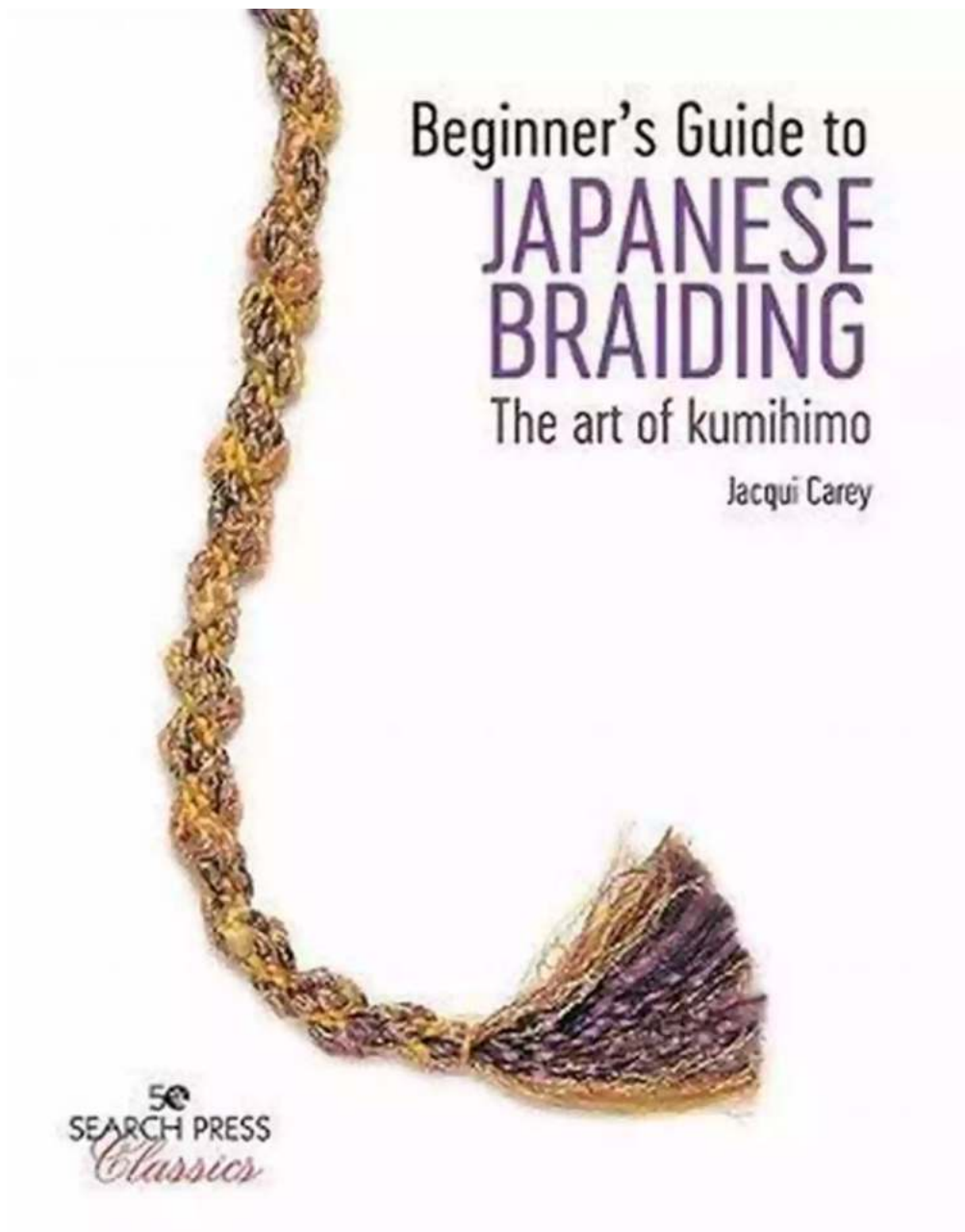


The Ultimate Beginner Guide To Japanese Braiding: Master the Art of Kumihimo

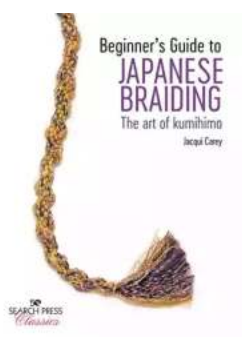


Are you fascinated by the intricate braids you see in traditional Japanese jewelry and accessories? If so, you're not alone! Japanese braiding, also known as kumihimo, is an ancient technique that dates back over 1,000 years. With its rich

history and stunning designs, it's no wonder that this art form has gained popularity all around the world.

What is Kumihimo?

Kumihimo is a Japanese term that translates to "gathered threads." It refers to the technique of interlacing colorful threads or cords to create beautiful and intricate braids. These braids are often used in various applications such as jewelry, belts, and home decor items.



Beginner's Guide to Japanese Braiding: The art of kumihimo (Search Press Classics)

by Jacqui Carey([Print Replica] Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 151960 KB

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 64 pages



The History of Japanese Braiding

The art of Japanese braiding originated in the 7th century and was initially used for functional purposes such as tying armor and securing clothing. Over time, this utilitarian technique evolved into an intricate and decorative art form. Braids began to be used as fashion accessories and symbols of status and wealth.

The samurai class played a crucial role in the development of kumihimo. They utilized braids as ornamental cords for their armor and swords, as well as markers of clan identity. This elevated the status of Japanese braiding, making it a sought-after skill among artisans.

Getting Started: Materials and Tools

Before you can start braiding, you'll need to gather a few essential materials and tools. Here's a list of what you'll need:

- A kumihimo disc or marudai (a traditional braiding stand)
- Silk threads (known as "kumihimo yarn") or thicker cords
- Bobbins or small spools to hold the threads
- A weight or counterweight (if using a marudai)
- Scissors
- Optional: beads or charms to incorporate into your braids

Basic Kumihimo Techniques

There are various kumihimo techniques you can try as a beginner. One of the most common ones is the round braid, which creates a circular or tubular braid.

To start, follow these steps:

1. Prepare your threads and tie them together at one end, leaving a small loop for attachment.
2. Place the threads through the center hole of the kumihimo disc or attach them to the marudai.
3. Arrange the threads on the disc according to your desired pattern. You can experiment with different color combinations!
4. Follow the specific thread path on the disc to create the desired braid structure. This involves moving the threads from one slot to another.
5. Continue braiding until you reach your desired length.

6. Tie off the braid, and your beautiful kumihimo creation is complete!

Taking Your Skills to the Next Level

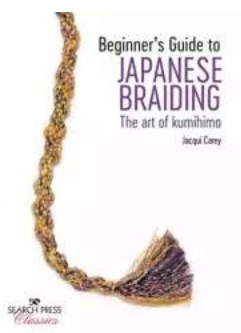
Once you've become comfortable with the basic kumihimo techniques, you can explore more advanced patterns and designs. Some popular options include:

- Hollow braids: These braids have a tubular structure and can be used to create stunning necklace designs.
- Flat braids: Also known as beaded braids, they incorporate beads into the braiding process, resulting in intricate and eye-catching designs.
- Twist braids: This technique involves twisting the threads before braiding, creating a unique and textured appearance.

Japanese braiding, or kumihimo, is a captivating art form that allows you to unleash your creativity while creating stunning braids. With practice and patience, you can master this ancient technique and incorporate it into your jewelry collection, home decor, and more. So why not give it a try? Get your kumihimo materials ready and embark on a journey into the world of Japanese braiding today!

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Kumihimo is the ancient art of Japanese braidmaking; admired for its dual qualities of usefulness and beauty, and associated with both fashion and the samurai.

In this revised and updated edition of her classic instructional book, Jacqui Carey teaches the use of a marudai (round stand) to produce a variety of different types of braids, which can then be used to create countless combinations of colour, texture and material. Clear step-by-step photographs guide the beginner through each of the projects, and many inspirational examples of the variety you can create are shown.

The rhythmic movements, feel and sound of the marudai in use make this traditional craft a soothing, absorbing and aesthetically pleasing experience; perfect for weaving a calm area in your day.



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