second **LHK** (see Fig. 5). Make a **LHK** below the drop bead.

6. Continue alternating bead, **LHK**, bead, **LHK** until you have used up all the beads. The first and last beads on the chain should be 11° seed beads. Finish the chain with a **LHK** (see Fig. 6).

Part 2 - The Ear Wire Attachment Loop

1. Unpin the **LHK** chain from the board. Thread the **AC** through the top loop in the chain going from **front to back** (use the embroidery needle if necessary) (see Fig. 7). Bring this cord upward.

2. Thread the **KC** onto the embroidery needle. Thread the **KC** through the top loop going from **back to front**. Bring this cord downward pulling the loop together (see Fig. 8). It will be positioned at the center of the round space formed by the **LHK** chain.



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13

3. Thread a 6° bead followed by (6) 11° seed beads onto the **AC** (see Fig. 9). Thread the **AC** back downward through the 6° bead (see Fig. 10).

4. Thread the embroidery needle onto the **AC** and sew the **AC** downward through the top loop. Pull the cord taut so that the seed beads form a loop above the 6° bead. The **AC** and **KC** should now be side by side at the center of the **LHK** rounded space (see Fig. 11).

Part 3 - The Center Strand Beads

Note - You may substitute other beads of your choice for the beads used in this example if desired.

1. Thread about 10" of thread onto a beading needle. About $\frac{1}{8}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top of the two cords, join them together by sewing and/or wrapping them tightly a few times until they are secure (don't overwrap or the beads may not fit over the threads!). Cut the beading thread tails to about 2" each.

2. Thread the center beads onto the two joined cords and pass the beading thread tails through the beads also (see Fig. 13).

3. The center strand of beads should be the same length as the round space (see Fig. 13). Cut off one of the cords and the threads flush with the bottom of the last bead. Leave one cord uncut.

4. Thread the remaining cord onto an embroidery needle and pass it from front to back through the **LHK** chain in the space just above centermost drop bead (the bead at the center/bottom of the round).

5. Pull the cord taut and make an **OVK** at the back of the **LHK** chain to secure the cord (see Fig. 14). Apply a dab of clear nail polish to the **OVK**. Let dry and cut off the excess cord.

Note - Refer to the knot diagram on page 6 for the **OVK**.

6. Slide open the loop of the ear wire and insert into the beaded loop at the top of the earring and close.

7. Repeat all steps for the second earring. Figure 15 shows the completed earring set.

back view



Figure 14



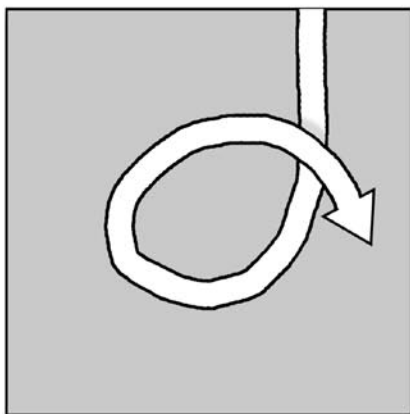
Figure 15

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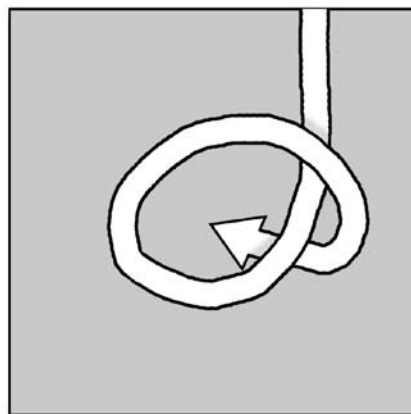
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Knot Diagrams

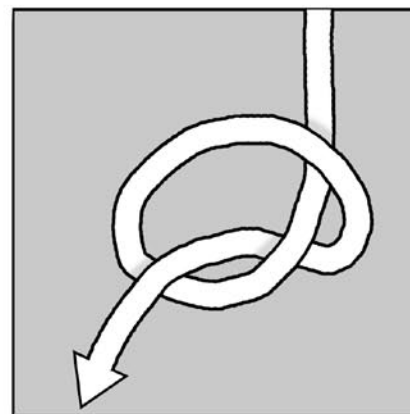
Overhand Knot (OVK)



Step 1

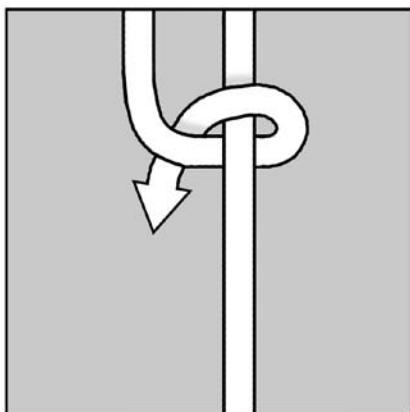


Step 2

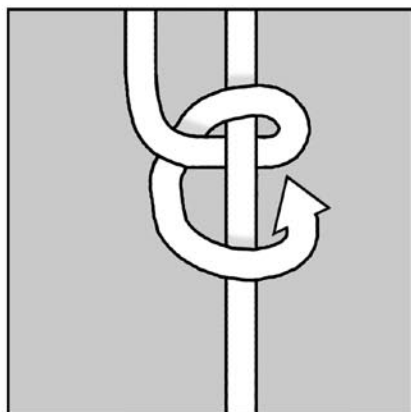


Step 3

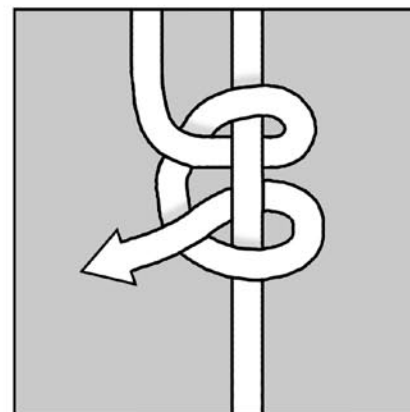
Larks Head Knot Chain (LHKch)



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3