



Nutty Necklaces

This is a simple and satisfying craft of creating woodland jewelry from nuts in autumn. It needs a bit of focus to drill a hole or a few holes with a palm drill but is accessible for children from as young as 6 years old. It's a lovely way to engage with the varied nuts and seeds produced by the trees in the autumn.

Ages

6 years + with adult support for younger ones.

Duration

Allow 15 minutes to craft or longer if making cordage for the necklace

How To

- The simplest version is to find a nut with a relatively soft shell and soft centre.
- Prepare a drilling space by finding or creating a divot in a piece of wood.
- Use a palm drill to create a hole all the way through the nut removing the drill periodically to clear out any bits of the nut that may be clogging the drill piece.
- Thread a piece of string through the hole in the nut and tie it as a necklace.

- You could create a more advanced nutty necklace by creating a hole in a variety of nuts. Here we show a necklace made with an acorn either side of a hazelnut. Hazelnuts are a little more challenging to create a hole through due to their harder shell.
- You can also integrate making your string into cordage using the reverse wrap technique. String such as the jute twine you can see being used here is a fairly easy fibre to learn on as it is already prepared for you and a helpful thickness to begin with. You can also buy green and brown jute twine from garden centres and this makes a lovely pattern when made into cordage together.
- You can watch our video on making cordage either from rush in our film: Cordage Bracelet from Rush, or in our film: Stinging Nettle String.

Refining the Reverse Wrap Technique:

Once you have the hang of this basic technique, you can try a more fluid technique to speed up the process:

- Each time you're ready to swap the strands over once you've twisted the top strand away, rather than bringing one down in front of the other and starting again with the

new top strand, you can use the fingers of your dominant hand to grab the bottom strand and swap them over, bringing the bottom one from behind up to the top position.

- You'll find this is much more fluid and swift once you get the hang of it. However, a common mistake is to swap them over in the wrong direction... The cordage stays together and looks so nice because of the reverse-wrap method. It is called 'reverse' - wrap because the twist on the individual strands goes the opposite direction to how they wrap around each other. If you wrap the fibres the same direction as you twist them then it all comes undone when you let go. This is a common error that can occur when learning the technique.

Equipment Needed

- Nuts
- String
- Palm drill of appropriate size, here we use a 3.5mm drill piece

Teacher Tips and Tricks

- If you struggle to thread the string through the holes in the nuts, you can dip the end in a bit of candle wax and just as it starts to cool, pinch the wax so that it hardens into a point. This can then be threaded more easily through the hole in the nut.

Variation

- You can create necklaces from some berries such as rowan berries using finer thread on a needle, threading a berry on and then tying an overhand knot to space the berries out like beads. They will then dry onto the string. These were made traditionally as symbols of protection carried by the medicine of the rowan tree.

Invisible Learning

- Connection to nut bearing trees
- Therapeutic
- Transferable skill of reverse wrap cordage technique

Hazards to Highlight

- Cuts from slipping with the palm drill or putting your fingers on the sharp part of the drill whilst drilling.

Risk Assessment Considerations

These are the risk assessment consideration documents to be referred to for this activity.

- Plant Related Activities
- Safe Tool Use
- Site Risk Assessment (specific to your site)

Links

- Stinging Nettle String
- Cordage Bracelet
- Hazelnut oven

Disclaimer: The advice in this guide is considered to be correct at the time of writing, but Red Squirrel Resources accept no liability for actions inspired by these resources.



- Flapjacks cooked in leaves

Tags

- Craft, nuts, necklace, autumn, acorn, hazelnut, palm drill