

THE LEARNING CIRCLE

by Loren Woerpel, Noc Bay Trading Company

FOUR STRAND CHOKER

There are many different ways to make chokers. The methods we show here have proven to work well, and look good even after heavy use. Color choices and exact design should be the choice of the maker. Three strand, and smaller chokers can be made with the materials provided.

Several patterns are shown to get you started. For young choker makers, parents or teachers may have to help with the designs and the knots.

SHOPPING LIST: The following list uses our Acrylic 7mm crow beads and our Acrylic hairpipe.
32 Acrylic 3/4" Hairpipe
75 Acrylic 7mm Crow Beads
75 Hollow Metal Beads, 1/4" Diameter
2 yards of Simulated Sinew
12 inches of 1/4" Strap Leather for 9 Spacers
2 pieces of 1 1/2" Square soft leather
1 soft leather thong, cut in half for ties.

For tools, you need a scissors, and something to punch holes, like a leather punch, awl, or a hammer and sharp nail. If you don't punch holes, use a large gloves needle and a pliers to string through the leather spacers and end tabs.

To plan your pattern, lay the beads and bone out roughly on a table or, better yet, on the floor. Consider the length you will need. Test this out by temporarily stringing the bone and beads in the pattern you plan and try around your neck. Allowing for the thickness of the spacers and about 2" for the ends and ties, make sure it is long enough but not so long that the ends of the choker overlap behind your neck. Adjust your pattern if it does. The metal beads work best if they are between the hairpipe and crow bead.

If you are planning to mount a shell disc or concho on the center of the choker, plan to have a leather spacer placed in the center position. There are other designs where you hang a pendant from the spacers on either side of a center row of bones. Now's the time to plan ahead!

Stringing direction.

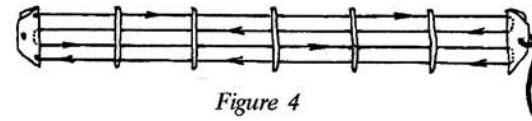
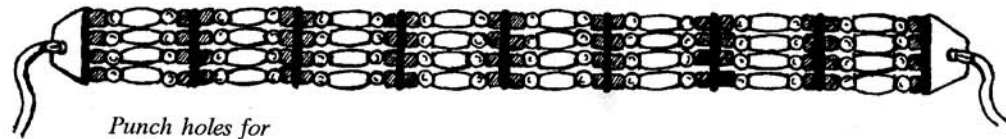


Figure 4



Punch holes for tie thongs.

Spacers



Figure 1

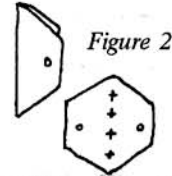


Figure 2

Hide starting knot inside folded end piece.

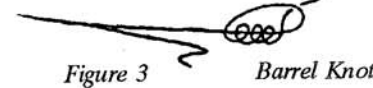
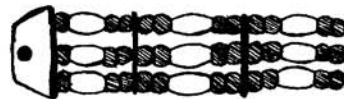
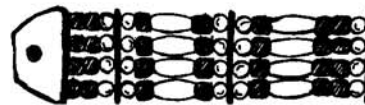


Figure 3

Barrel Knot



Figure 5



Sample patterns

The spacers are cut out of heavy strap leather. They look best if they are trimmed to be about as wide as the beads used, and even with the height of the beads in the choker. Mark and punch holes in these spacers, either with a leather punch, awl, or use a small nail and hammer, pounding the nail through the spacer into a scrap of wood. The holes should be evenly spaced and on center with the centers of the beads used as in Figure 1. Carefully make one spacer, then mark the others to match.

Fold the leather 1 1/2" squares in half and trim them to be the same height as a spacer. Cut these end pieces as shown in Figure 2 and punch a hole for the tie thong. On the inside of the leather, mark the four positions that match the spacer row of holes. These are the end tabs.

Thread the simulated sinew on a large needle. Begin by sewing through an end tab at the top row mark. As you sew, use a pliers to pull the needle through the end tab if you haven't pre-punched the leather. Tie a large knot by using the barrel knot to keep the thread from coming through as shown in Figure 3.

String the necklace according to your pattern by stringing through the top hole position on each spacer, finishing the full top row. Continue on as in Figure 4. End by tying a barrel slip knot after completing the last row and passing the needle through the end tab. To secure the knots even more, use a little super glue on them.

Tie the soft leather thongs through the holes you provided in the end tabs. If you are adding a shell disc, attach is as shown in Figure 5.

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