

How to tie a monkeyfist knot

Since there has been a lot of question about this knot, I tried to photograph it in stages. I believe the cord is 4mm, purchased by the foot at a camping supply shop. For weight, I used the ball from a computer mouse. It's weighty. The rubber cover can be removed to find a steel ball inside, but it is significantly smaller.

First, we start with the cord in-hand. The standing end is in front, working end in back.



I wrap it around my first three fingers twice, so you will see three loops of cord on each side.

Attached Images



Turning my hand, you can see where I bring the cord under again. This completes the three loops in one direction. Then I start it between my split fingers to start wrapping at a 90 degree angle.

Attached Images



I wrap upward, away from the crossover.

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I continue until I have the three loops again. Here, I'm holding the working end between my thumb and pinky to show you how it looks before the next step.

Attached Images



Now I take the working end and put it through the top loop created by the first set of loops.



Here I've brought the working end behind and back through the bottom loops.

Attached Images



Mouse ball.
Attached Images



I'm placing the mouse ball into the set of loops. Notice the working end is underneath the ball. It's a little difficult because I've made my second set of loops too narrow. The weight can be added before either the second or third set of loops. Before the second will get you the right size earlier, but I didn't think ahead.

Attached Images



Here's the weight all the way inside the loops.

Attached Images



Then I tuck the working end through the loops, away from the direction change, and around the weight. The working end is out right now, but when I finish, I'll put it inside the top loop. With smaller cord, the working end can be tied into a bulky knot as a filler for the monkeyfist. I might be able to do this with the 4mm cord, but nothing larger.

If you are planning on braiding or wrapping the working and standing ends together afterward (two attaching cords instead of one), then you can pull this working end all the way through the top loop. The working end must be a lot longer for such a technique.

Attached Images



Knot complete, but loose. Working end tucked into top loop.

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Finished knot. I tighten by starting at the working end and proceeding backwards through the loops. End result is that the standing end becomes longer. Notice that you can see the weight through the loops. This is not preferable. With this cord, I should have used four instead of the standard three loops for each stage. Or, I could have used larger 5mm cord for this size weight.

Attached Images

