



CUB SCOUT BOOMERANG (BRONZE/SILVER)

TEST 14 – HANDCRAFT

Make a key-ring adornment using either plastic piping or leather thonging.

Resources

- Plastic piping or leather thonging
- Key-ring

Instructions

1. Take two lengths of plastic piping, at least 50 cm long; feed them through the key-ring and fold them in half, so that the key ring is dangling in the middle. To produce the sort of pattern in the main illustration, use piping of two different colours, and cross them over as they pass through the key-ring so that the four ends alternate in colour;
2. Make the initial knot by crossing over the individual strands of piping as per the 'Knotting Technique' illustration. Before pulling this knot tight, make sure that your pieces of piping are still roughly equal in length. younger Cubs might need a bit of help with this first knot;
3. Repeat this process until you have produced the desired length of knotting.

There is a bit of an art to pulling the knots tight. Look at the 'Knotting Technique' illustration and note that two strands are being held between the thumb and forefinger of each hand, and two are being held between the other fingers and the palm of each hand. Tighten the knot by progressively pulling all of the strands at once, more or less evenly, out from the centre of the knot. It takes a little practice.

You might also notice that you can actually produce two different patterns (or a mixture of both), depending on how you tie the knots. If you tie the knots by folding the piping in the same direction each time, you will produce a round, spiral pattern. If you tie the knots by reversing the knotting direction for each knot, you will produce the square, regular pattern shown in the illustrations. If you are not careful, you will end up with a mixture of both types of knot, and a less attractive result;

4. Place a drop of glue under each of the last set of 'loops', pull the ends firmly, and leave to set. When the glue is dry, trim of any excess piping neatly with a pair of scissors.

Resource Preparation

Plastic Piping

2 mm ϕ

\$0.31/m

Spotlight

Cut into lengths appropriate for particular project.

Three centimetres of piping yields about 1 cm 'knotted product', and that you will always need at least 8-10 cm of piping to pull the knot tight. Thus, two 50 cm lengths of piping, folded in half to give the four strands, will give ~5 cm of 'knotted product', plus the 8-10 cm needed to pull the last knot tight.

Leather Thonging

3 mm flat \$1.49/m

Spotlight

Cut into lengths as required for specific project.

Two 40 cm lengths of thonging (folded in half to create 4 'strands') will make a 4-way plait ~10 cm long (10 cm thong → 8 cm plait), with ~8 cm left to knot the ends neatly.

Key Ring

25 mm ϕ \$0.46

Magnet Mart