

# Alternative Closures

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## KNOTS FOR FROGS AND OTHER FANCY TRIMMINGS

**51.** To meet with Fashion's requirements, it is often necessary to use frogs and similar devices as trimmings for garments. Such things can, of course, be purchased already made up, but usually they are expensive and it is not always possible to get such ornaments of a weight and color that will harmonize perfectly with the material of which a garment is made. The better plan is to make ornaments of this kind, for it will mean a great saving and make possible the matching of colors and fabrics. Such work is not difficult; instead, it is often surprising how very attractive a piece of covered cord or braid can be made by simply twisting and arranging it carefully. It is the intention here to illustrate and explain the development of a few of the knots and trimmings used most in dress ornamentation, not only so that a knowledge may be had of how these particular ones may be made, but so that they may be used as a basis or form a suggestion for working out more elaborate ones or ornaments suitable for some particular purpose.

**52. Quality and Size of Braid or Cord.**—In the making of cord and braid ornaments, the quality and size must receive proper consideration, as it is on them that successful results depend. If the cord is to be covered at home, the work should be done very carefully, so that it will appear neat and the seam required in making the covering will be as inconspicuous as possible. If the braid or cord is purchased, it should be of as good a quality as the purse will permit, and of a color that is reasonably subdued, so that it will not appear to stand apart from the garment itself. The size of the cord or braid will depend on the garment itself and the material employed in its construction, heavy materials and loose-fitting garments permitting of the use of heavier cord or braid than light-weight fabrics and tight-fitting garments.

**53. Covering Cord for Frogs and Other Ornaments.**—The way in which to cover cord that is to be used in making frogs and similar ornaments is illustrated in Fig. 17. The cord to be used for

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such work may be of real soft cotton or wool, although the cotton is preferred. It should not be hard-twisted though, because such cord causes ridges that will show through the covering material. Such cord, in black and white, can be obtained in different sizes, from  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter. It comes in balls, although it may be purchased by the yard. The material to be used in covering should, as a rule, be soft and clingy, such as soft or light-weight velvet, and of the same color as the material of the garment or a harmonizing shade.

54. To cover the cord, secure one end of it to the eye of a bodkin that is blunt at one end, as shown at *a*, Fig. 17. Then proceed to prepare the material to be used for the covering. This material must be cut on the true bias, so that it will turn easily in covering

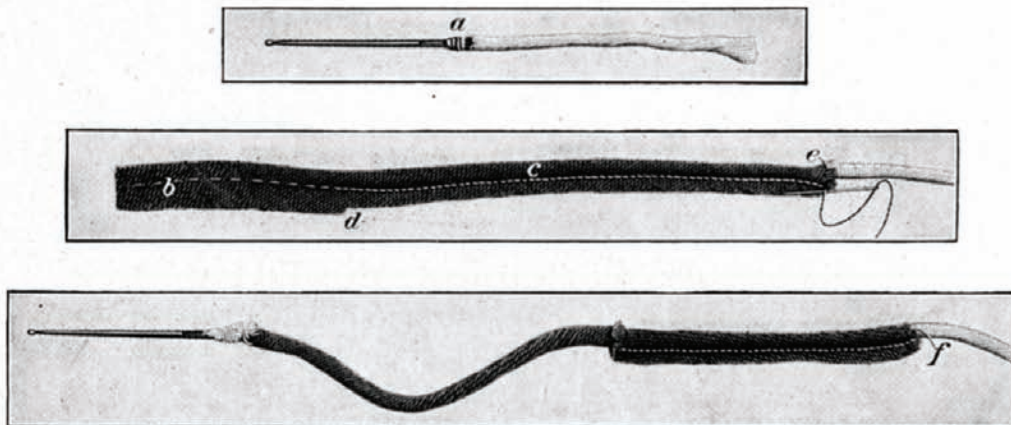


FIG. 17

the cord and not form little plaits in making the ornament. Determine the width to which this material must be cut by placing it over the cord that is to be covered and pinning it so that it will fit close. Then cut it from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 in. larger than the size called for by the measurement just made and, as mentioned, on the true bias. With the material cut, fold it through the center so that it is wrong side out and the edges are together and baste it in the manner shown at *b*, so that the slot formed will be just the right size to accommodate the cord. After basting it the entire length, stitch it with the sewing machine in a true, even line, as shown at *c*, and leave a good length of machine thread at the end. Then trim the edges of the covering along the seam thus made, as at *d*, leaving a space of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in., so as to overcome fraying in covering the cord. With the covering and the bodkin and cord thus prepared, insert the bodkin into

the end of the covering and sew the covering securely to the cord with a needle threaded with the ends left in stitching, as shown at *e*. Then proceed to slip the bodkin through the covering in the manner shown at *f*, being careful to do this work neatly. After the bodkin and cord are drawn through the entire length of covering, cut off the end of the cord secured to the bodkin, when the cord will be covered and ready for use.



FIG. 18

**55. Chinese Knots.**—In Fig. 18 is shown a knot, known as the Chinese knot, made of one cord. Such knots may be made of any

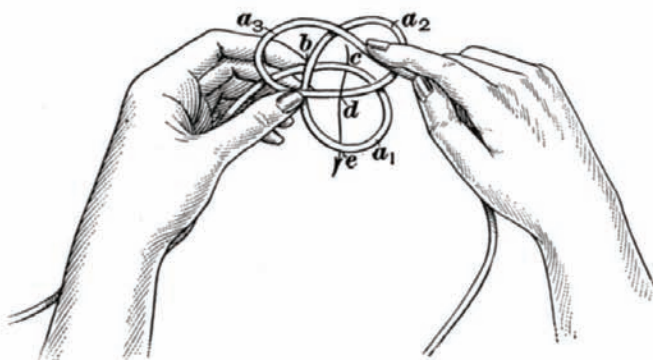


FIG. 19

number of cords from one to five, depending on the size of the cord and the purpose for which the ornament thus made is desired. They may be adjusted, also, so as to form a flat knot with either one or two projecting looped ends or a flat knot with sym-

metrical loops that appear to be intertwined. In each of the finished Chinese knots here illustrated the ends of the cord used in making them are left free, so that a good idea of where these ends will come in tying may be formed.

**56.** To make the Chinese knot shown in Fig. 18, proceed to form loops in the manner shown in Fig. 19. Form loop *a*<sub>1</sub> by holding the cord of which the knot is to be formed in the left hand between the thumb and the fingers; then draw the cord around so as to form another loop *a*<sub>2</sub>, letting it cross loop *a*<sub>1</sub> at *b*; and then bring it around and form still another loop *a*<sub>3</sub>. Next, bring

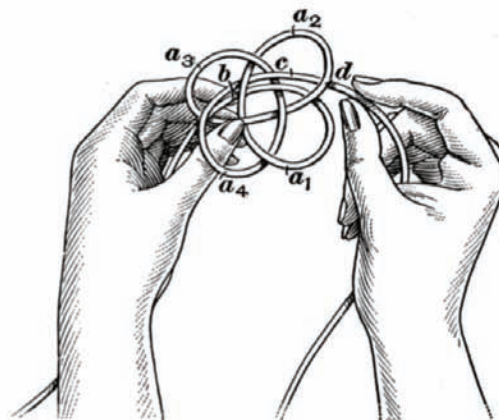


FIG. 20

the end of the cord held in the right hand under loop *a*<sub>1</sub> at point *c*, over loop *a*<sub>2</sub> at point *d*, and again under loop *a*<sub>1</sub> at point *e*, as

indicated by the arrow. Then, as shown in Fig. 20, bring the cord around so as to form a fourth loop  $a_4$ , bringing the end under loop  $a_2$  at point  $b$ , over loop  $a_3$  at point  $c$ , and again under loop  $a_2$  at point  $d$ . If only one cord is to be used in making a knot of this kind, as in this case, pull both ends of the cord, when the knot after a little adjusting, will appear as in Fig. 18. Then trim off the projecting ends and fasten them underneath with a needle and thread.



FIG. 21

57. In Fig. 21 is shown a Chinese knot of three cords with symmetrical loops that are intertwined. In making this style of knot, proceed as in making the knot just explained, but do not draw up the ends when loop  $a_4$ , Fig. 20, is finished. Instead, continue to form and weave the loops in the same way until the three cords are looped and woven alongside of one another, as shown, taking care to place the cords even in forming each loop and to draw them under and to place them over the loops at the proper places, as directed in making the knot with only one cord. When the knot is tied, shape the loops well with the fingers, and then clip off the ends and fasten them so that the fastenings will not be visible.



FIG. 22

58. The style of Chinese knot shown in Fig. 22 has the loops at the sides pulled out in the form of circles. To form this knot, proceed in the manner directed for tying the knot shown in Fig. 21, and



FIG. 23

when it is tied draw out the two loops, as shown at  $a$  and  $b$ , Fig. 22, so as to make the center part tight and permit the loops to be circular. In forming this style of Chinese knot, pains must be taken to have the cords drawn evenly and to set smoothly. Finish the knot by cutting off the ends and fastening them in place.

59. Still another style of the Chinese knot is shown in Fig. 23. It is tied in precisely the same way as the one described in Art. 56,

but instead of using one cord, two cords are used at the same time. In this knot, only one loop, as *a*, is pulled away to form a circle. The ends *b* and *c* of this knot are, of course, cut off and fastened under as in finishing the other Chinese knots mentioned. Knots that are to show more than two cords side by side are made, preferably, in the manner directed for the knots shown in Figs. 21 and 22, but two cords may be used to make striking effects in much quicker time than is required to weave knots that have three or more cords.

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