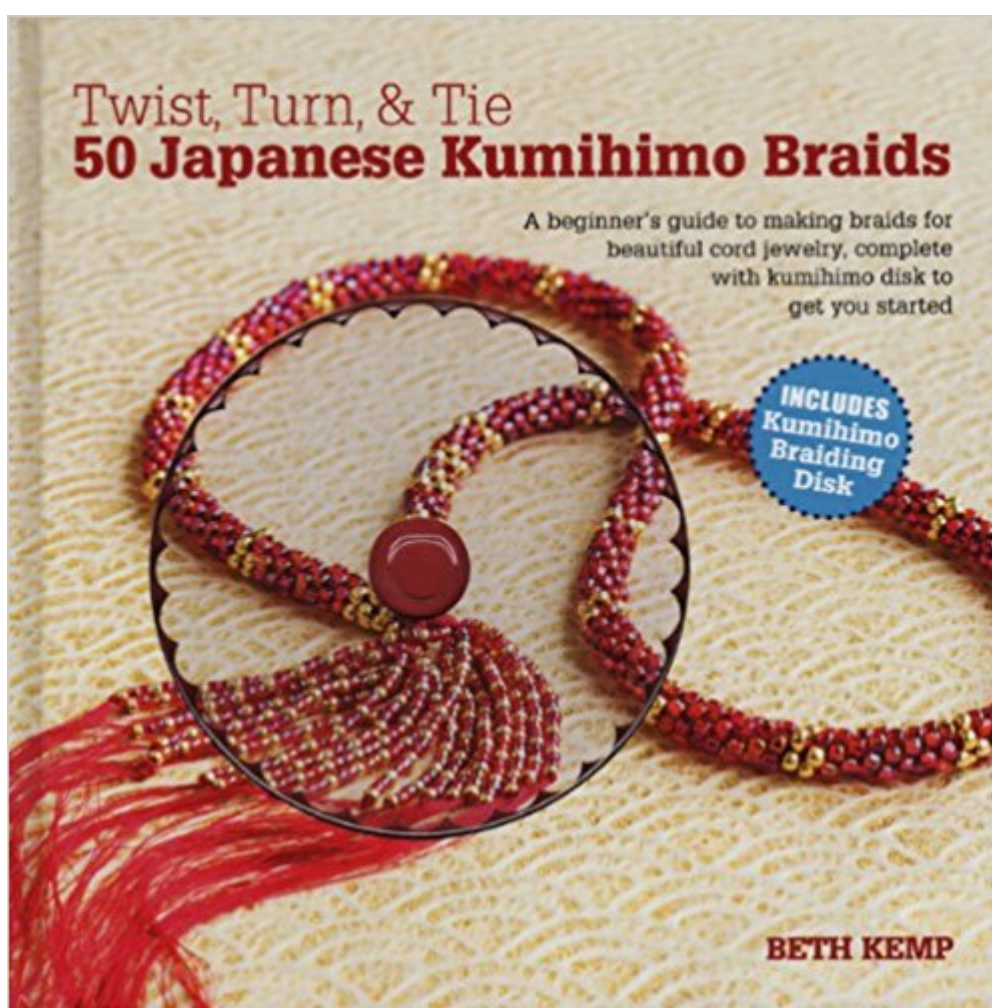


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# Twist, Turn & Tie 50 Japanese Kumihimo Braids: A Beginner's Guide To Making Braids For Beautiful Cord Jewelry



## Synopsis

The traditional Japanese art of cord braiding—known as kumihimo—has been around for centuries. The technique, which uses a loom and several strands of silk thread, was once used to create the strong, slender cords that reinforced samurai warrior armor. Today, it is primarily used to make beautiful, color-drenched cords for jewelry and other decorative items. In *Twist, Turn, & Tie* 50 Japanese Kumihimo Braids, readers will get everything they need to get started in this ancient craft, including a mini braiding loom! They'll also find: An overview of tools and materials from looms to bobbins to glues to beads Step-by-step instructions for basic loom braiding, handling threads, beads, and more 50 gorgeous projects from simple beginner braids to complex beaded cords 400 full-color photographs for inspirations and instruction With details on kumihimo terminology, starting and finishing braids, and calculating thread and bead counts, this book is an ideal guide for new braiders.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Kemp’s thorough guide gives solid information and background about this traditional craft, yet the designs are contemporary and accessible. Jewelry makers will be drawn to this collection of pretty projects.” —Library Journal

After a decade in the prestige jewelry industry, Beth Kemp’s love of textiles and beading led her to the art of kumihimo. Today, she shares her knowledge of the art form through articles, books,

classes, and her online store, Braid and Bead Studio.

Beth Kemp presents her material in a unique and eye catching way, with an illustrated, removable 6 inch cardboard kumihimo disk as part of the book's cover. This is a nice touch for those who may not already have a foam disk. The book is well made, with many fine photographic and stock illustrations of braiding cord placement on a disk as well. Part of the format on each project page includes a "skill level" assignment pictured as one, two or three braid icons. The projects are mixed up by level throughout the book, so be careful in choosing your first one. A full 33 pages are used to present the basics in the Getting Started section. My First Series includes 10 different patterns which is a good foundation. Five flat braids are under-represented in a book filled with round and round hollow braids. The variety in projects appears to be mostly in materials, instead of technique. There are round braids done with 8 or 16 strands, with or without beads. While these are attractive, they have been done before in other publications. Overall this is a wonderful book for those just starting out. Special note goes to Lavender Fields Necklace and Kumihimo Surprise Necklace because of technique. The former uses two braids which intertwine with each other and spiral around themselves. The latter is more complex and requires the patience to remove and re-thread the disk multiple times (7) to create interlocking or separate braids down the length of the entire necklace. This project motivated me to buy the book, but by itself is not worth the price or the space in my library. I would question why these complex projects were included in a book labeled for beginners.

I purchased the book to help with design ideas that I can make for examples for my classes. I'm an Certified Jewelry Instructor at Michaels. The instruction was helpful and allowed me to create my own designs. The designs in the book were helpful in my own creative process but not something I would want to make. I prefer metalsmithing processing. I'm going to be making fine Kumihimo pieces to include in my metal designs as well. I think that will be a challenge and something I would enjoy. The cardboard round board in the front of the book will not last long. This is a good book though for a beginner like myself, especially the individual instruction and material section at the beginning of the book. I'm glad I purchased this book.

I hesitated to get this book since I have soooo many others but I am truly glad I did. It is easy to understand and has numerous techniques that are new to me. I guess I would be an intermediate braider. I don't use the marudai and love the variety Ms. Kemp includes in her techniques and

projects. I have 5 (!! ) disks set up and as soon as I can find my other disks I will be setting up 2 more. So many lovely choices I can't decide on just one. Thank you Beth Kemp - I am grateful for your effort!

I am a TOTAL ROOKIE that wants to learn kumihimo, but have been intimidated and confused by many of the "Beginner" how to books that I've ordered. But now, I'm excited! This book is exactly what I've been looking for. Great clearly written instructions, great photographs, and projects that I actually wouldn't mind making. Definitely a keeper.

I really enjoy doing kumihimo. Unfortunately there isn't any place near me to take a class. This book offers very clear explanations on how to execute each braid along with improving your skills. I belong to an online group that is going through this book and I am so impressed with the clarity of description. It is obvious that Beth Kemp knows what she's doing and can explain it to beginners.

Very well written instructional book that takes you through all types of braids: from 4-16 strands, round, flat, spiral, beaded, patterned...the options are endless. Good for a beginner like me with descriptions of different cords, how to estimate length of cord needed depending on what type of braid you're making, and a great list of tools available as well as different disks and what you can do with them. I have not used the cardboard disk included in the cover of the book and don't plan to. I have a foam disk that I love and works very well. (The book even recommends those over cardboard.) Each braid has a difficulty level at the top of the instructions and so far I'm able to follow along easily and can't wait to buy some metallics to braid with!

I have a couple of instructional books on kumihimo. This one by far is my favorite. The pictures are beautiful and the instructions very clear. The book covers beginning to advanced methods with the exception of using cores. (Unless I've missed something) used this book to learn how to braid and have since become totally addicted and now can use the instructions to branch out to my own designs. I bought the kindle version because I live on a boat and my space is limited and I am restricted to how many objects I can have on board. If I had the luxury of a real bookshelf, I'd buy the hard copy.

There are many great projects in this book! I haven't done any yet, but I am so looking forward to it. The disc that comes with it is cute, but I don't know that I'll use it because it is made out of

cardboard. Not sure how it will hold up and I don't want to ruin my book.

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