

Divine Inspiration: Design

Designing your own piece of work can be fun, agonizing, exciting, painful, exhilarating, or any combination of these. When the design works, and you've created something that's pleasing to you, the feeling is one of great pleasure.

There are many different approaches to the problem of design. The particular piece, combined with your own personality, will determine which approach you'll use.

If you've never designed anything on your own before, you may be timid about starting now. You may feel that the only thing you can do is to copy something you've seen. Artists and designers frown upon this, but sometimes it's helpful just to get you started. When you copy though, it is expected that you will give the original artist credit by saying, "Knotted by [your name], after an original by [artist's name.]"

The hope is that you'll only start by copying, and that you'll soon begin to change things - the color, order of knots, placement of beads, proportion, etc. - thus gradually designing your own work.

Sometimes you may just have a very vague idea of what you want to do. You must decide upon the kind of cords, color, approximate finished length, and how you want to start, but you don't have to have the design of the work well formed in your mind. You can just hitch on your cords, start working, and design the work as you go along. One idea usually leads to another. This is not to imply that as you knot one section, the next automatically forms under your fingers.



Photo 78. Close-up of Photo 77. The "evil eye" bead in the center wards off evil spirits! Helene Bress.