Techniques: Using the Pearl Knotting Tool

Bead Types

- Beads (pearls, crystals, glass, etc)
- Silk Bead Cord
- Clamshell Bead Tips (sterling or gold-filled)
- Hypo Tube Cement
- Jump Rings
- Clasp

Tools

- 6 inch Knotting Tool
- Chain Nose Pliers
- Scissors

Step 1
Make a simple knot at the end of your silk (opposite the needle).

Step 2
Slide a clamshell bead tip onto the silk. The knot should fit inside the clamshell bead tip.

Step 3
Using a sharp pair of scissors, cut off the end of the silk.

Step 4
Add a small drop of Hypo Tube Cement glue to the knot.

Step 5
Using your chain nose pliers, gently close the clamshell bead tip over the knot.

Step 6
Using the attached needle, string a bead onto the silk.
Step 7 Make a loose simple knot.

Step 8 Insert the awl part of the pearl knotting tool into the loop.

Step 9 Slowly tighten the knot around the awl.

Step 10 Insert the silk into the "Y" shaped prong. Pull it down to further tighten the knot onto the awl.

Step 11 While pulling down on the thread with one hand, push up as shown, with the thumb of your other hand until the knot slides off the awl.

Step 12 When the knot has slid off the awl, give it a little extra tug to further tighten the knot against the bead.

Step 13 Slide another bead onto the silk.

Step 14 Repeat Steps 7-13 until desired length.

Step 15 Once you have knotted your piece to the desired length, slide another clamshell bead tip onto your silk. This should be facing in the opposite direction of the first one.

Step 16 Make a knot inside the clamshell bead tip using the same technique as in steps 7-13.

Step 17 Using a sharp pair of scissors, cut off the end of the silk.

Step 18 Add a small drop of Hypo Tube Cement glue to the knot.
Step 19
Using your chain nose pliers, gently close the clamshell bead tip over the knot.

Step 20
To attach a clasp, use the tips of your chain nose pliers to gently open the hook of the clamshell bead tip.

Step 21
Hook a soldered jump ring to the clamshell bead tip.

Step 22
Using the tips of your chain nose pliers, gently close the hook of the clamshell bead tip.

Step 23
On the opposite side of your piece, hook a clasp to the clamshell bead tip. Gently close the hook of the clamshell bead tip with the tips of your chain nose pliers.