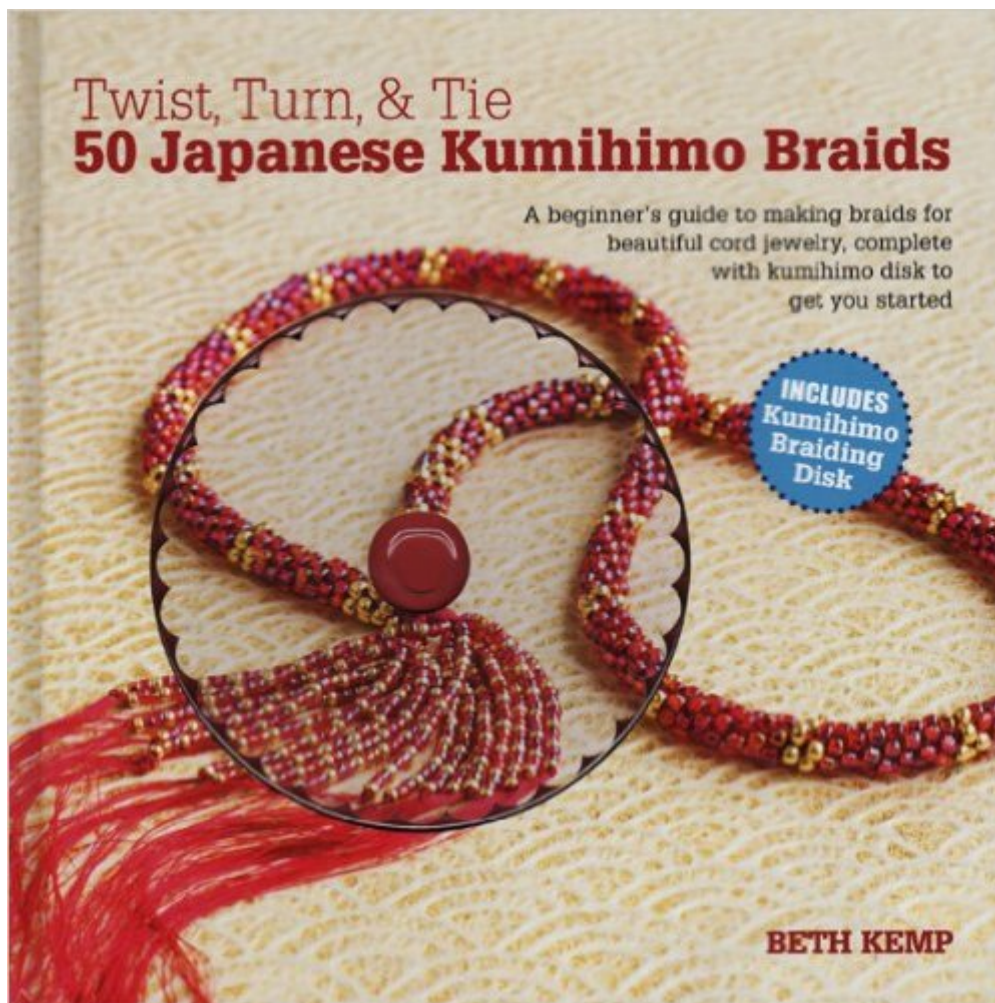


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# Twist, Turn & Tie 50 Japanese Kumihimo Braids: A Beginner's Guide To Making Braids For Beautiful Cord Jewelry



## 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

I wonder who thought it was a good idea to include a kumihimo disc on the cover of this book? Not me, as I use this book, I keep knocking the disc out of the cover and my hand keeps going through the hole made by the absent of the disc! (The good thing is when I am on the floor searching for the disc, I find many the beads that I previously dropped.) However, after the umpteenth time this happened I finally taped it shut. I purchased this book even though I was not a beginner, as review stated those with intermediate skills with Kumihimo would find it helpful and I did. I was looking for a

certain pattern and this book did not have it, but I discovered a wonderland of many beautiful and interesting projects. I also found Kemp's explanations helpful and love the visuals that were provided. In fact, one pattern I was working on in another book but was stuck was in this book and clarified my problem so I was able to finish the pattern. The first part of the book was the basic information for beginners so I believe that would be very helpful for beginners. I gave the book four stars instead of five because some of the threads Kemp uses are difficult to find in the USA, and therefore knowing the amounts to use I found confusing. And I hate the kumihimo disc that keeps falling out of this book.

Each braid is shown as a finished project. Finishing details are explained nicely. The 50 braids are well illustrated with color placement and braiding methods. The braids start with 8 strands and different color ways and progress to more strands and beading techniques. Also included are multiple braid techniques -- where sometimes two braids are made and then rejoined into one braid, etc. While the braids are shown made into necklaces, bracelets -- the techniques can be applied to any item you choose. This book has lots of ideas for inspiration or projects to follow. I am not fond of the mounting method for the disk--leaves a large hole in the cover.

This book is excellent. It's written in understandable language with great illustrations to show the placement of the cords on the kumi disk. There's also some great introductory info about supplies, at the start of the book. Highly recommended.

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 purchased this book last night and have already threaded my beads and ready to start 12 hours later. I am impressed with the new thread pathways that I haven't seen before, the books I have are just variations on a theme, this has new themes. There is not one thing wanting that I can find. It is set out in an organised fashion with loads of information that is available in the book, meaning I do not have to find another reference book for information to help me sort out a pattern, amount of

beads, or thread. The other reason I like this book is that it gives other thread alternatives which helps when you can't source or afford the items specified. The colour plates and text are very user friendly. I am really happy I bought this book.

I normally don't write a lot of reviews, I am not that good at it and lots of people write great reviews, but because I love this book so much, I want to tell you. I am a beginner, just started maybe a month ago with some other books and youtube videos. Then I found this book and I can't stop braiding. I use Satinique<sup>®</sup>, satin cord, 1mm, because it comes in wonderful colors and I love the look of my braids and they are quite inexpensive. This book has so many different patterns - up till now I only braided I think 4 different ones, but with different colors and they look great. It is very easy to understand, Thank you so much Beth Kemp for your wonderful work.

A book that I recently purchased on net making has me interested in making all sorts of things now! When I saw this beautiful guide to kumihimo I fell in love. I'm fairly sensitive to metals, so these unique pieces of beads and thread are hypoallergenic AND beautiful! If you are looking to personalize your jewelry box, make gifts, or sell handmade accessories, this book will blow your mind! Included with the book are a kumihimo disc and over 50 different detailed projects. All you need to buy is the thread and beads. Projects vary in skill level so there are plenty of options, and soon you'll be designing your own pieces. (if you want to learn how to make netting, ropes, bags, and hammocks check out - Net Making)

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.

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