

Lucet Cord & Variations

1 Step Beyond Basic Lucet

Working Hints and Tips

❖ Square Braid

- Creates a 4 sided hollow core braid with the knots on the corners and channels between
- Good for Cordage and Lacings
- Use #5 Cotton Pearl for clothing lacing - 3" of pearl for 1" of lacing. One skein of pearl is usually sufficient for a full back lacing.
- Use #3 Cotton Pearl for cord to bear some weight such as to wrap and carry a package.
- Key is tension - too tight results in a cord with no give and built in twist.
- Use the thumb of the hand holding the lucet to assist with keeping the braid to the center when beginning the pattern. Later use the thumb to keep additional braid and threads out of the way.
- Use the thumb and forefinger to work the thread and the remaining fingers to "control" the working thread; keeping it out of the way.
- If you are using a "turn the lucet" version, you will need to let your braid and working thread untwist periodically.
- If you are working a long braid, wrap the braid up on itself so that it does not tangle with the working thread(s) and so that it twists less.
- May be used as trim. Either attach along one edge or attach by sewing through the braid.

❖ Square Braid with inlaid Gimp

- Use the channel to inlay the gimp.
- Use a square knot to secure the gimp at the end of the cord and then lay the gimp along the channel. Cross over the intersection at regular intervals. The intervals must be even in number as you are using a square braid as the base. For example: do 4 knots, cross over, do 4 knots, cross back.

❖ Square Braid - 2 color - herringbone

- Cast on 1st color. Cast on 2nd color above the 1st and on the same set of horns. Use working cord of 1st color and lower loop of same to make upper loops. Repeat with working cord of 2nd color and now the lower loop of the 2nd color.

❖ Square Braid - 2 color - strips

- Use a 4-prong lucet
- Cast each set of prongs as if on a single lucet. Proceed to circle around working the right horn of each pair, as if on a single lucet. Be sure that the working cord matches the loop color.
- Can be used for lacing.
- Creates a braid that is 2-3 times as thick and is much stiffer; as the extra thread is contained within the braid.

- ❖ **Square Braid with Beads - inset, "popped", or spiral**
 - Use a #E bead for a size 3 pearl.
 - Use a 4mm bead with a size 5 pearl, if the whole is extra large.
 - Use a combination of seed and petite beads with size 12 pearl for a more delicate look.
 - Thread the beads on BEFORE beginning the braid. You will bring the bead, or beads, you want up on your working thread and put it in place before making the knot.
 - Inset - Bring the bead to the center and work the knot to hold it in place. Adjust the tension on your knots to allow the bead to lay inset into the cording. Leave at least one knot/stitch between beads.
 - Popped - Bring the bead to the center and work the knot to hold it in place. Adjust the tension on your knots to be tight. This will cause the bead to "pop" out and above the braid. Leave at least one knot/stitch between beads.
 - Spiral - Bring the bead to the center and work the knot to hold it in place. Adjust the tension on your knots to allow the bead to lay inset into the cording or tight to lay above. Place beads with EVERY knot/stitch. This will cause a spiral look.
- ❖ **Square Braid with Bead Gimp**
 - Choose a matching thread to either the bead or the braid thread or a contrasting color. Your thread will show up or disappear depending on your choice. Make it a choice.
 - Load the Gimp thread with the beads.
 - Follow the instructions for Square Braid with inlaid Gimp above. Bring the bead into position and use the following knot/stitch to hold it in place.
- ❖ **Flat Braid**
 - Flat braid is a 2 sided braid versus the 4 sided of the square braid.
 - Flat braid is fairly elastic.
 - Flat braid works well as trim. Stitch through the center of the braid to attach.
 - The key to Flat Braid is tension. Keep the tension relatively loose, but even. If you tighten the loop too tight you will not be able to lift the lower loop up and over the horn, nor have the flex to make the next knot.
- ❖ **Flat Braid with Beads - inset**
 - Thread the beads on BEFORE beginning the braid. You will bring the bead you want up on your working thread and put it in place before making the half-hitch. The prior loop will be to the left of the bead.