

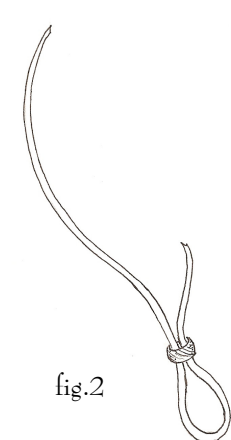
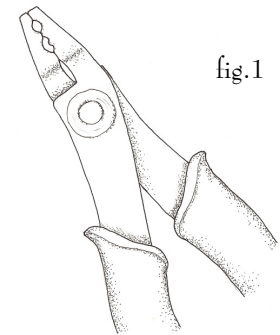
Some Basic How-To's For Rosary & Chaplet Construction

Written & Illustrated by Alice Cantrell © 2006

How to Use Crimp Pliers

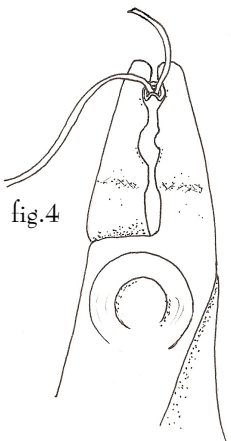
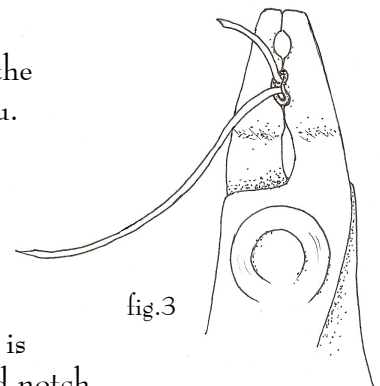
It is very important to practice crimping on a length of scrap wire before attempting it on your first chaplet. Crimps are used for creating small loops in the wire to attach it to a center, cross, crucifix or medal. You can crimp the crimp bead using only a pair of flat nosed pliers and simply squishing the crimp flat, but a rounder and more bead-like look can be obtained by using a pair of crimping pliers.

The crimp pliers have two notches. The first, which is farthest from the tip of the pliers, looks almost like a tiny 'smile' and is called the "crimper". This is the area in which the crimp bead is placed first. The second notch is called the "rounder" and it is used to gently squeeze the crimp and form it into a round shape. (fig.1)

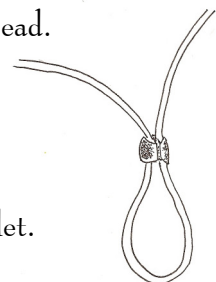


The first step is to string a 2mm crimp bead onto the end of a piece of practice wire. Next, pass the end of the wire through the crimp bead and then back through the crimp so that a small loop is formed. Hold the wire ends parallel to one another and do not allow them to cross. (If the wires cross inside the crimp beads, it can cause twisting in the finished chaplet.) Don't worry too much about the exact size of the loop, just work on getting a good, tight crimp. (fig.2)

The second step is to make the crimp. Hold the crimping pliers with the curved side facing you. Now, simply place the crimp bead in the first notch on the pliers and squeeze gently to form a "U" shaped crimp. It is important not to squeeze the pliers too hard or you may weaken the crimp or cause it to cut too deeply into the wire. (fig.3)



The final step is to round out the crimp bead. This is done by bringing the crimped bead up to the second notch on the pliers (the "rounder"), turning it a quarter turn and gently squeezing the pliers to form a (fig.4) nice rounded crimp bead. Two quarter turns with two light squeezes on the crimp pliers should finish off the crimp bead nicely. A good rule of thumb, when crimping, is to crimp a bead no more than three times. Once to form the "U", then twice more to round it out. Practice with several crimp beads before crimping your first chaplet.



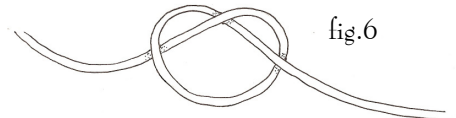
Using crimp beads with jewelry wire produces a very strong and professional looking finished piece. However, it may take a little practice before you are comfortable with the method. If one of your crimps should crack as it is being crimped, you will need to snip your wire and restring the chaplet.

Knotting String, Leather and Silk

A few simple knots are all you will need to create chaplets out of string, leather cord, silk beading thread etc.

Overhand Knot: (fig.6)

This is the simple knot that we all start with when tying our shoes. This also forms the base for the square knot



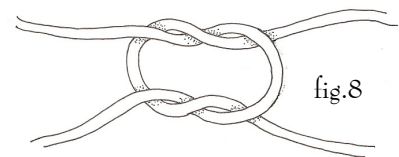
Double Overhand Knot: (fig.7)

This knot is the same as the overhand knot, only the end is put back through the loop one more time.



Square Knot: (fig.8)

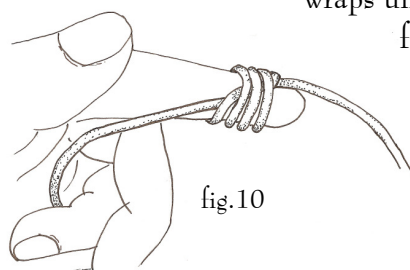
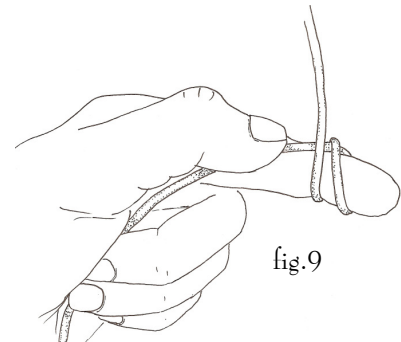
Begin with an overhand knot. Bring the right-hand string over the left-hand string and then around. Then place the left over right and bring it through the loop.



Rosary Knot:

We will call this a “rosary knot”, because it is the basic knot used in making cord rosaries. Be sure to practice it on a bit of extra cord or string before trying it on your chaplet, as it can be a bit tricky at first. Once mastered, you will find this a very useful and elegant knot in chaplet crafting.

First, hold the spool end of the cord or string in your left hand (Or your right hand if you are left handed.) with the last 10 or 11 inches lying on your index finger. Begin wrapping the free end of the cord around the index finger always wrapping *away* from you and moving closer to your hand with each wrap. (fig.9) After you have wrapped a full three times, carefully tuck the end of the cord under all the wraps until it emerges near the



wraps until it emerges near the fingertip. (fig.10) Slowly slide the whole knot off the finger and carefully pull it tight. (fig.11) When working on some rosaries and chaplets, you may find it easier to make these knots by substituting a pencil or chopstick for your finger.

