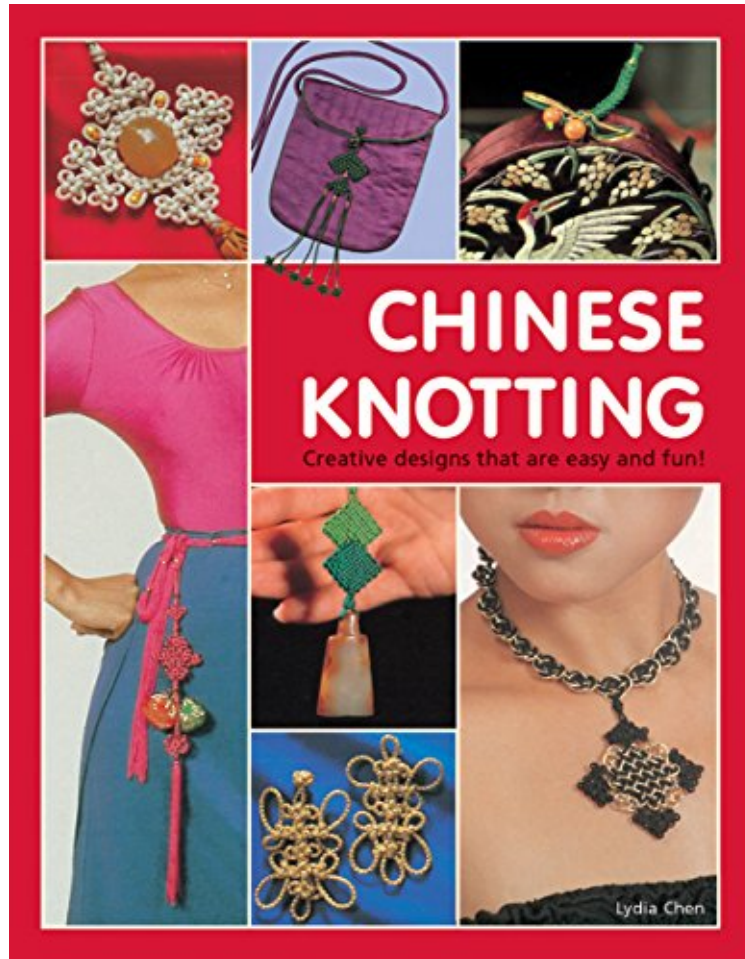


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## Chinese Knotting: Creative Designs that are Easy and Fun!

Lydia Chen

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**Lydia Chen : Chinese Knotting: Creative Designs that are Easy and Fun!** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chinese Knotting: Creative Designs that are Easy and Fun!:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book, Both Instructional and InformativeBy XeokymI know some traditional macrame love making my own string bead jewelry, but I know absolutely nothing about Chinese knotting, so I got this book hoping it would start me off and get me up and running on my own. It's hard cover with glossy photos on every page, TONS of very clear, hand-drawn picture instructions with accompanying text, and lots and lots of photos of real examples. Being a beginner, it was great for me, starting off with the most basic and easiest designs, and gradually getting more complex as the book goes on. But even if you're not a beginner, it's still chock-full of excellent information for very intricate and difficult designs as well. What I liked was that it also included some history about what decorative knotting was used for, and how it was used, throughout the ages in China. It was interesting to find out that most ancient knots were made with silk, and unfortunately hardly any from ancient times

had survived, being that silk was so delicate and rotted so easily. It was also interesting to find out that certain knots were exclusive to royalty that only they could wear. I had no idea knotting was used so extensively, or that the art was almost lost completely at one point, saved in the memories of only a few skilled people who (fortunately) were able to pass the skills and information on, and revive the art of knotting. This book isn't over-wordy or too lengthy, therefore it's not intimidating, nor does it talk down to the reader. It just gets right down to business and is packed cover-to-cover with excellent information and all the instructions one could need to be able to figure it all out with the book alone. I thought perhaps I'd need to get 2-3 books on Chinese knotting to really "get it," but once I got this book first (fortunately), I didn't have a need to buy any other ones on the subject. It covered everything, from remedial to expert level. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great introduction to Chinese Knotting By Therese Dougherty I found this book in our local library and knew I had to have a copy. The knots are clearly presented with tips on how best to tie (and tighten) them. The book progresses from basic knots through compound knots and concludes with instructions for using the knots to make specific pieces of jewelry. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Missing a step? By Nana Rei It may seem easy but I still cannot figure out the basic of knots. Seems like the author might have left out the tips and tricks section. In any case I use it for the terms, information on materials, design ideas, and inspiration. It is a nice book to have in your collection. But if you really want to know how to make the knots I still say Youtube, however not every knot is found on YouTube. But if you can at least make a few of the knots it helps in creating some beautiful pieces.

Knotting, "the joining of two cords," is an old and revered art form in China and an integral part of Chinese life. Since ancient times, Chinese knots have been used for a variety of practical and decorative purposes: to record events, aid in fishing and hunting, wrap and tie items, embellish personal attire, jewelry, fashion, ornament other works of art, and communicate. The intricate knot work and magnificent color combinations not only lent elegance to everyday objects, or a touch of gaiety and enchantment, but were an aesthetic expression of Chinese folk symbolism, expressing wishes for good fortune and wealth or the joys of love and marriage. In craft book *Chinese Knotting*, author Lydia Chen first traces the origins, history, and symbolism of this fascinating craft, before taking the reader through the fundamental elements necessary for tying Chinese decorative knots: the materials, implements, and main processes. Step-by-step instructions are then given for the 11 basic knots, which provide the building blocks for the 14 compound knots-combinations and variations of the simple knots-that follow in the next section. The final section presents 41 knotting projects of varying difficulty. Detailed instructions, clear diagrams, and color photographs, combined with an exciting assortment of creative applications will help readers discover the relaxation, artistic satisfaction, and beautifully personalized ornamentation that Chinese Knotting can offer.

About the Author Lydia Chen, a leading authority on traditional Chinese decorative knotting, was born in Loching, Chekiang, in 1940. Her interest in knotting began when her father-in-law, a deputy curator at the National Palace Museum in Taipei, Taiwan, arranged for her to learn simple knots from an elderly museum custodian. From this modest beginning, she went on to figure out how knots were formed from the antique pieces she collected, and even invented some designs of her own. She has taught knotting at colleges, held several exhibitions of her work both at home and abroad, and authored a number of books on the art.