

MACRAMÉ CORD GUIDE



EXACTLY how much cord do you need for macramé?

Let's find out!

I macraméd 5 different thicknesses of cord to see EXACTLY how much was needed. I was surprised by the results and think you will be, too!

1" (inch) = 2.54cm

For my first trial, I made a 6" macramé bracelet using 60" of C-lon 400. While this did complete the project, my working cords were so short toward the end that I struggled to finish. This experiment told me that I needed 60" of cord for a 6" bracelet and an extra 12" in order to finish the piece without struggling. So I now know that 10" of cord are needed for each inch of macramé!

1. C-lon 400

First trial there was no left-over cord, which made finishing tedious.



2. For my second trial I added the extra 12" for a total of 72" and it was just right.

C-lon18

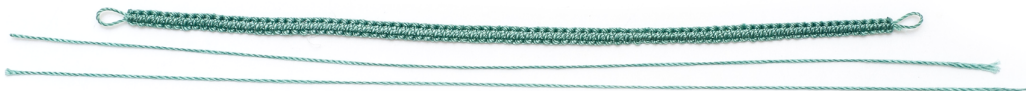
13" left over



3. Then I wondered, "If I used a really thin cord would I need more cord?" The answer was no.

C-lon fine

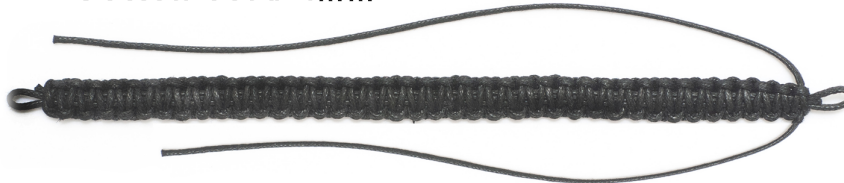
14.5" left over



4. What if I used a really thick cord? I had enough cord left over to comfortably finish my project.

Cotton cord 1mm

8.6" left over



5. What about leather?

Leather 1.5mm

14" left over



You'll need 72" of cord for any 6" length of macramé, however...

if you make a 12" bracelet, you will need 132" ($60 + 60 + 12$) of cord, not 144" ($72 + 72$) since you do not need to double the working cords.

There are two other situations where cord length needs will change.

The first is the two-way macramé, which is where you start in the middle of your bracelet and macramé to the ends. In this case, you will need two 12" sets of working cord.

Two-Way

12" on each side left over
cord here is Chinese knotting cord



Why would you start in the middle?
If you are making a two-color bracelet like the one above, you need to start in the middle, then macramé one side to the end and then the other. If you are making something really long, starting in the middle makes the process a bit easier since your working cords are half of what they would have been had you started at one end.

Macramé with beads

37.5" left over

My final question was, "If I am adding beads will I need more cord or less?"

Here I used C-Ion 400 and 20 5mm beads. I had 37.5" of cord left over so you will use less cord if beads are included.



My conclusion is that regardless of whether or not I add beads, I will follow the 10" of cord-per-inch rule plus add 12" of working cord simply because having left-over cord is preferable to running out.

Macramé Cord Usage Guide

The easiest way to remember how much cord you'll need for a macramé project is to multiply each inch you want your project to be by 10 and then add 12.

If you are making a two-color or something long where you will start in the middle, add 24" to the amount of cord you will need. For example, if you are making a six-inch two-color bracelet, $10 \times 6 = 60$, plus 12, plus 12, gives you 84. This means each half will be 42" long.

Here are a few calculation examples:

6"--60" + 12" = 72" or 84" for a two-color (two 42" strands)

7"--70" + 12" = 82" or 94" for a two-color (two 47" strands)

8"--80" + 12" = 92" or 104" for a two-color (two 52" strands)

9"--90" + 12" = 102" or 114" for a two-color (two 57" strands)

12"--120" + 12" = 132" or 144" for a two-color (two 72" strands)

18"--180" + 12" = 192" or 204" for a two-color (two 102" strands)

24"--240" + 12" = 252" or 264" for a two-color (two 132" strands)

Remember if adding beads, you will need less cord.

I do not have a formula for that since the size and number of beads can vary dramatically.