



Making Half Knots & Square Knots

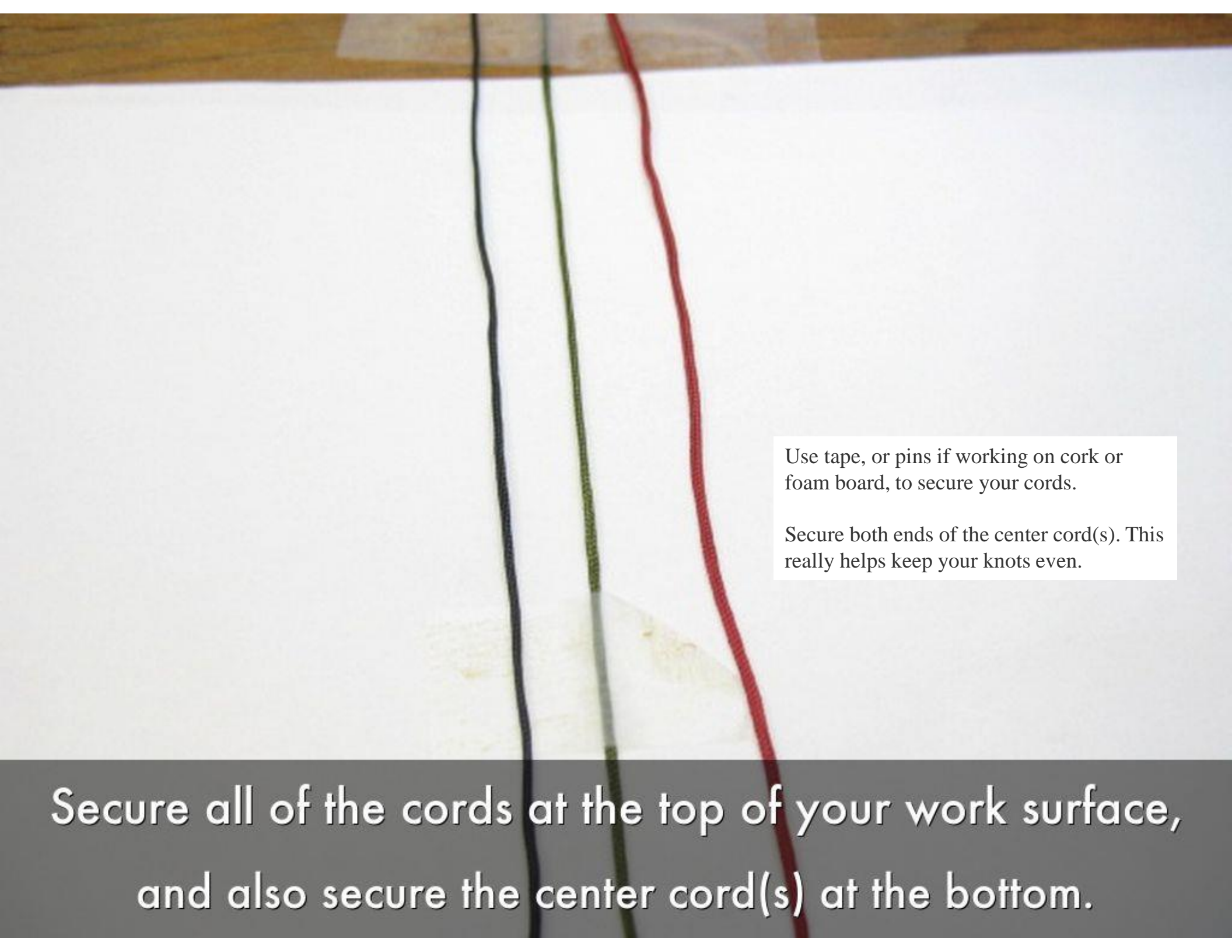
a Step-by-Step pictorial

A pictorial step-by-step in four parts:

- Half knots
- Square knots
- Adding beads
- Square knots for sliding closure



Part 1: Half knots: the first part to making square knots



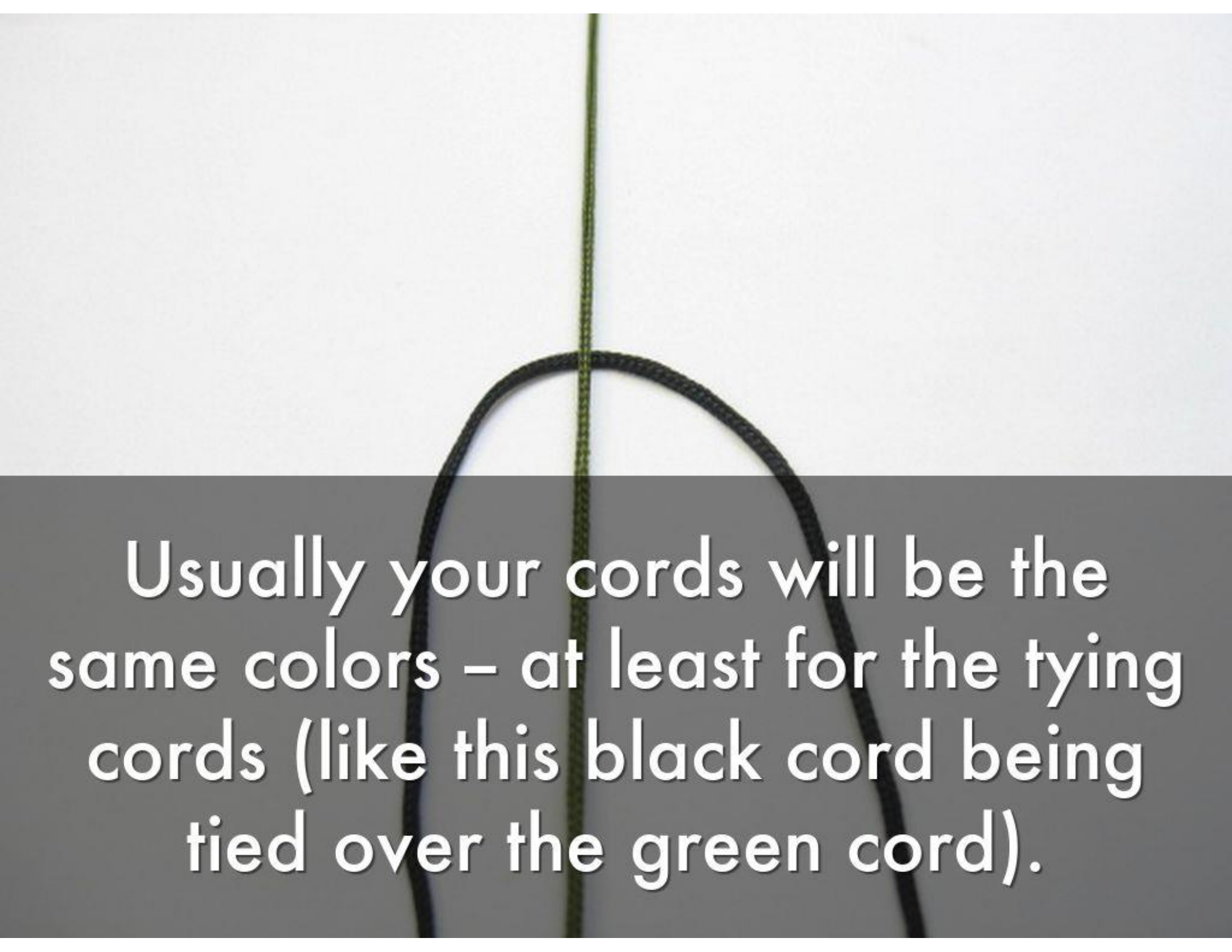
Use tape, or pins if working on cork or foam board, to secure your cords.

Secure both ends of the center cord(s). This really helps keep your knots even.

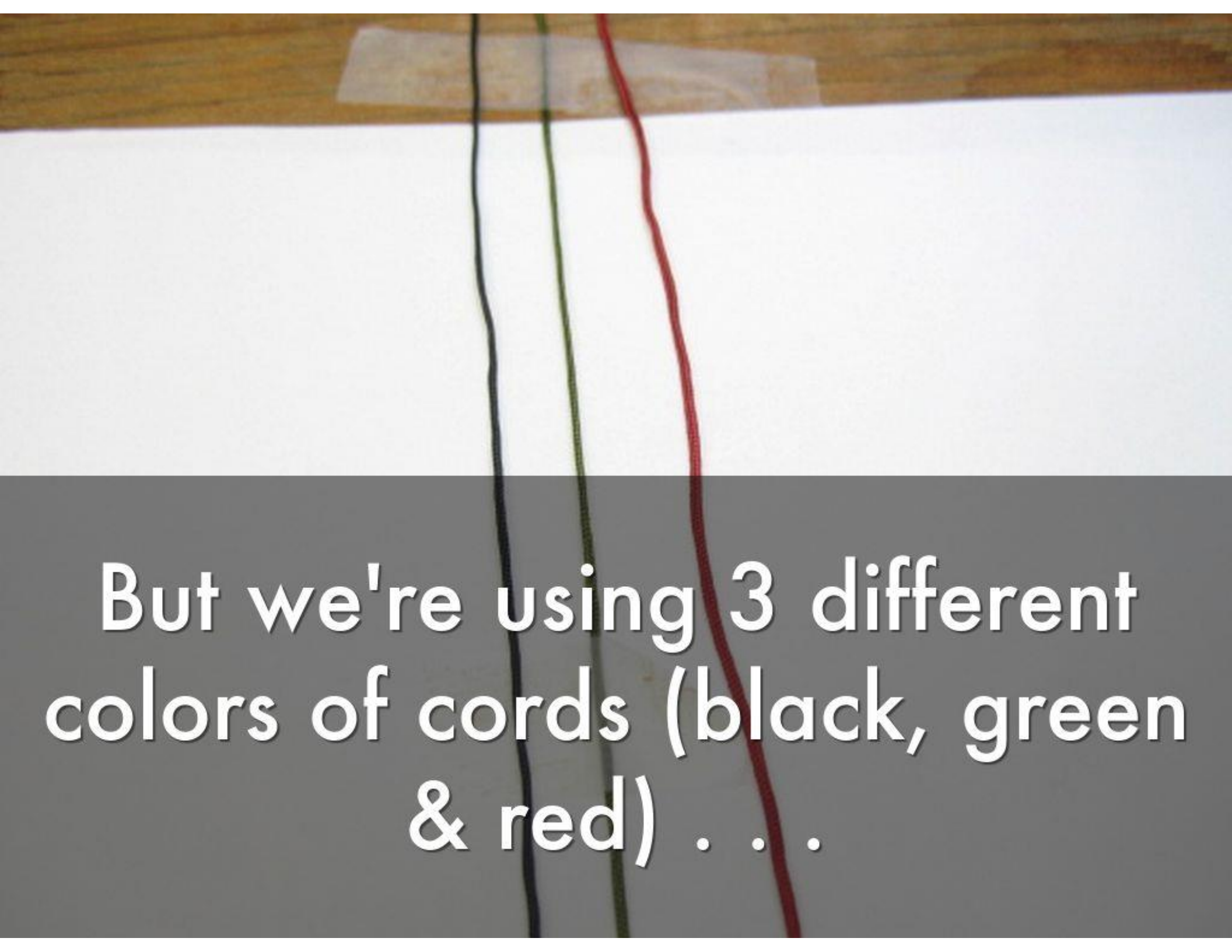
Secure all of the cords at the top of your work surface,
and also secure the center cord(s) at the bottom.



Side note: Usually your cords will be attached to a finding, like this split ring. And,

A photograph showing two cords against a white background. A thin green cord runs vertically from the top to the bottom. A thicker black cord is tied over the green cord, forming a large loop that crosses itself. The text is overlaid on a dark grey horizontal band across the middle of the image.

Usually your cords will be the same colors – at least for the tying cords (like this black cord being tied over the green cord).

A photograph showing three vertical cords of different colors (black, green, and red) hanging from a wooden surface. A piece of clear tape is attached to the wood, securing the cords. The background is a plain white surface. A semi-transparent grey box with white text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

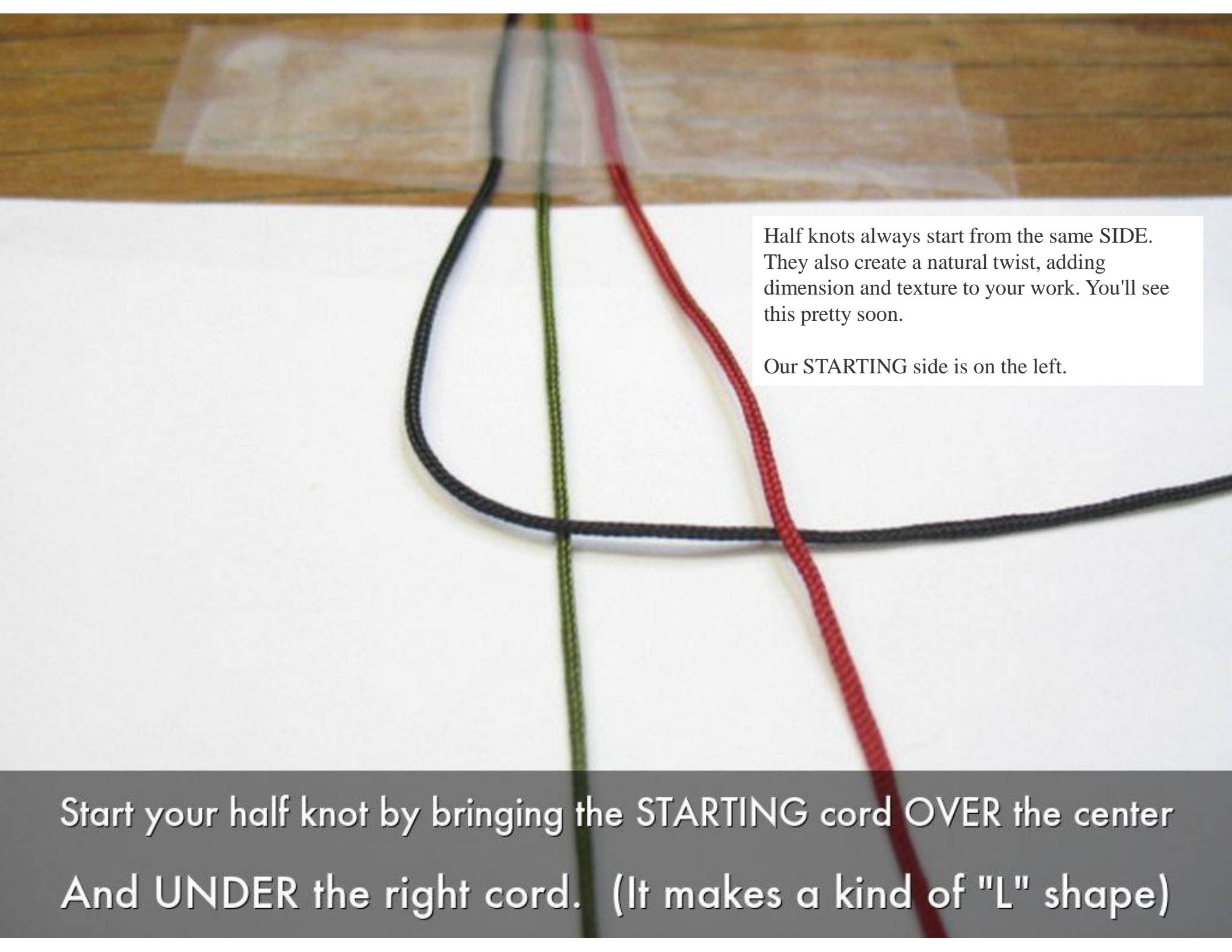
But we're using 3 different colors of cords (black, green & red) . . .

. . . to help you

1. keep track

2. of each

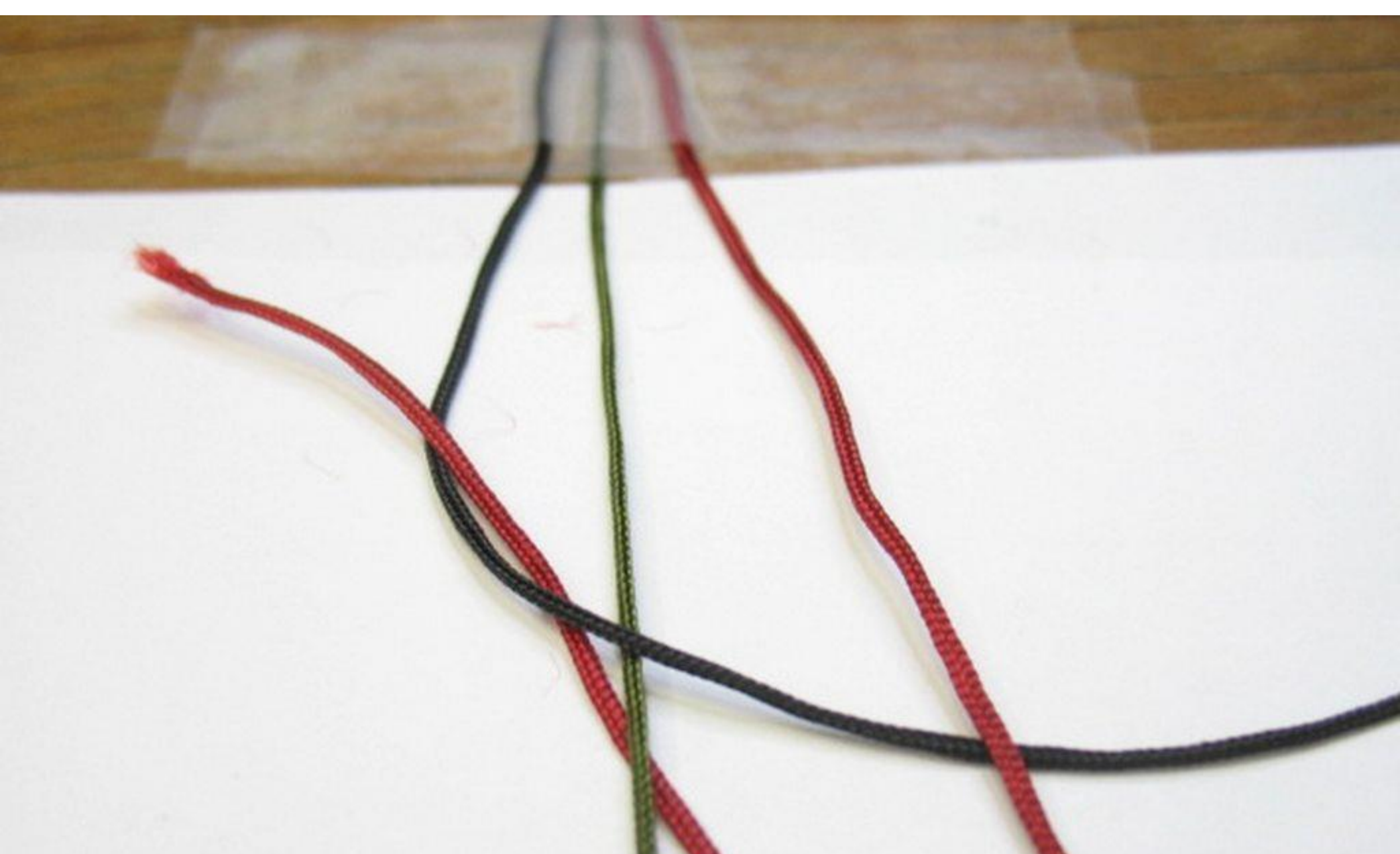
3. step

The image shows three cords of different colors: black, green, and red. They are laid out on a white surface. The black cord is positioned to form an 'L' shape, starting from the left, going up, then right, and then down. The green cord is a straight vertical line in the center. The red cord is a straight diagonal line from the top right towards the bottom left. A white text box is overlaid on the right side of the image, and a dark grey text box is at the bottom.

Half knots always start from the same SIDE.
They also create a natural twist, adding
dimension and texture to your work. You'll see
this pretty soon.

Our STARTING side is on the left.

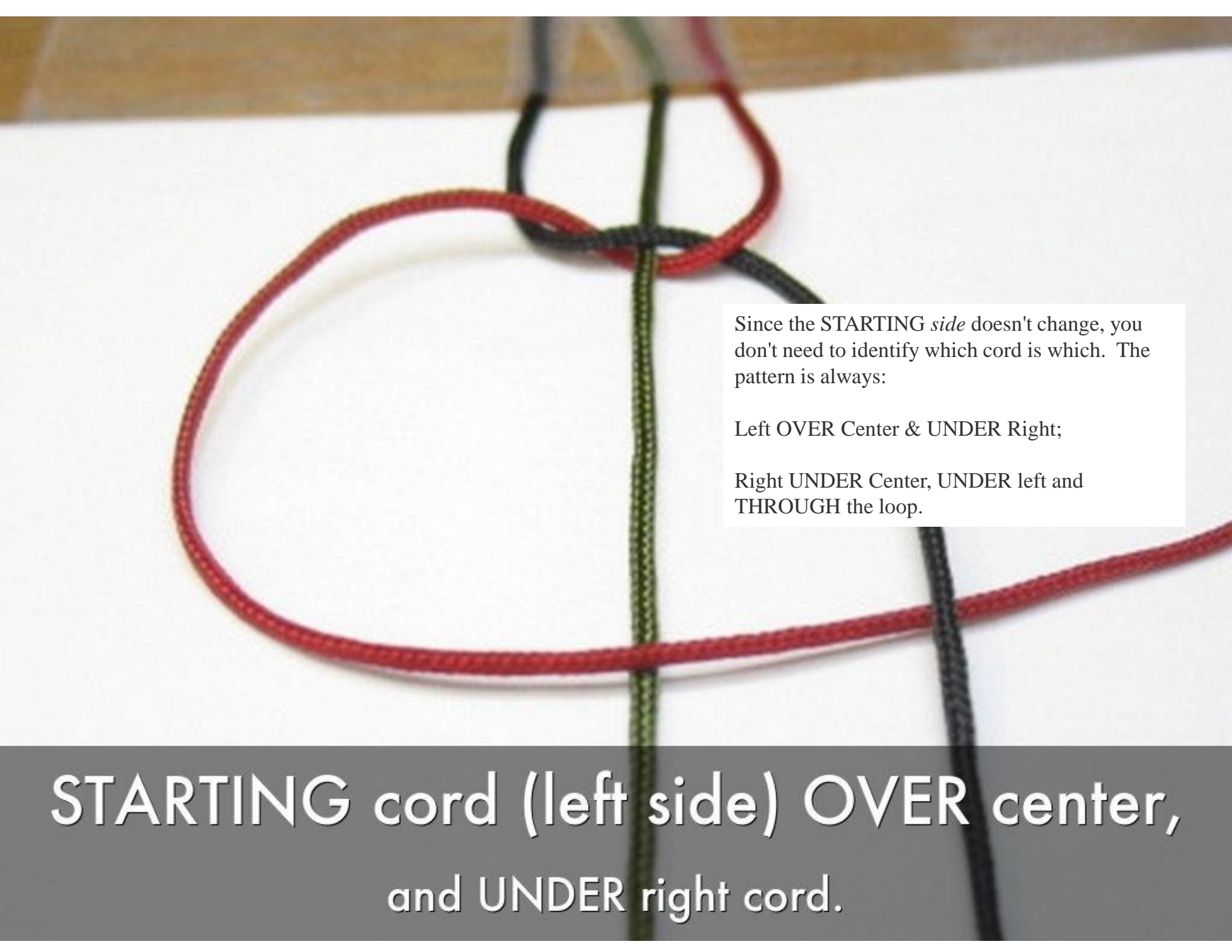
Start your half knot by bringing the STARTING cord OVER the center
And UNDER the right cord. (It makes a kind of "L" shape)



Bring the right cord (red) UNDER the center cord,
UNDER the STARTING cord and THROUGH the loop



Pull cords snug. You have made one half knot.

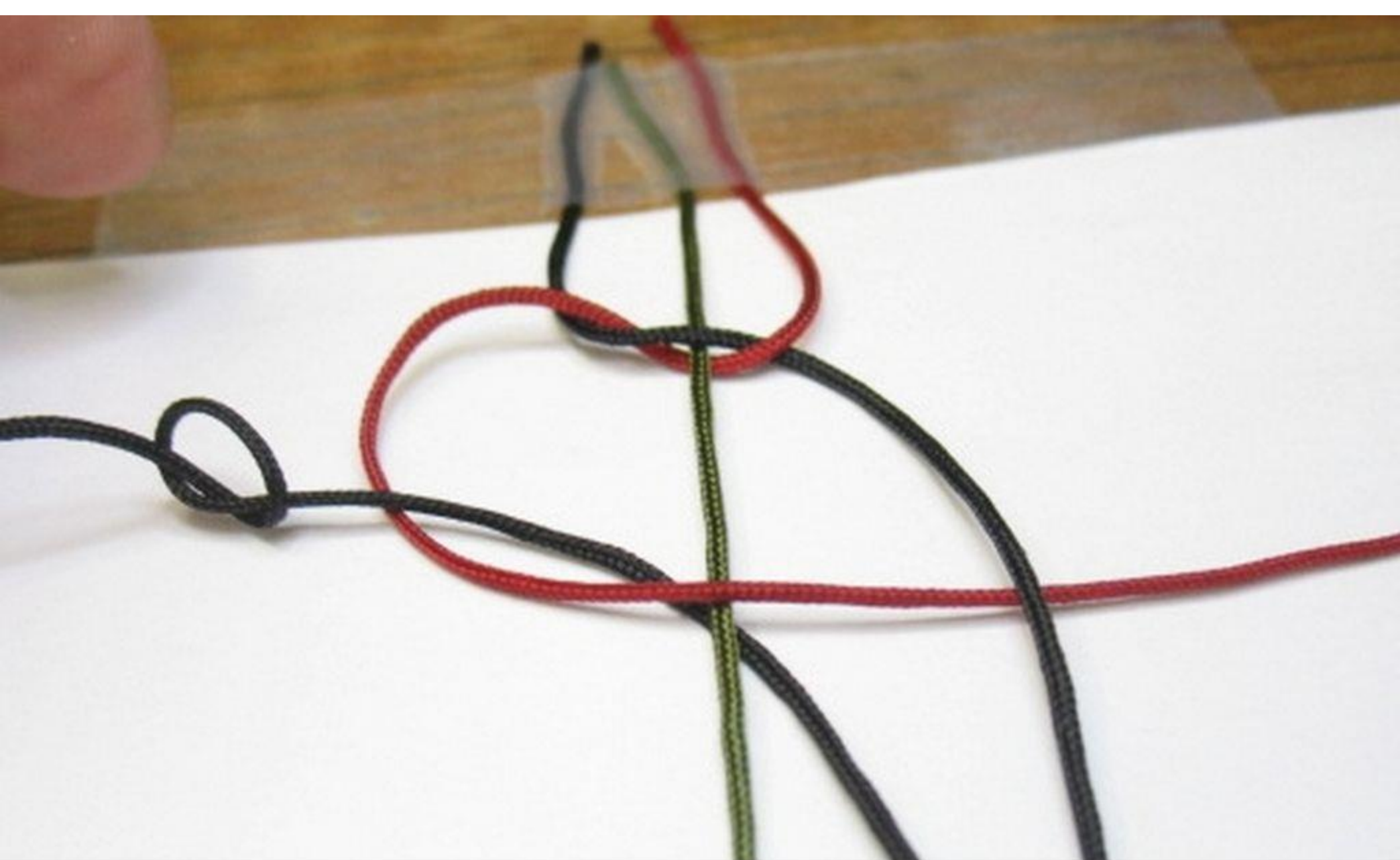


Since the *STARTING side* doesn't change, you don't need to identify which cord is which. The pattern is always:

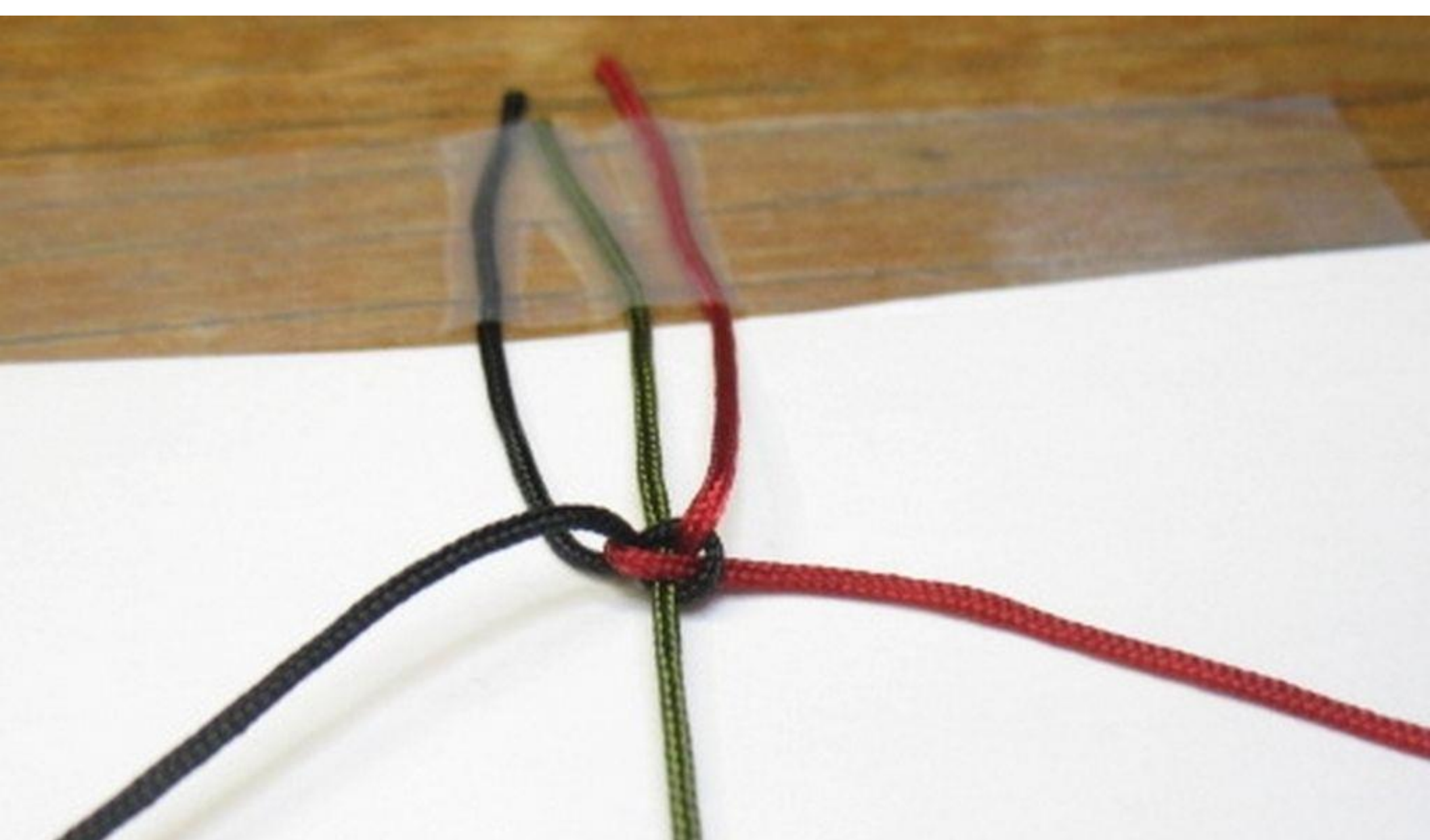
Left **OVER** Center & **UNDER** Right;

Right **UNDER** Center, **UNDER** left and **THROUGH** the loop.

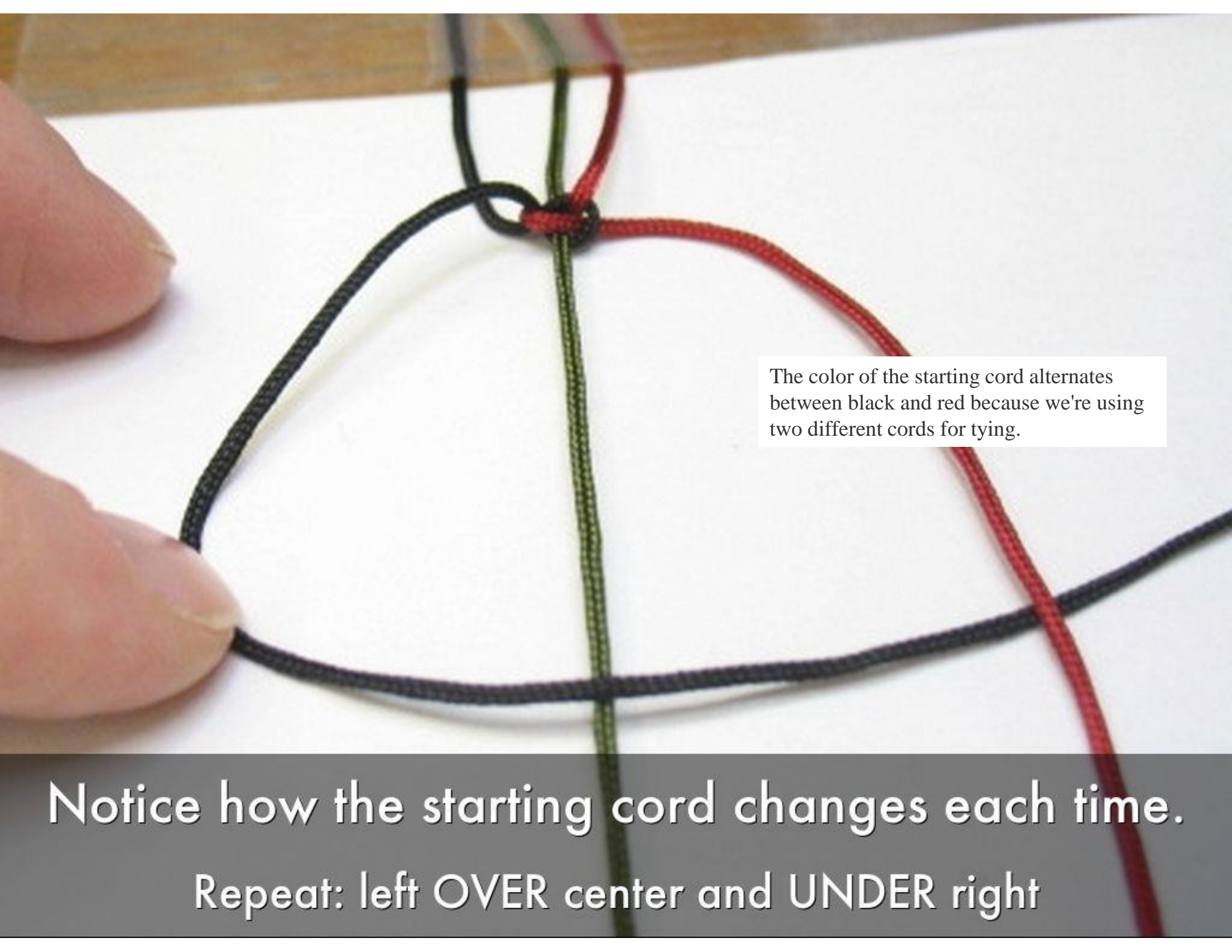
STARTING cord (left side) **OVER** center,
and **UNDER** right cord.



Right cord UNDER center, UNDER STARTING cord,
and THROUGH the loop.



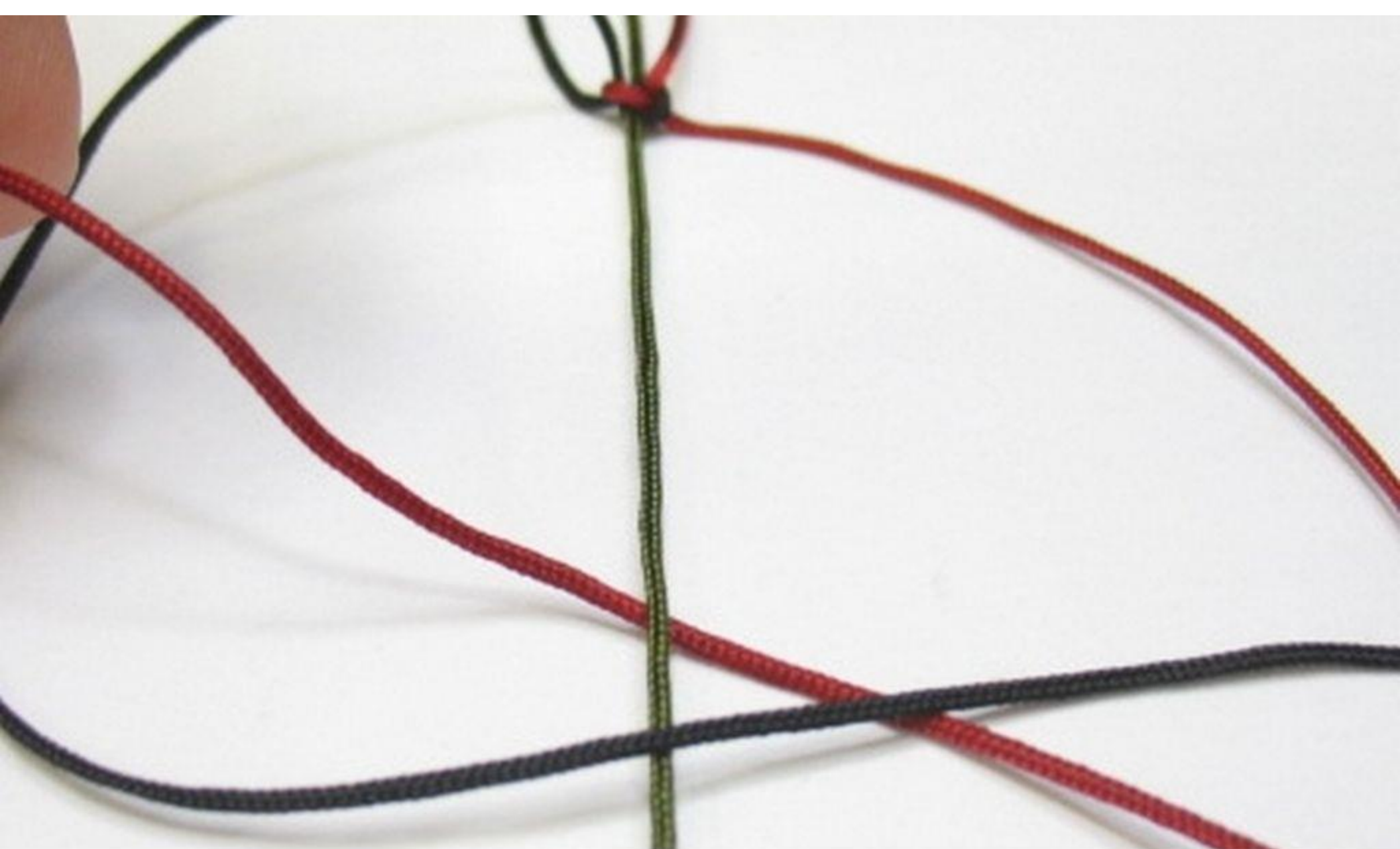
Pull snug, and you have finished
two half knots



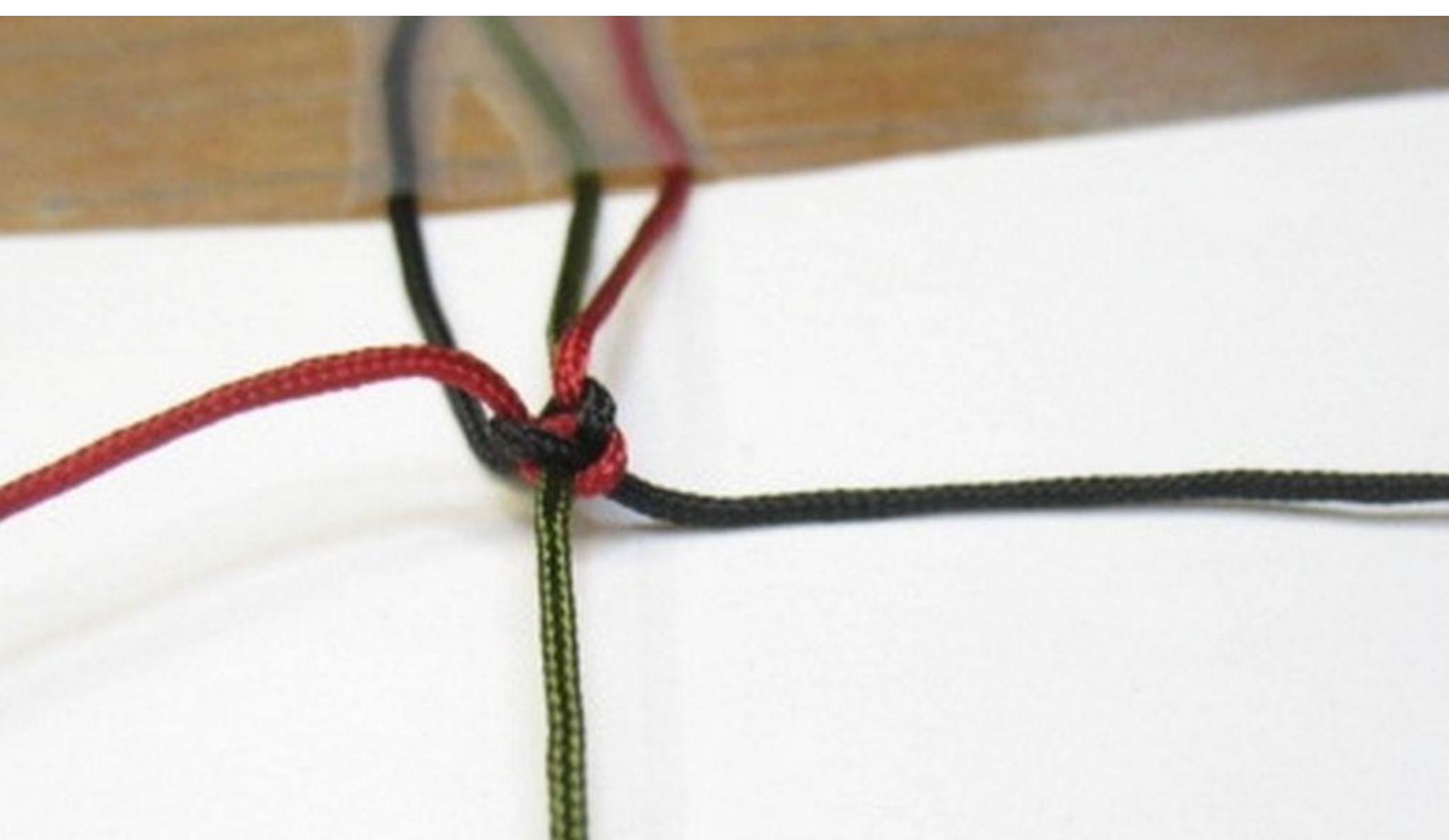
The color of the starting cord alternates between black and red because we're using two different cords for tying.

Notice how the starting cord changes each time.

Repeat: left OVER center and UNDER right

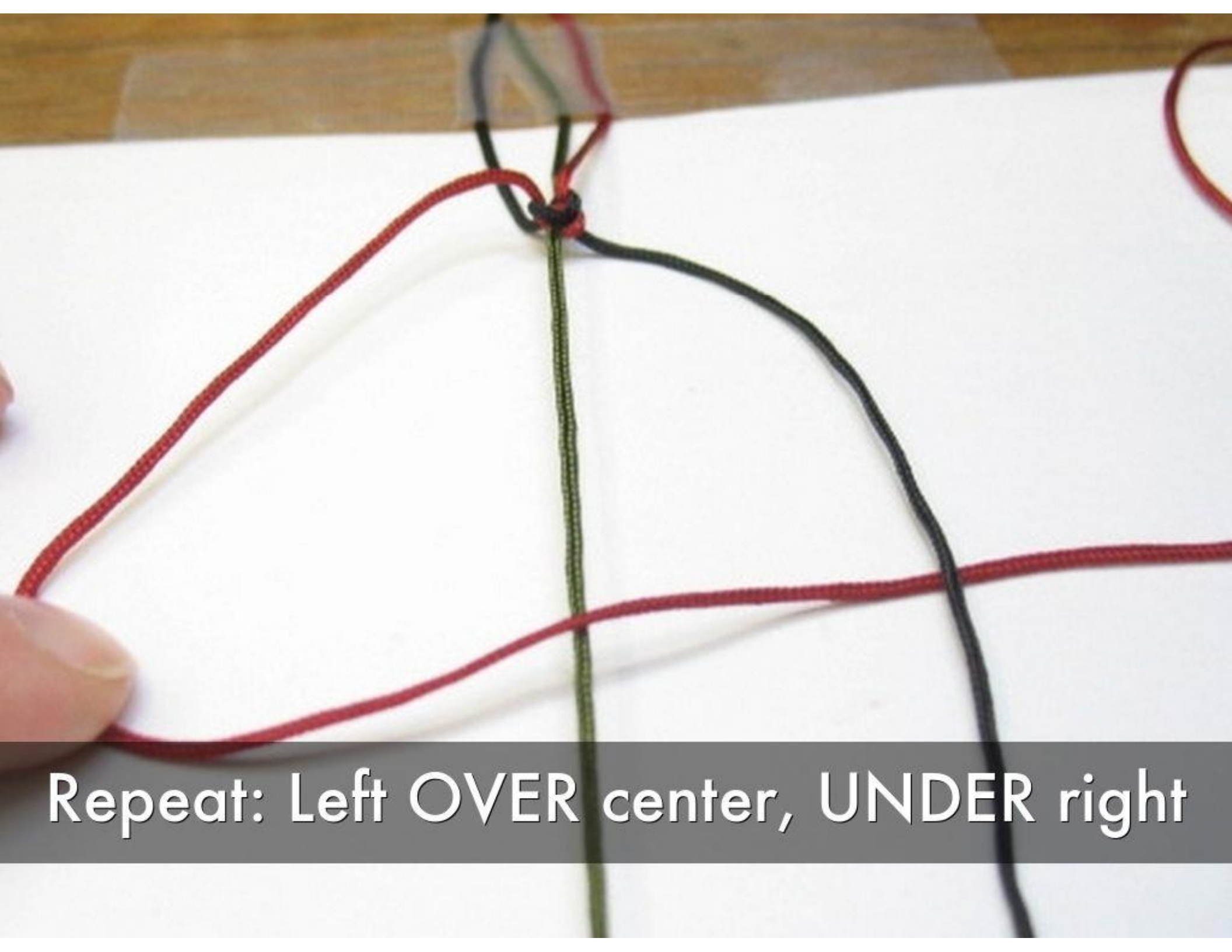


Right cord UNDER center, UNDER left cord
and THROUGH the loop

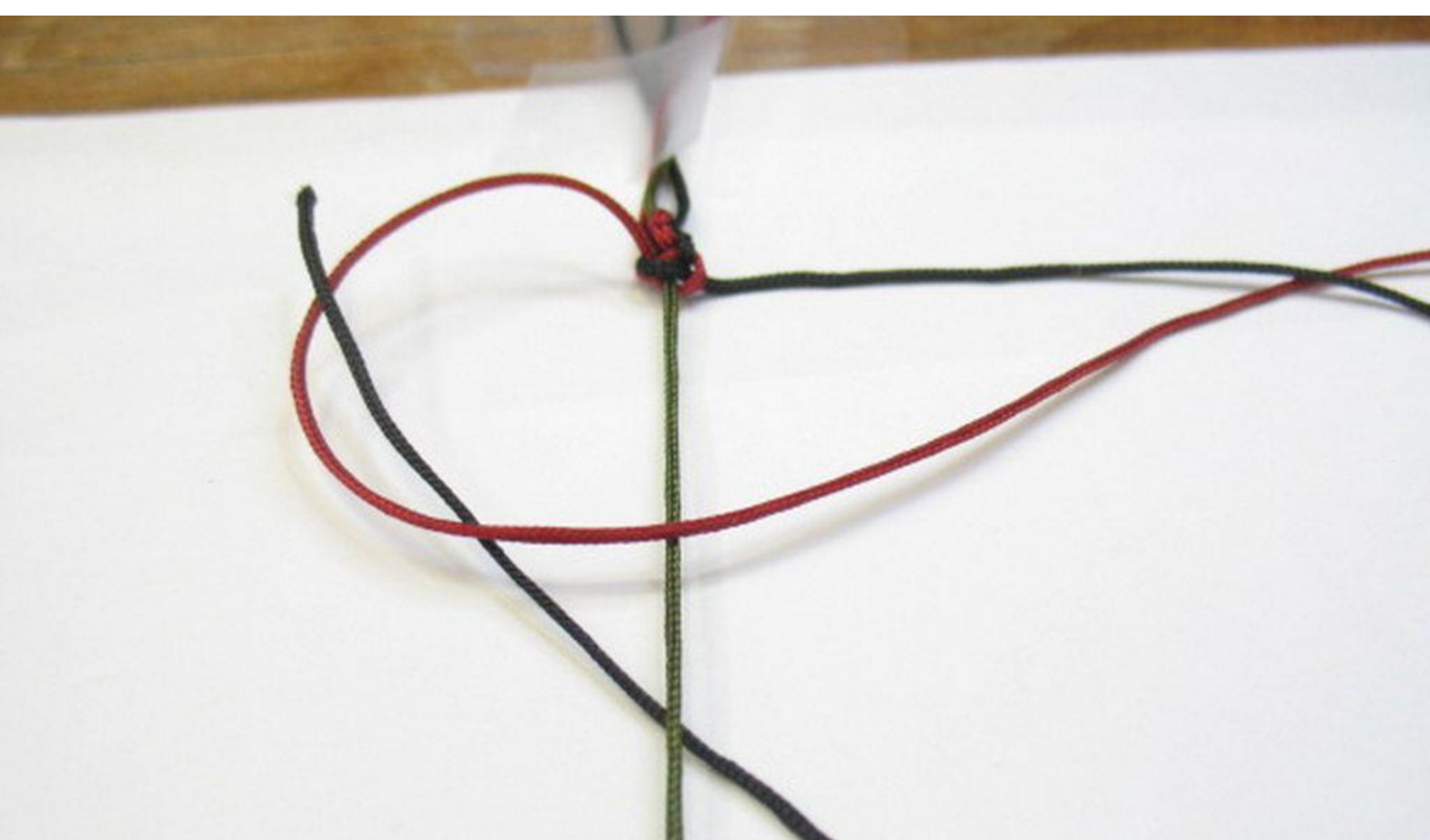


Pull snug. Another half knot.

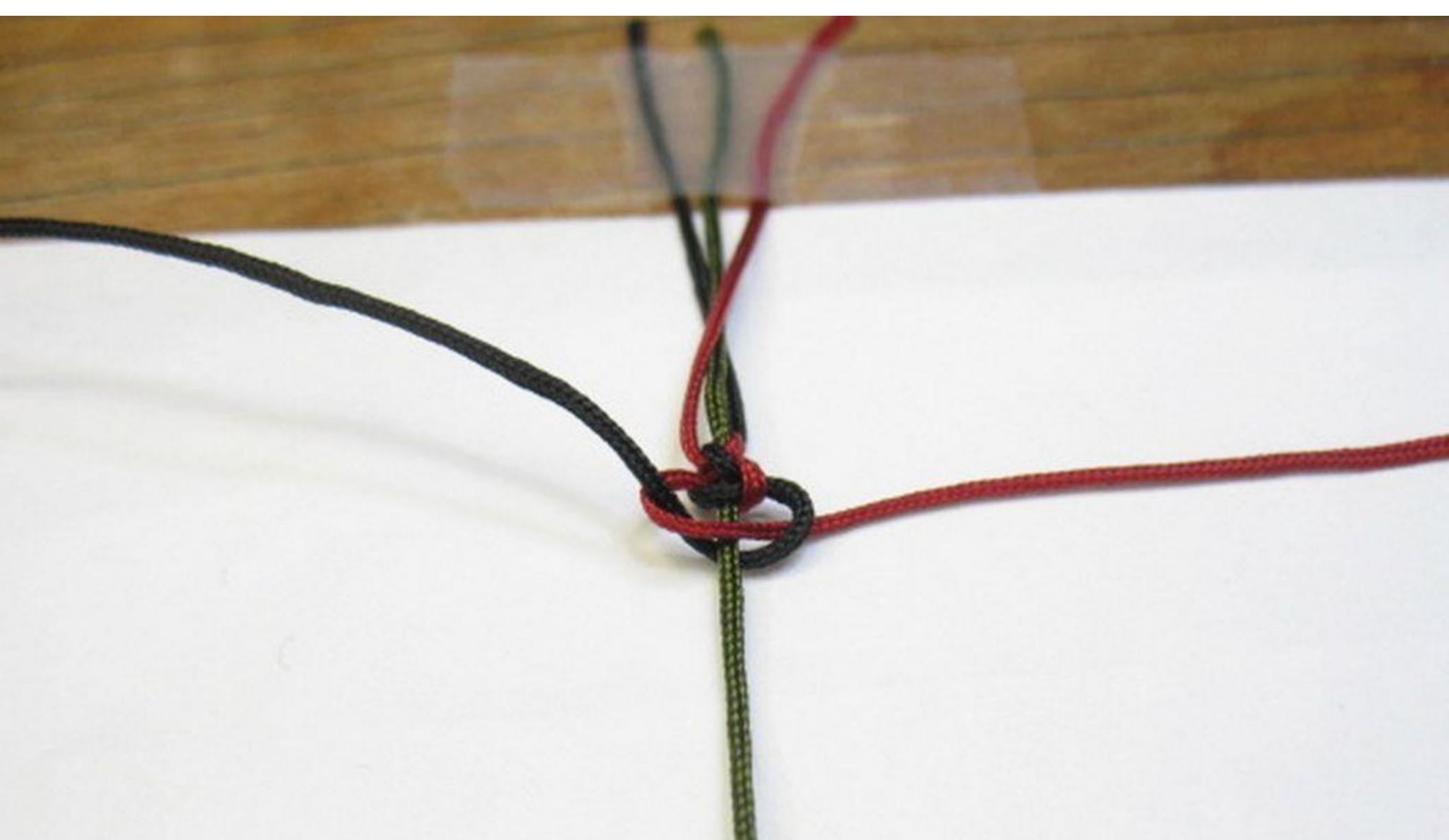
See the twist starting?



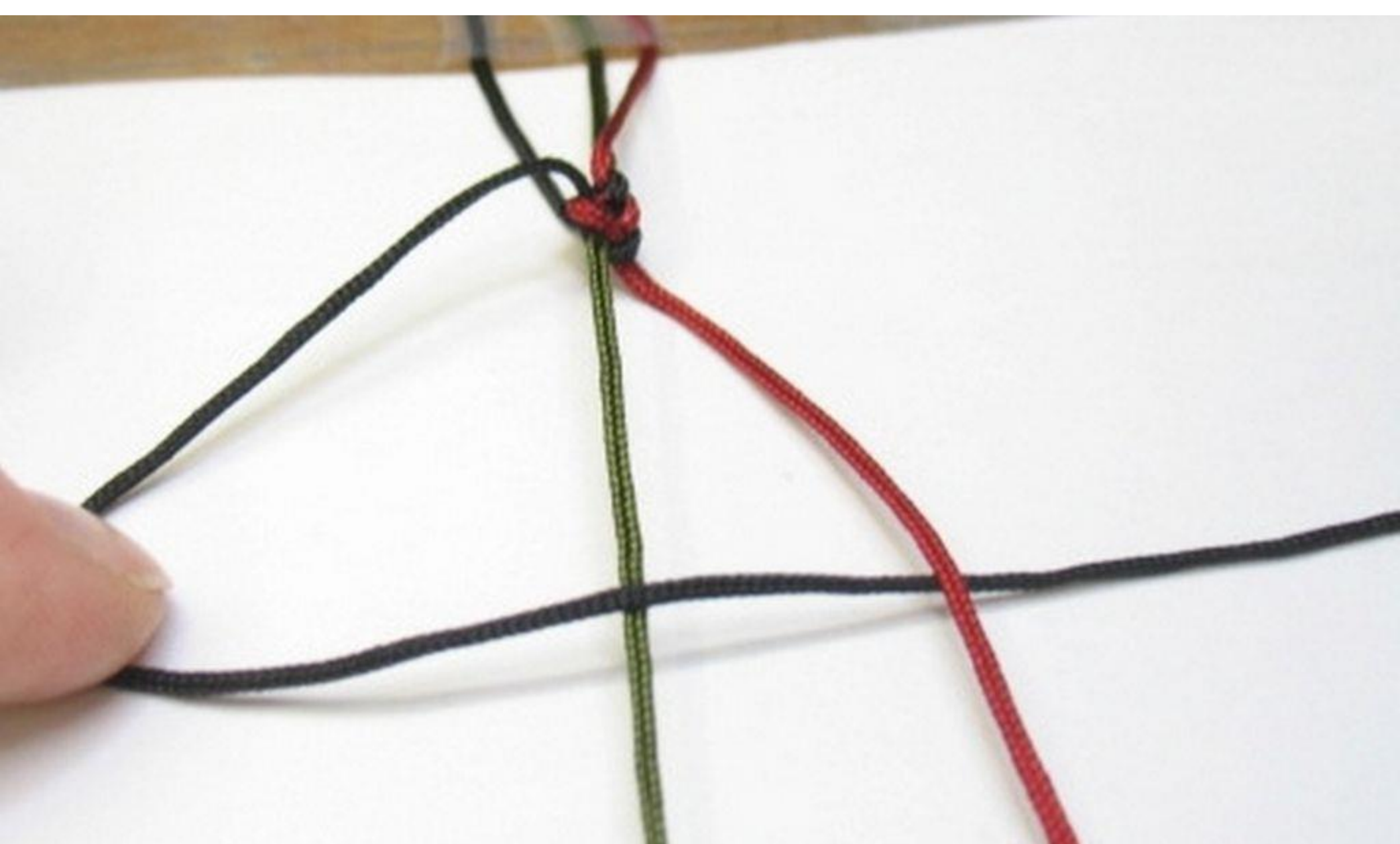
Repeat: Left OVER center, UNDER right



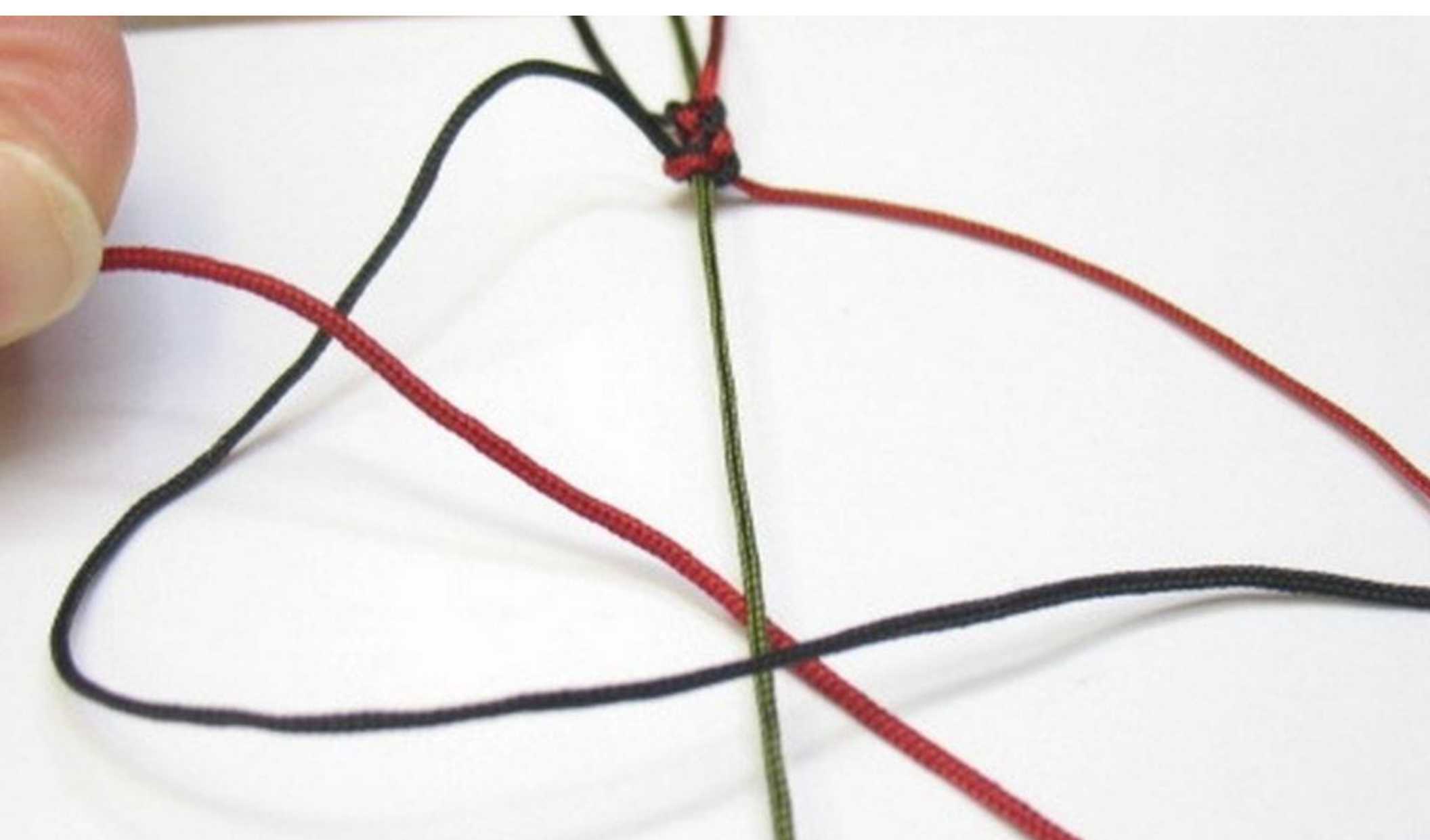
Right UNDER center, UNDER left
and THROUGH the loop



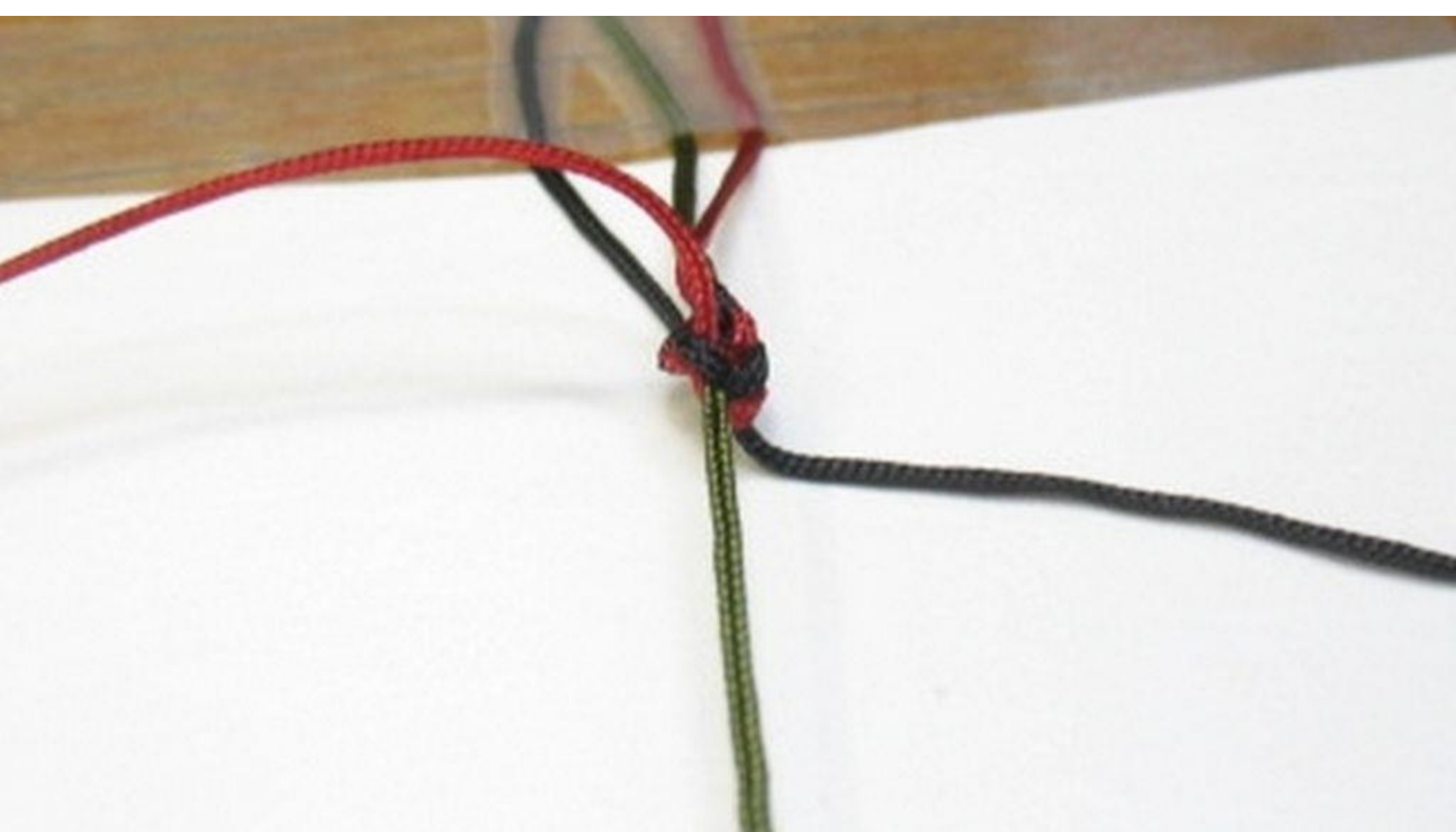
Pull snug for another half knot



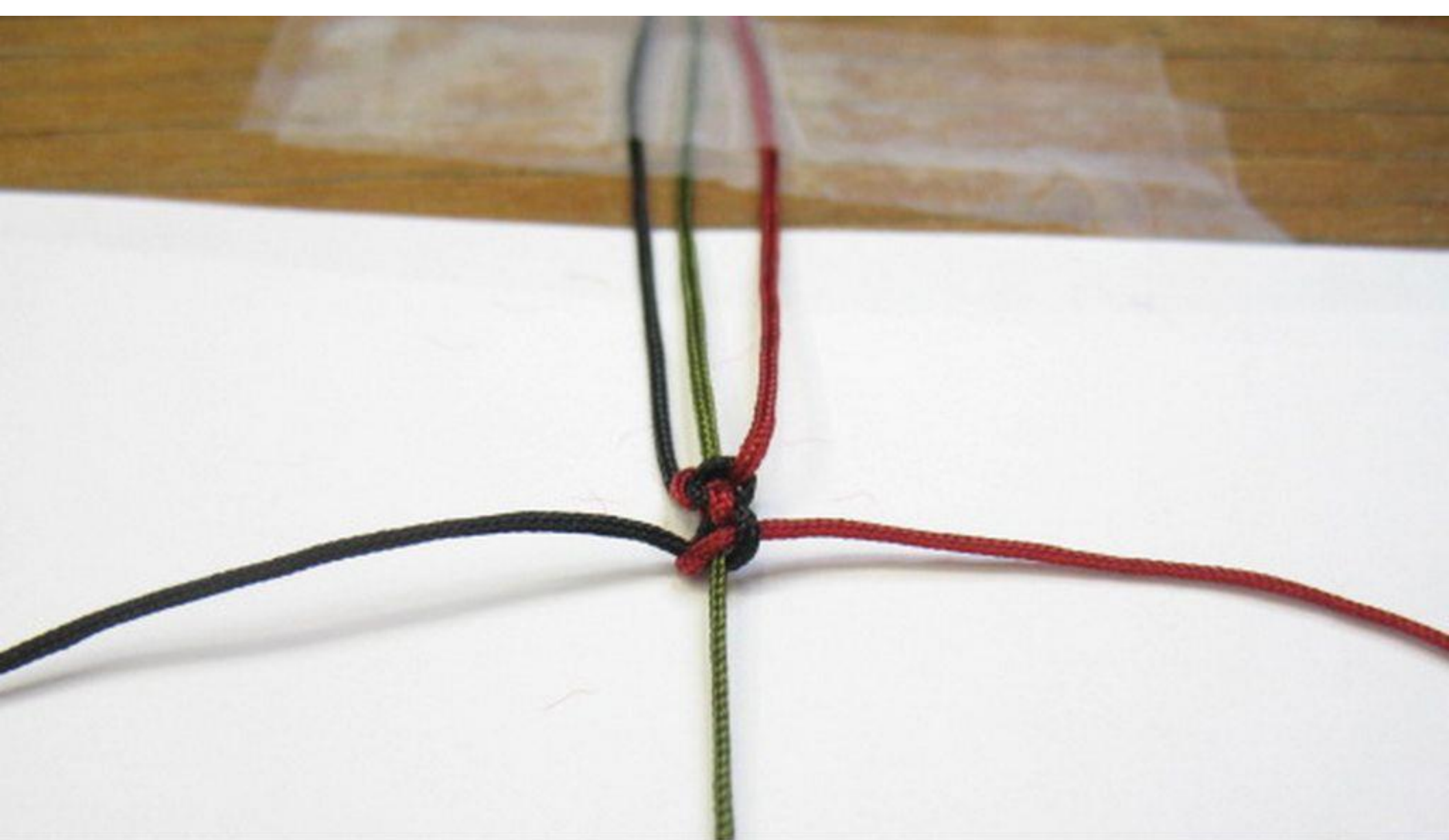
Repeat: Left OVER center and UNDER right



Right UNDER center, UNDER left,
and THROUGH the loop



When it starts to twist . . .



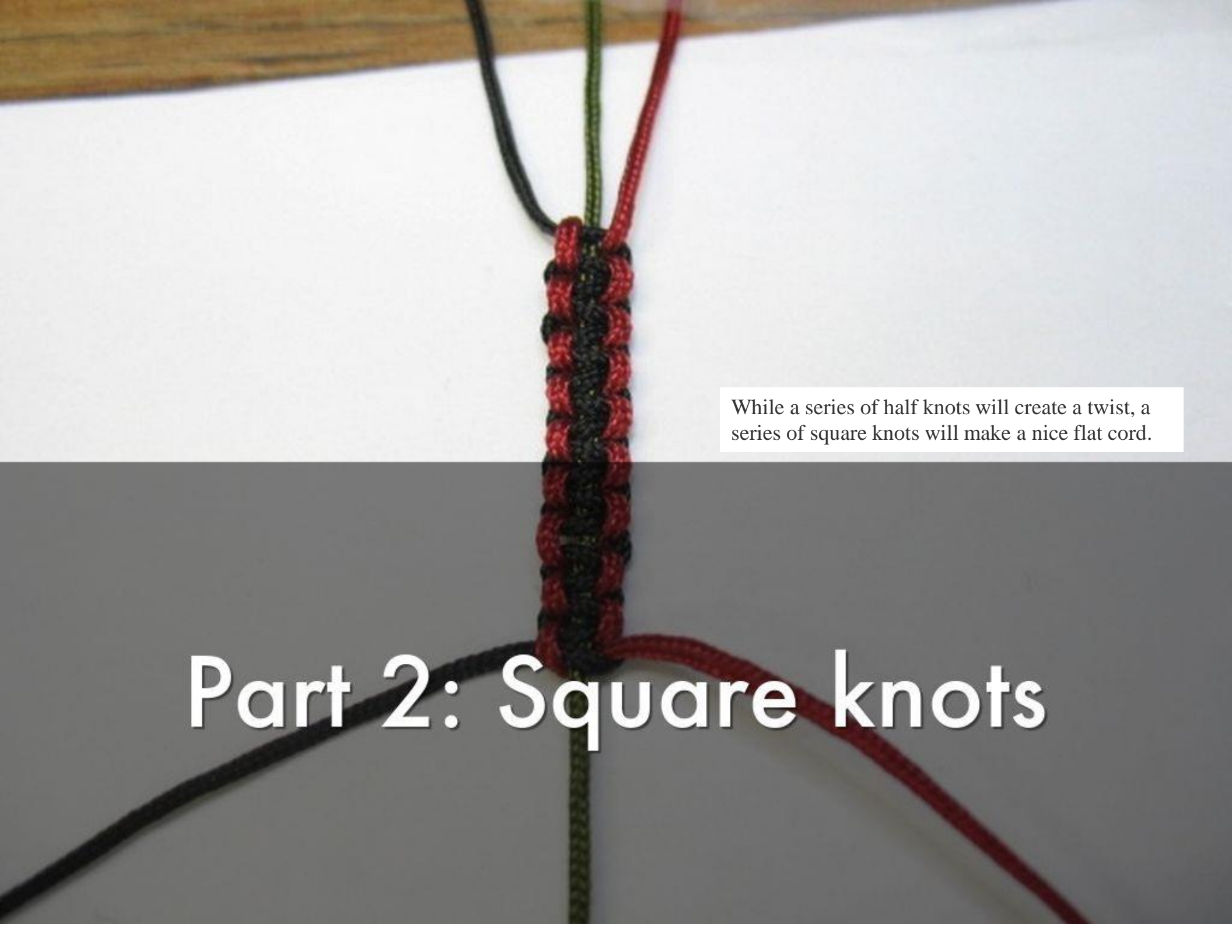
go ahead and flip it around

You'll need to do this about every 4th or 5th knot

A vertical series of half knots made from red, black, and green ropes. The knots are arranged in a vertical line, with a red rope on the left, a black rope on the right, and a green rope in the center. The knots are made by crossing the red and black ropes over the green rope, creating a series of half knots. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

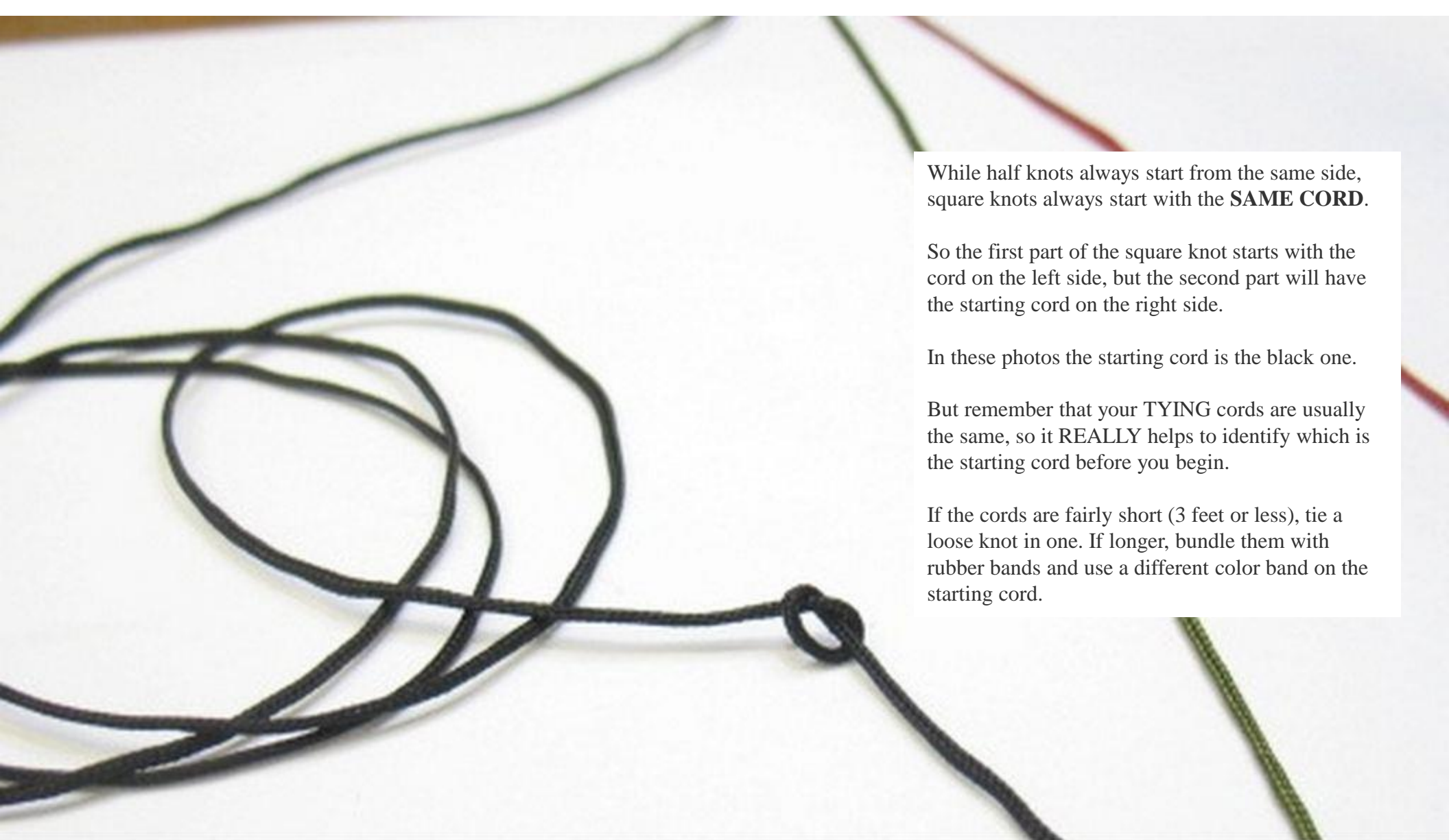
Here is your series of half knots

Cool, huh?



While a series of half knots will create a twist, a series of square knots will make a nice flat cord.

Part 2: Square knots



While half knots always start from the same side, square knots always start with the **SAME CORD**.

So the first part of the square knot starts with the cord on the left side, but the second part will have the starting cord on the right side.

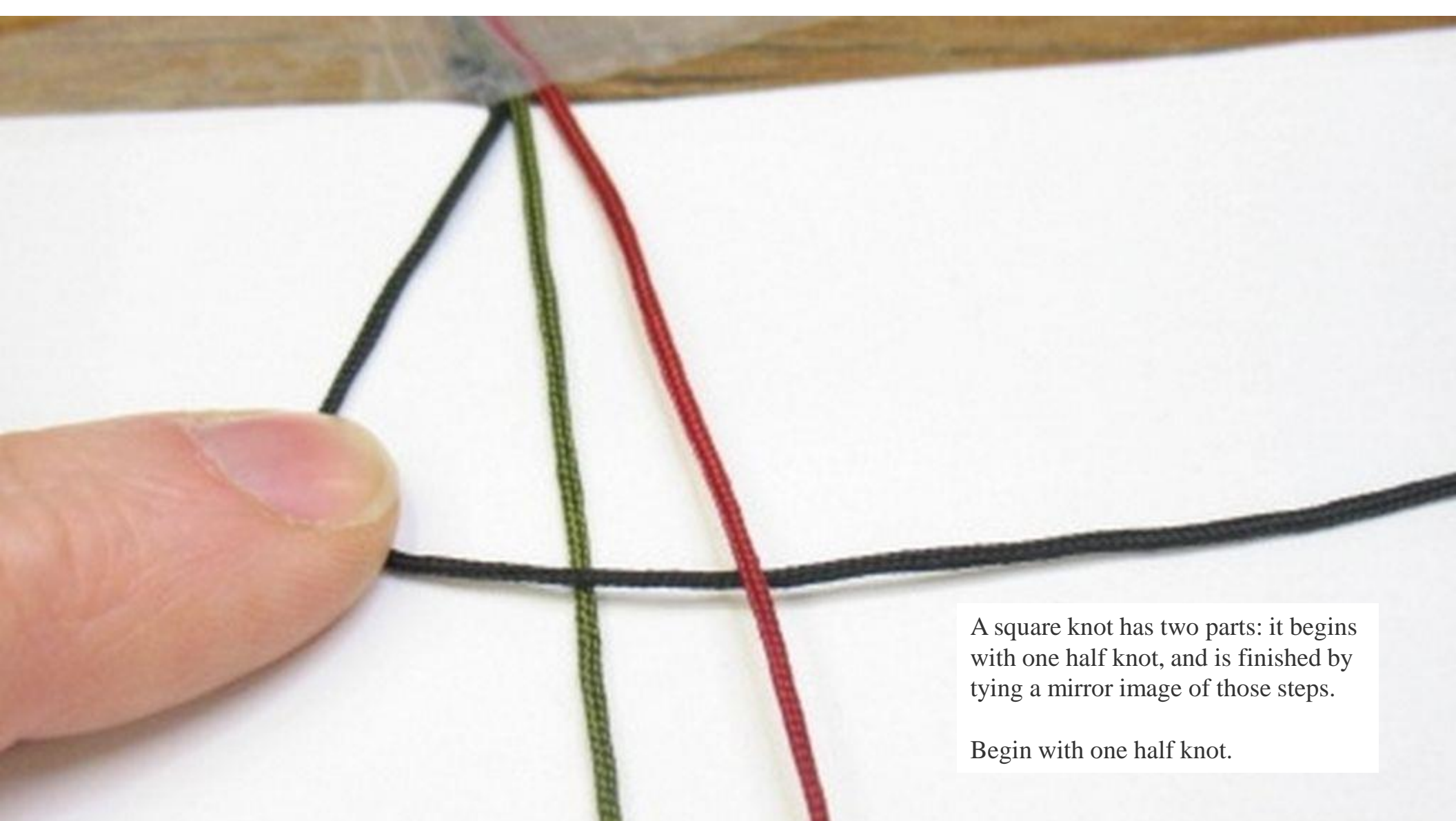
In these photos the starting cord is the black one.

But remember that your TYING cords are usually the same, so it REALLY helps to identify which is the starting cord before you begin.

If the cords are fairly short (3 feet or less), tie a loose knot in one. If longer, bundle them with rubber bands and use a different color band on the starting cord.

Before starting square knots

Identify your **STARTING** cord.

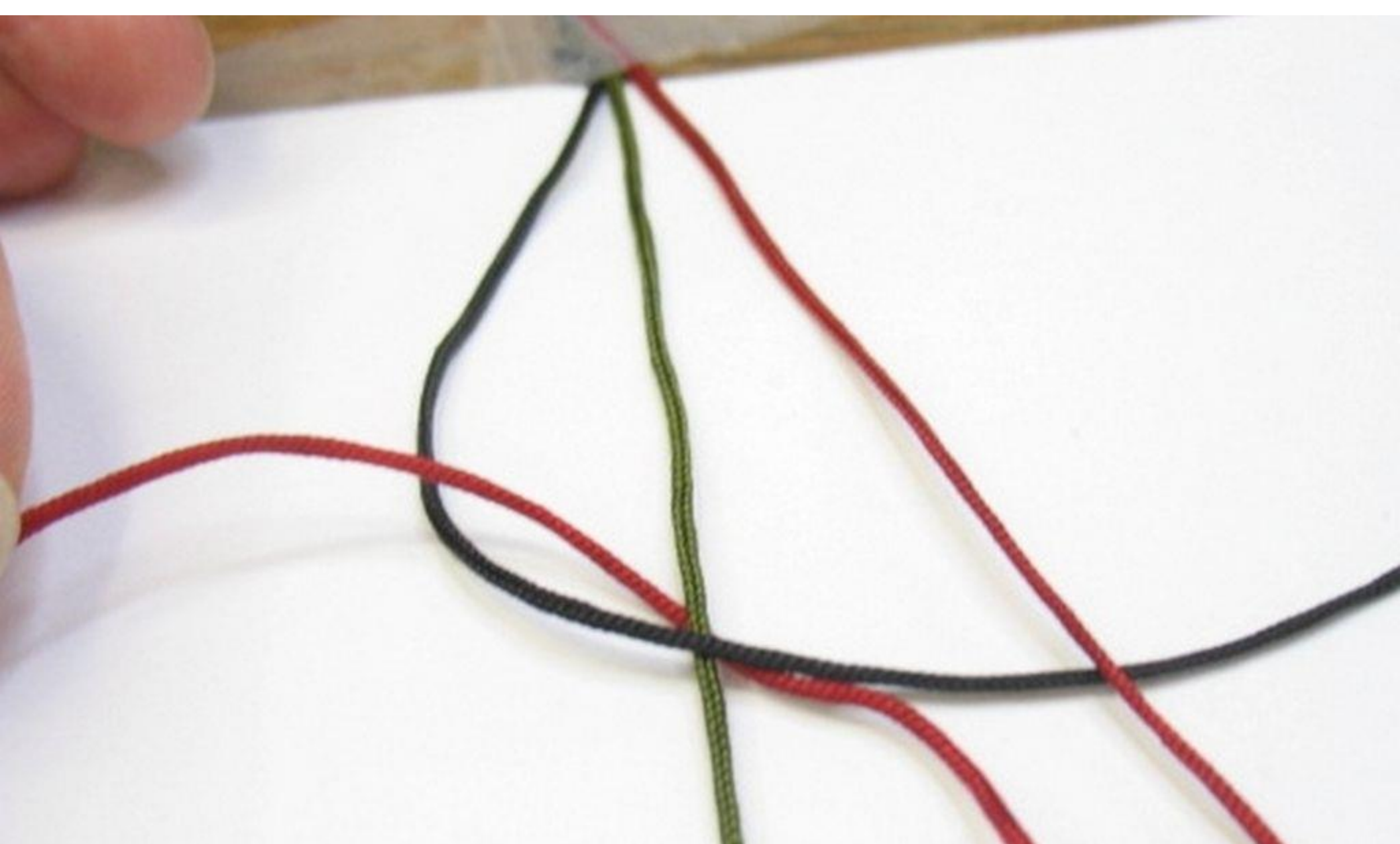


A square knot has two parts: it begins with one half knot, and is finished by tying a mirror image of those steps.

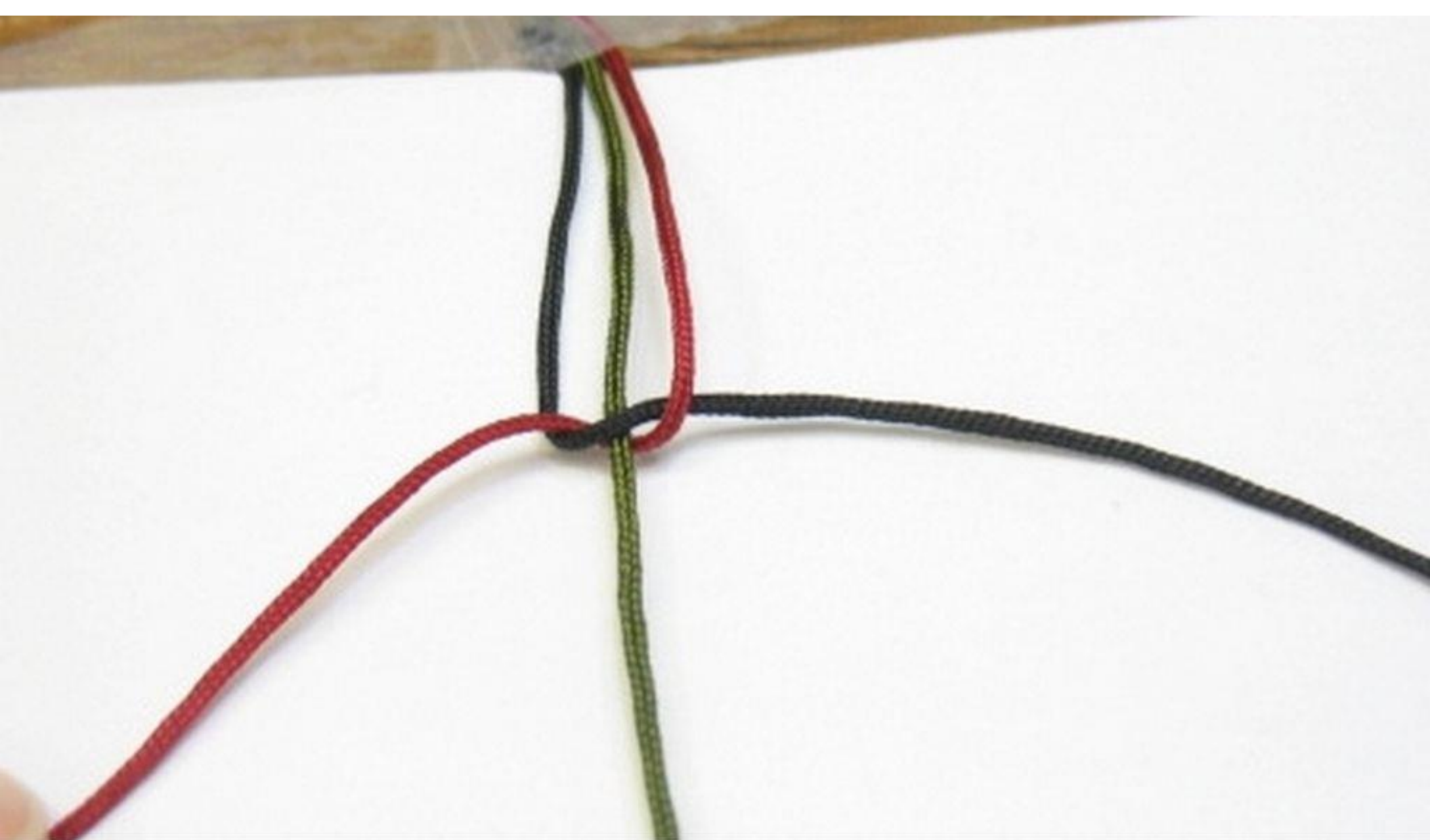
Begin with one half knot.

Start with one half knot:

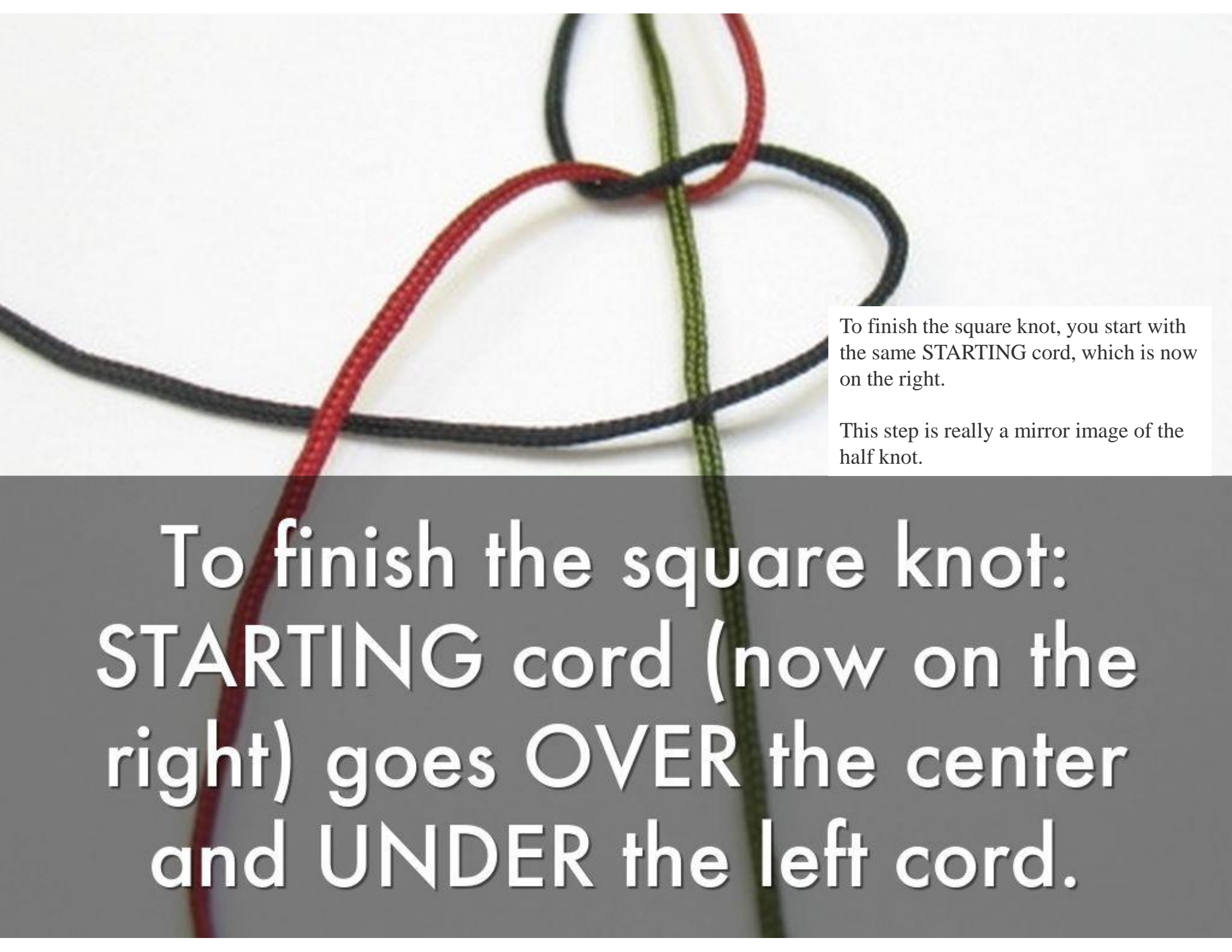
Left cord OVER center and UNDER right



Right cord UNDER center, UNDER starting cord
and THROUGH the loop



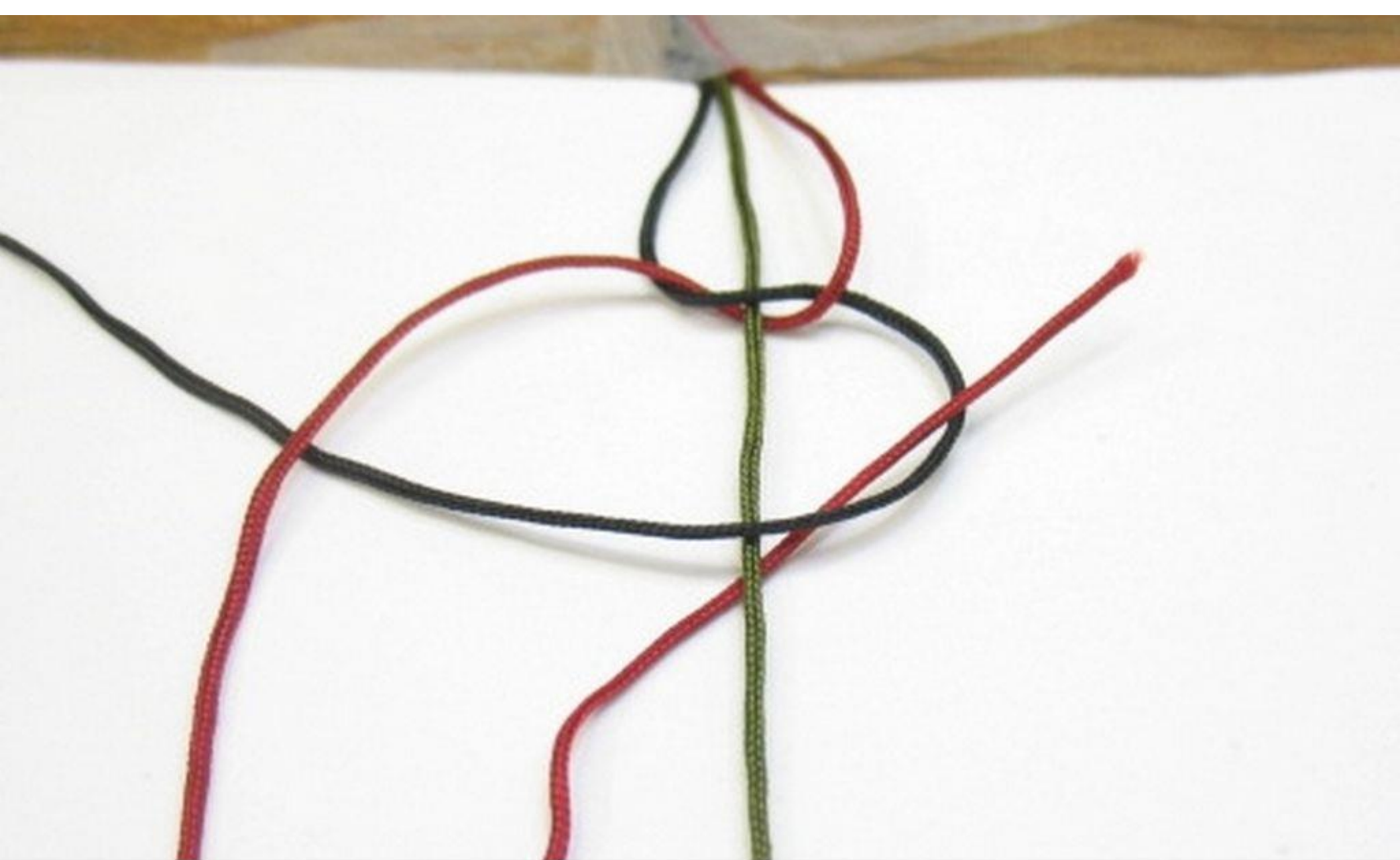
Pull snug to finish the half knot.



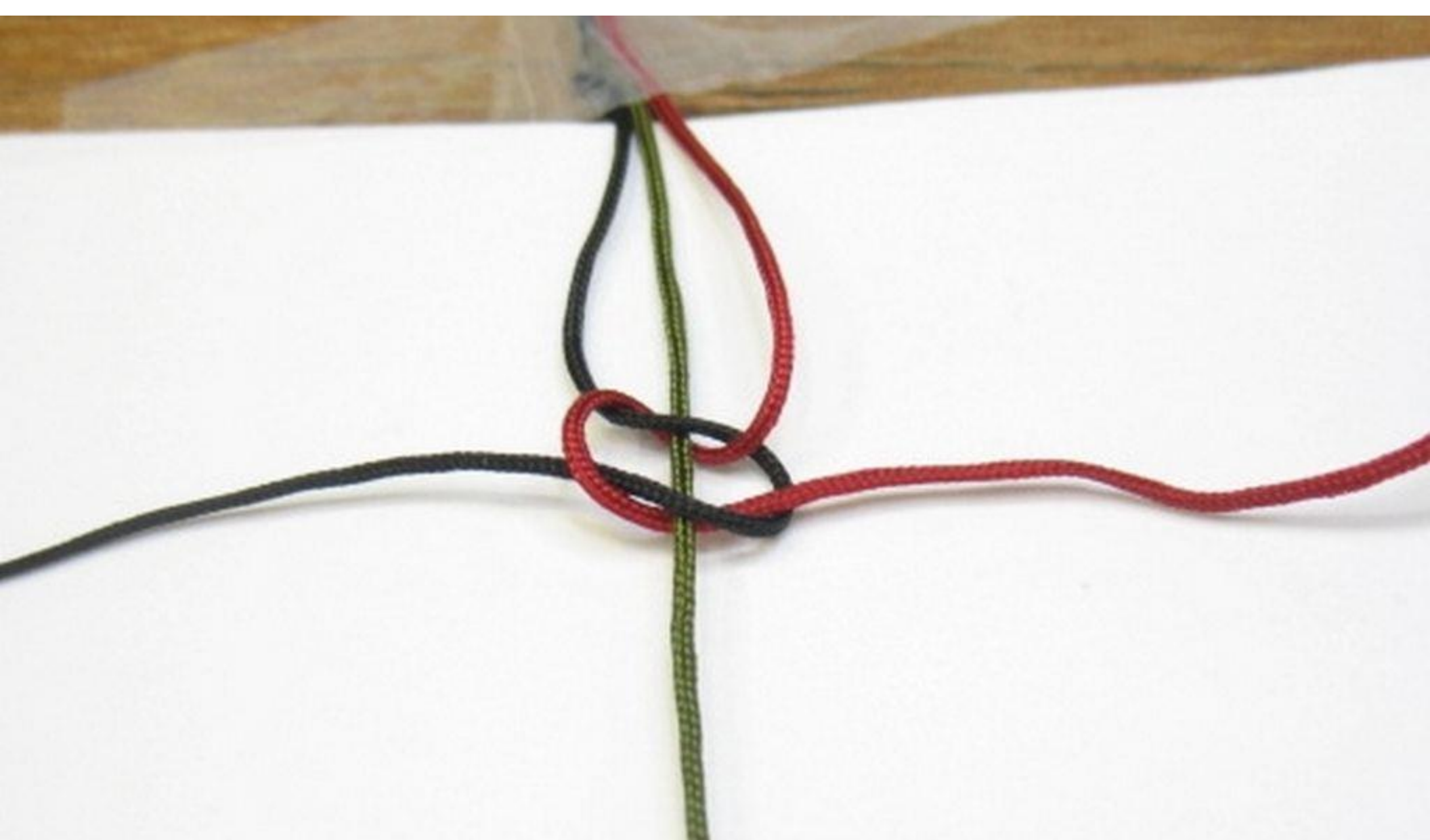
To finish the square knot, you start with the same **STARTING** cord, which is now on the right.

This step is really a mirror image of the half knot.

To finish the square knot:
STARTING cord (now on the right) goes **OVER** the center and **UNDER** the left cord.



Left cord goes UNDER center, UNDER starting cord,
and THROUGH the loop.



Square knot being pulled tighter



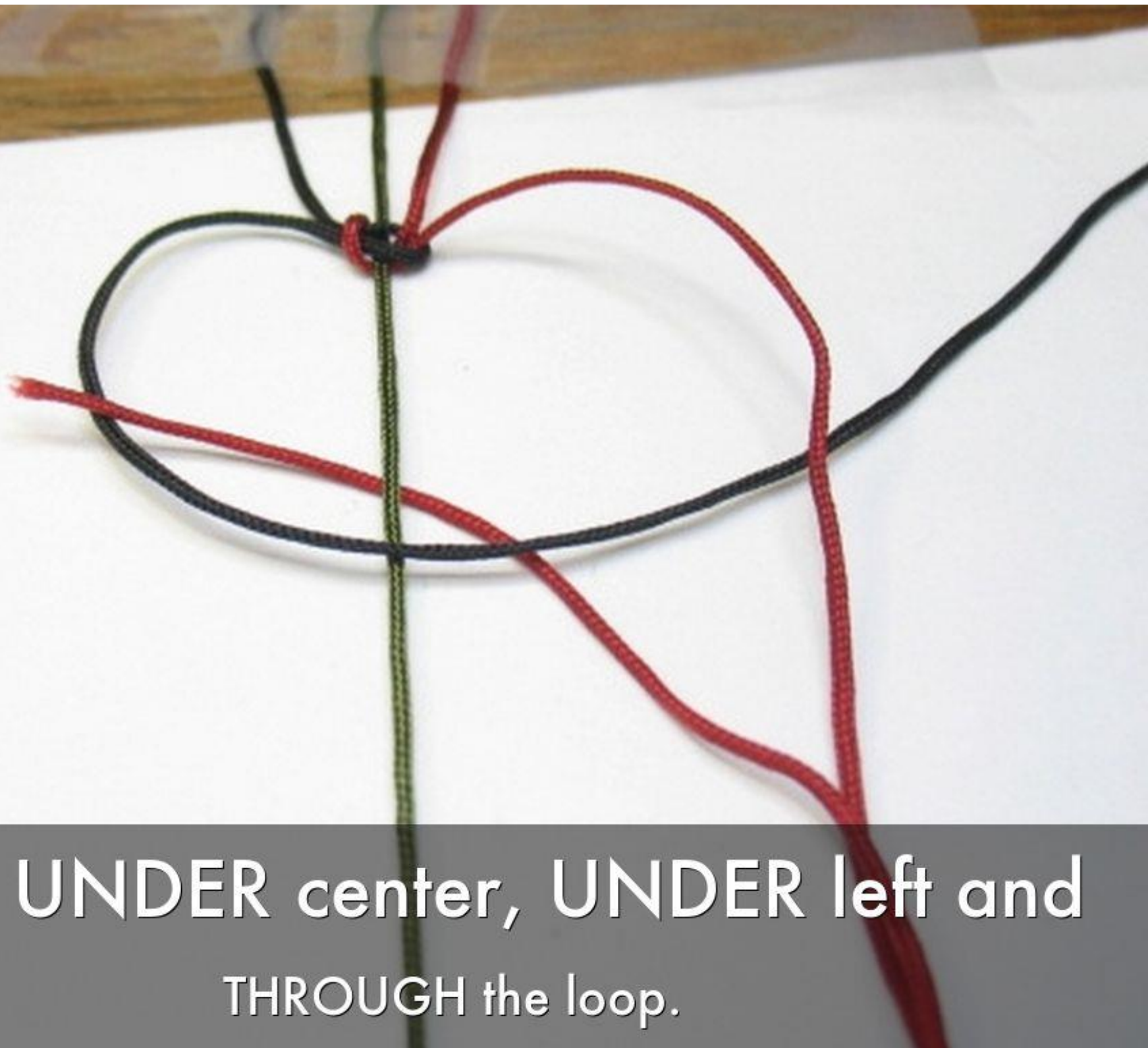
Square knot pulled snug.



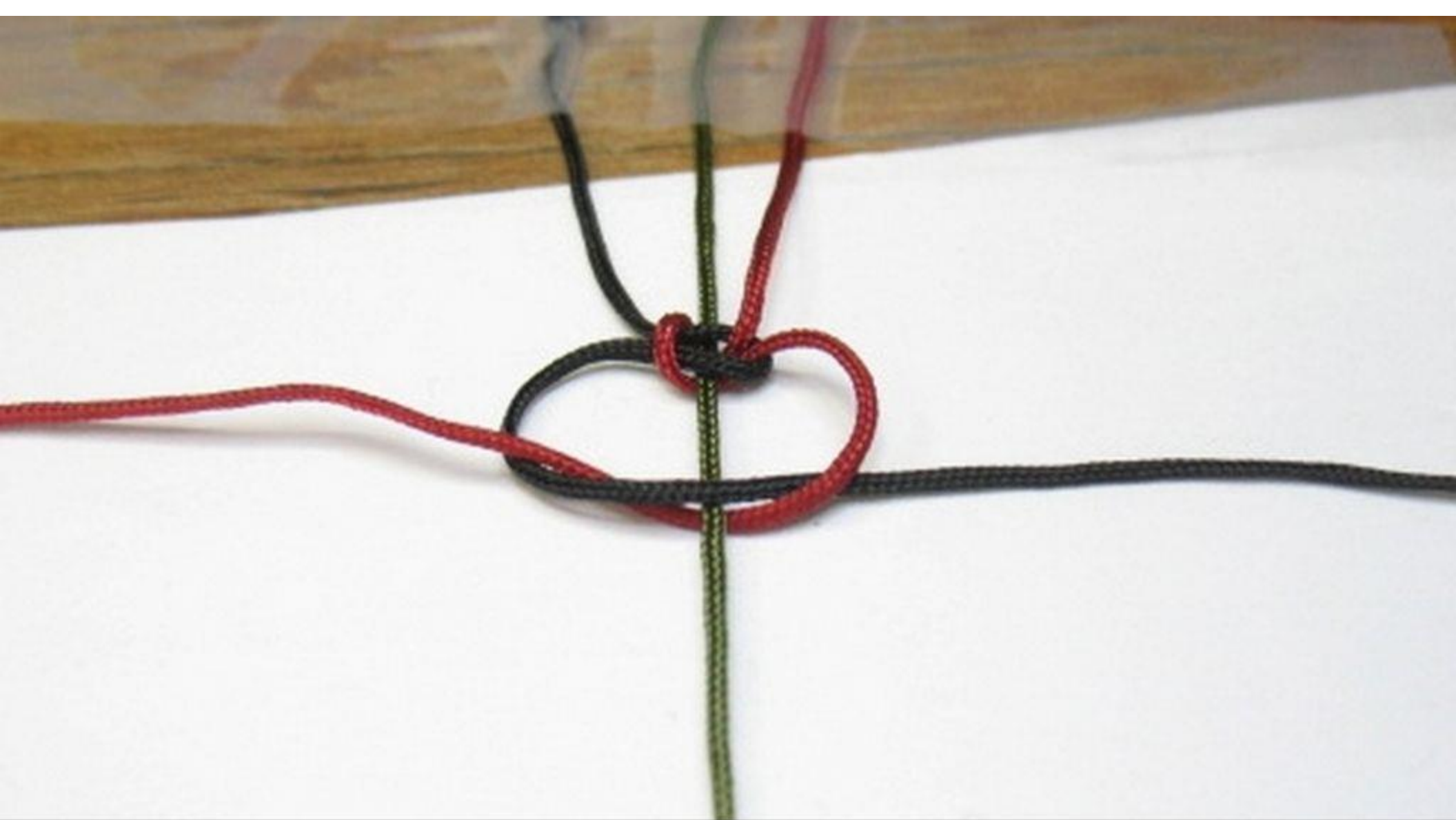
To summarize your square knot steps:

1. Left cord (starting) OVER center, UNDER right; Right cord UNDER center, UNDER left (starting cord) and THROUGH the loop.
2. Right cord (starting) OVER center, UNDER left; Left cord UNDER center, UNDER right (starting cord) and THROUGH the loop.

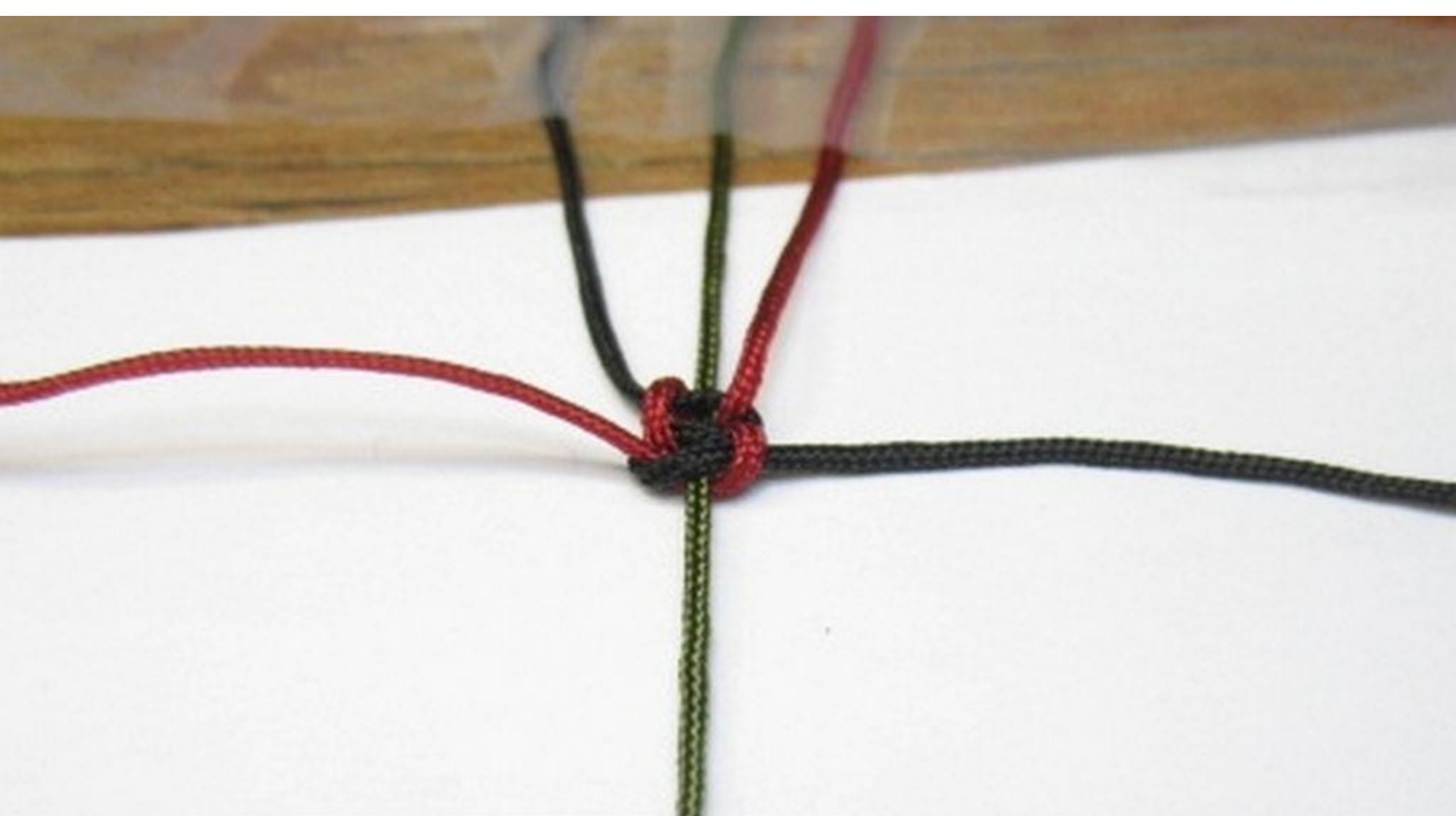
Repeat: Left OVER center and UNDER right



Right UNDER center, UNDER left and
THROUGH the loop.



Pull the half knot snug.



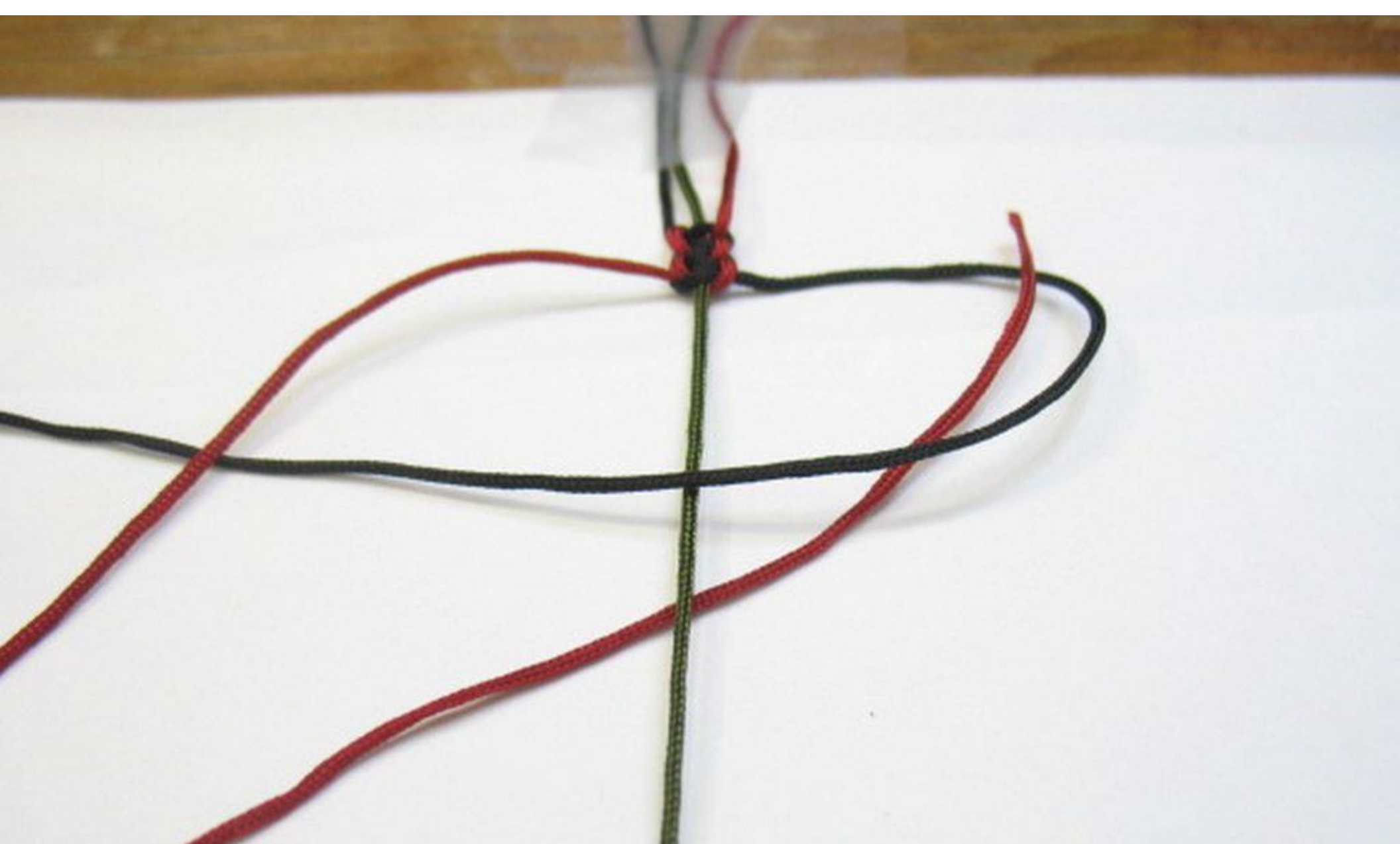
Half knot pulled snug;

ready to finish the square knot.

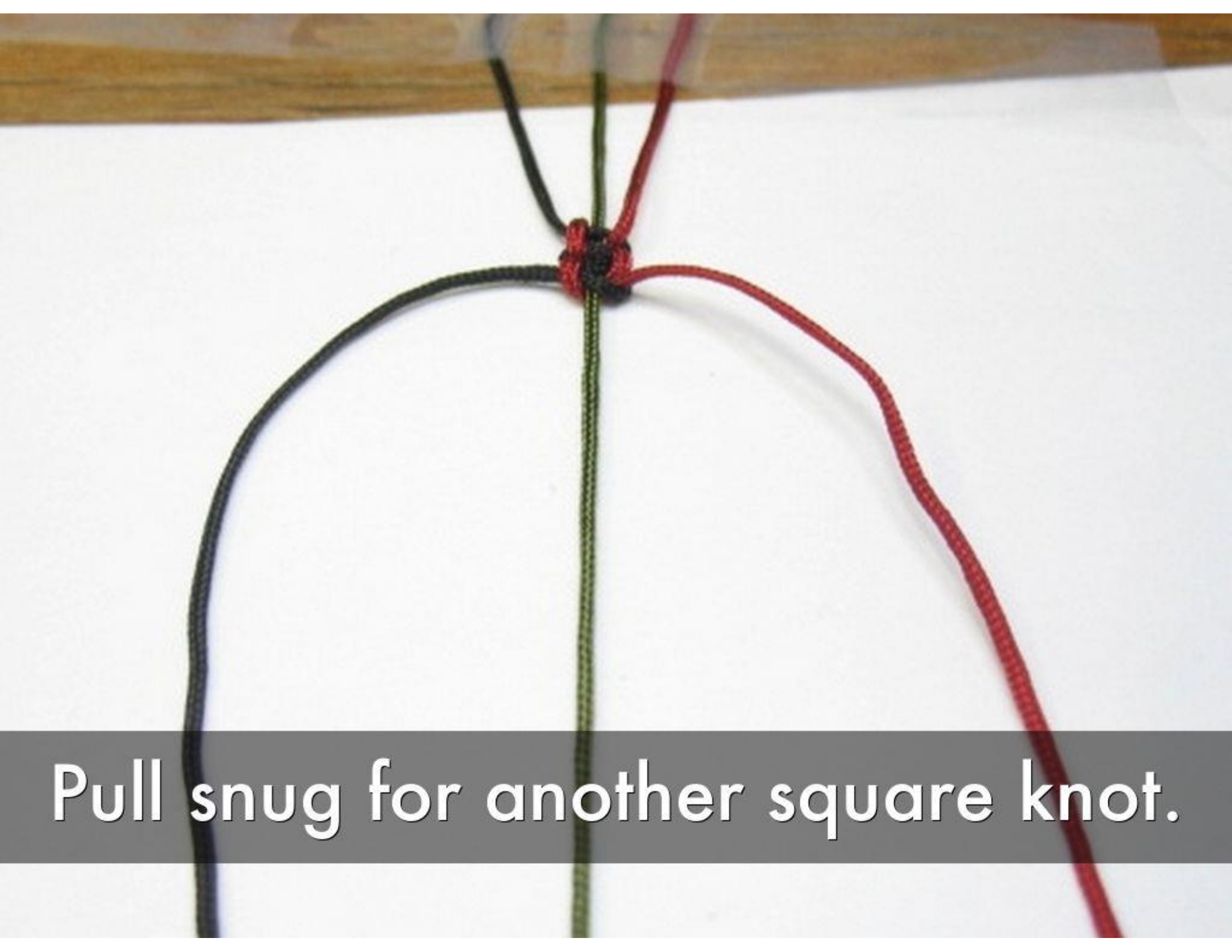


Finish the square knot:

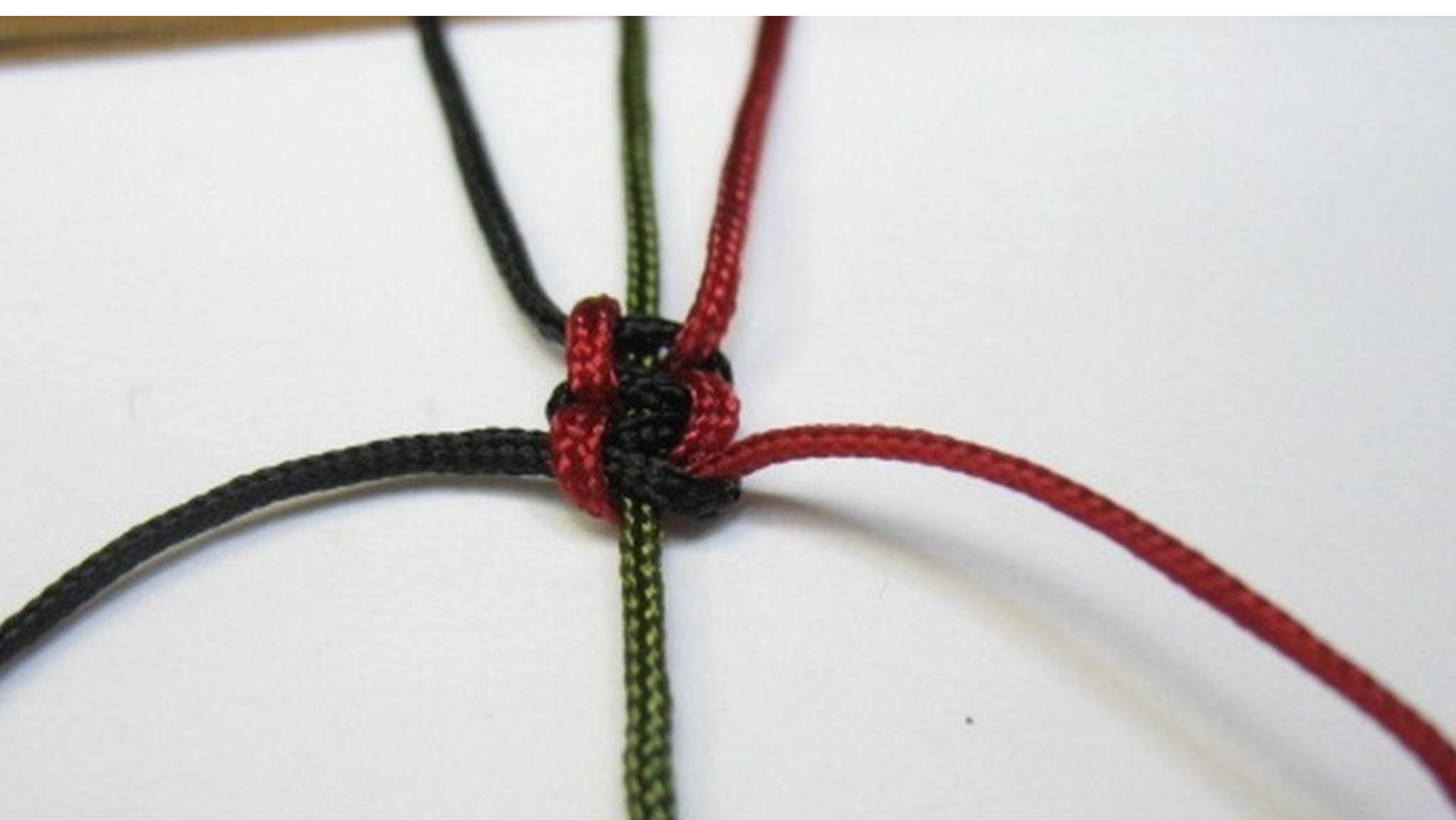
Right OVER center and UNDER left



And left UNDER center, UNDER right and
THROUGH the loop.



Pull snug for another square knot.

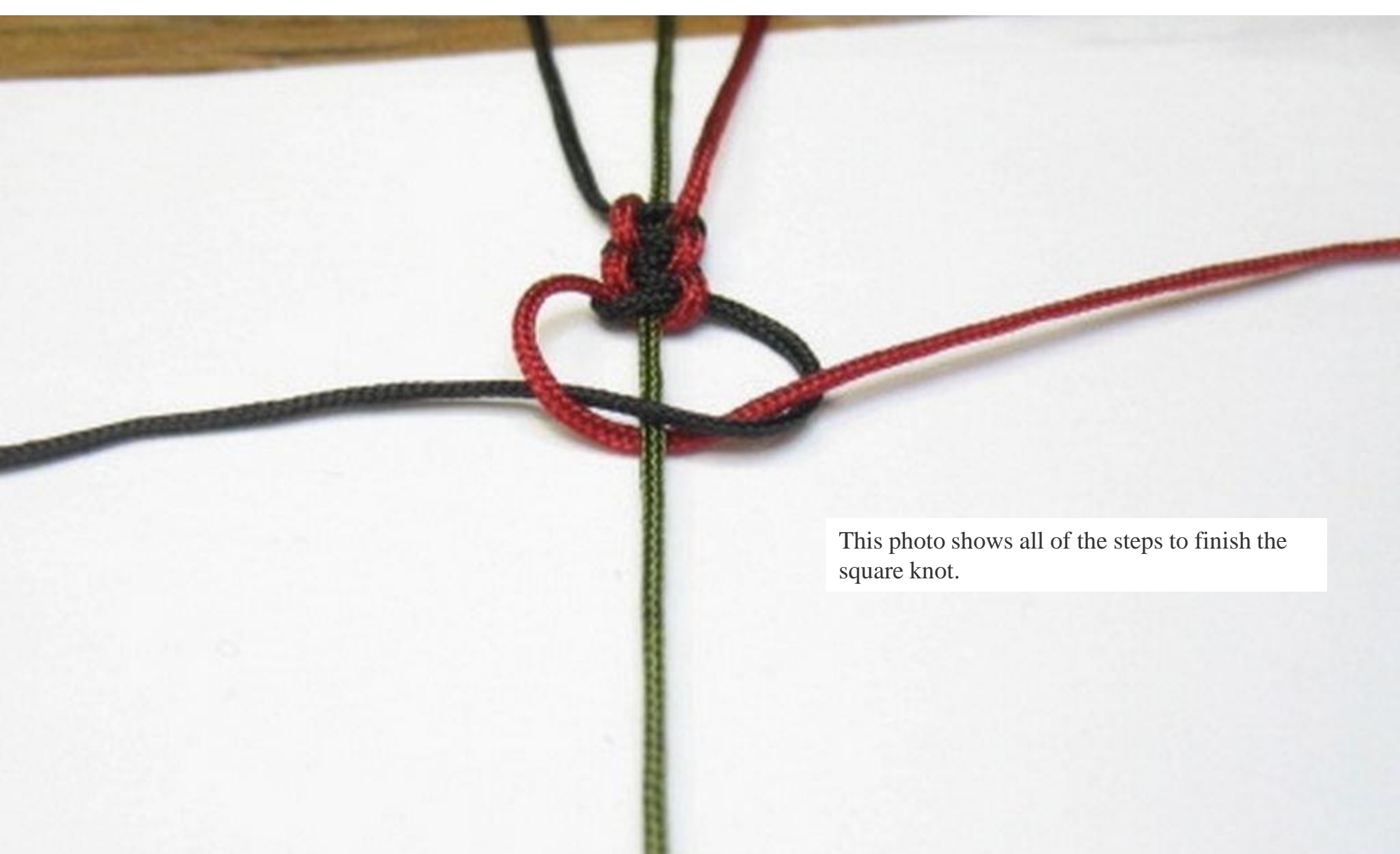


Square knots close up.



This photo shows all of the steps for one half knot.

Repeat: Left OVER center, UNDER right, and right UNDER center and UNDER left and THROUGH the loop.



This photo shows all of the steps to finish the square knot.

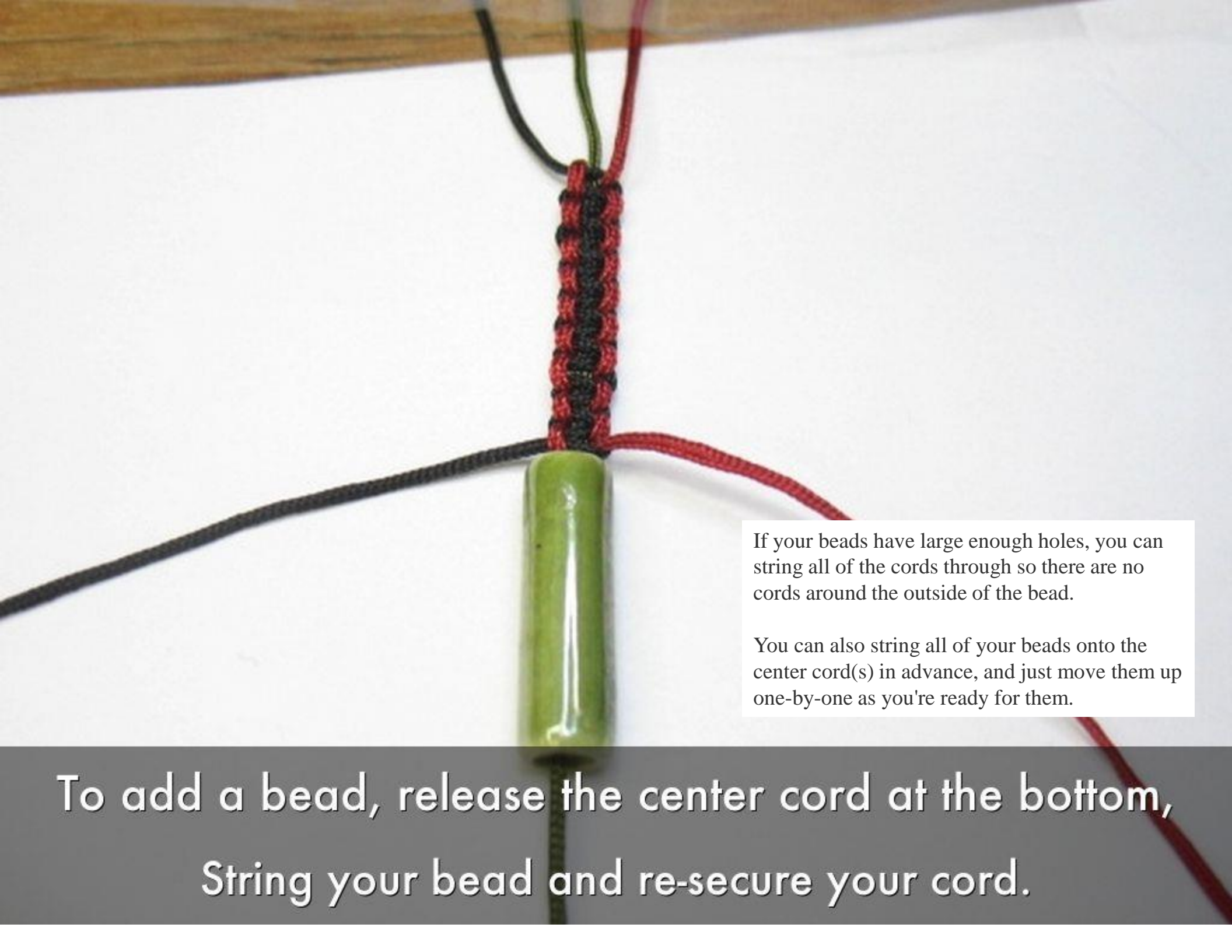
Finish with right OVER center and UNDER left, and Left UNDER center, UNDER right and THROUGH the loop.



Repeat for a row of square knots.



Part 3: Adding beads



If your beads have large enough holes, you can string all of the cords through so there are no cords around the outside of the bead.

You can also string all of your beads onto the center cord(s) in advance, and just move them up one-by-one as you're ready for them.

To add a bead, release the center cord at the bottom,
String your bead and re-secure your cord.



Bring your tying cords around the bead,
and begin making knots as before.



Here's one square knot being pulled snug.



One square knot, all snug, with tying cords
around the outside of the bead.

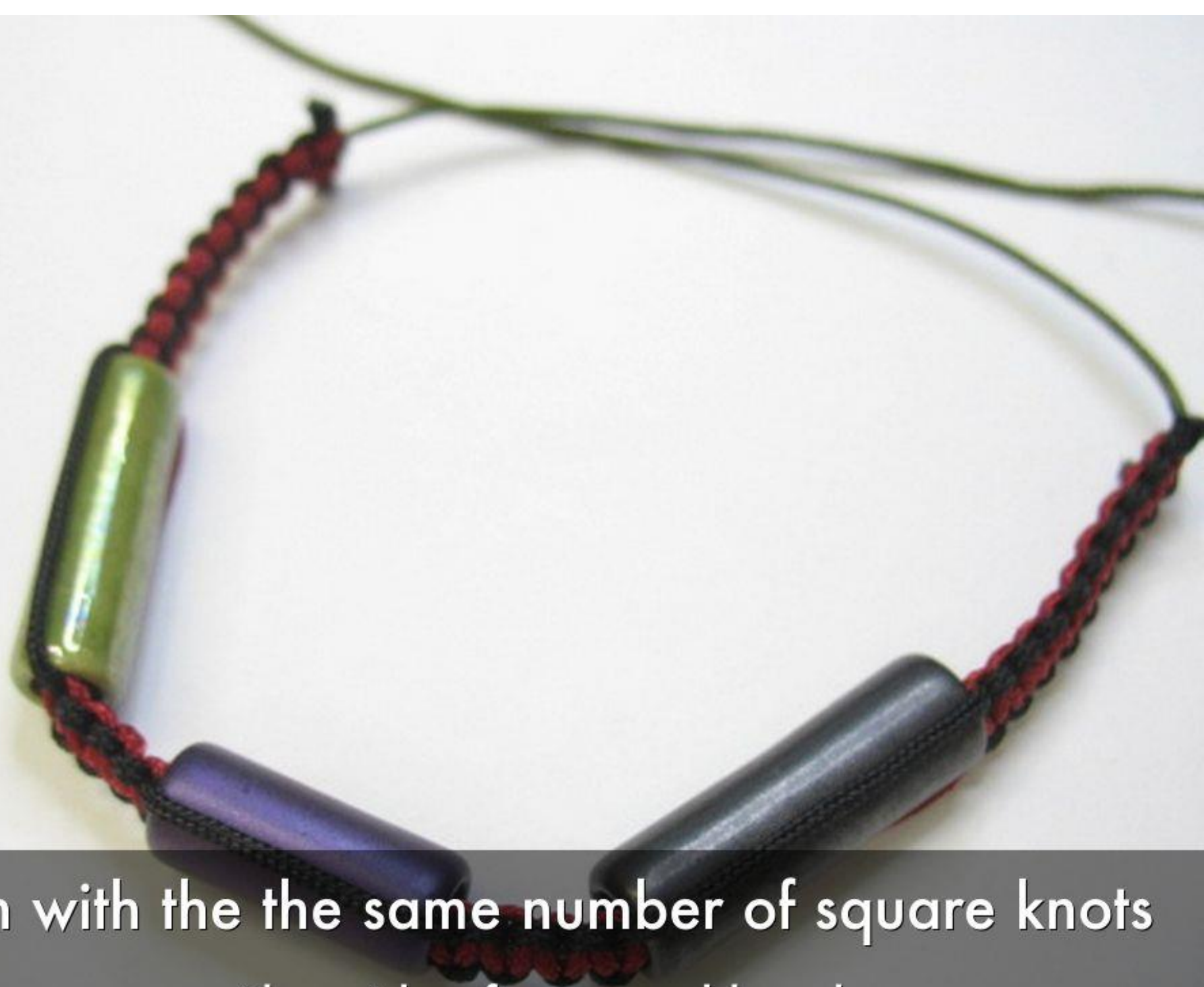


Make more square knots as desired.

You could have just two knots between beads, or ten!



Add more beads if you want.



Finish with the the same number of square knots
on either side of your end beads.

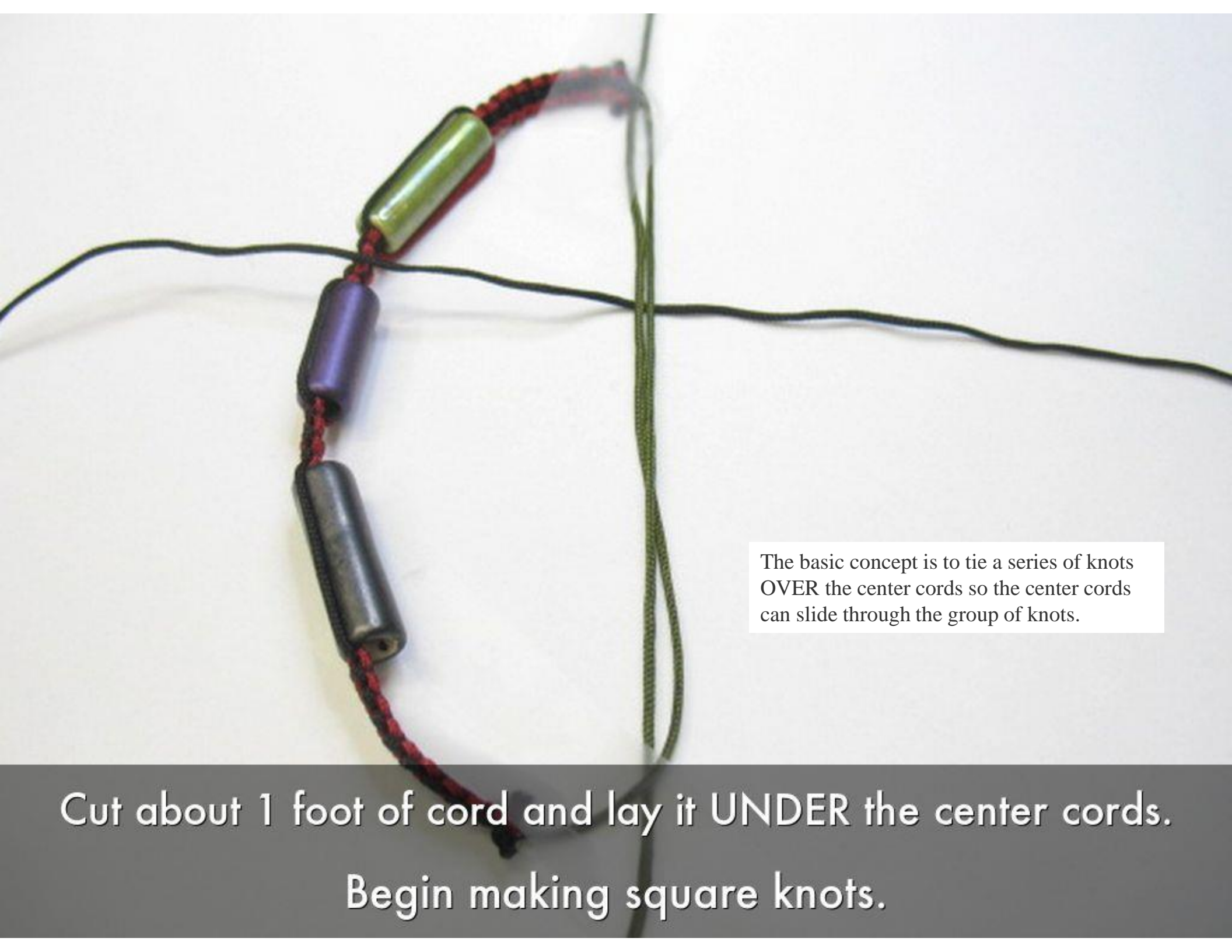
Part 4: Using square knots for a sliding closure





Lay the two ends of your center cord parallel, in opposite directions.

Secure all of the cords at each end.



The basic concept is to tie a series of knots OVER the center cords so the center cords can slide through the group of knots.

Cut about 1 foot of cord and lay it UNDER the center cords.
Begin making square knots.



Left OVER center, under right;

Right UNDER center, UNDER left and THROUGH the loop.



Right OVER center and UNDER left;
Left UNDER center and UNDER right and THROUGH the loop



One square knot pulled snug.



Continue making square knots.

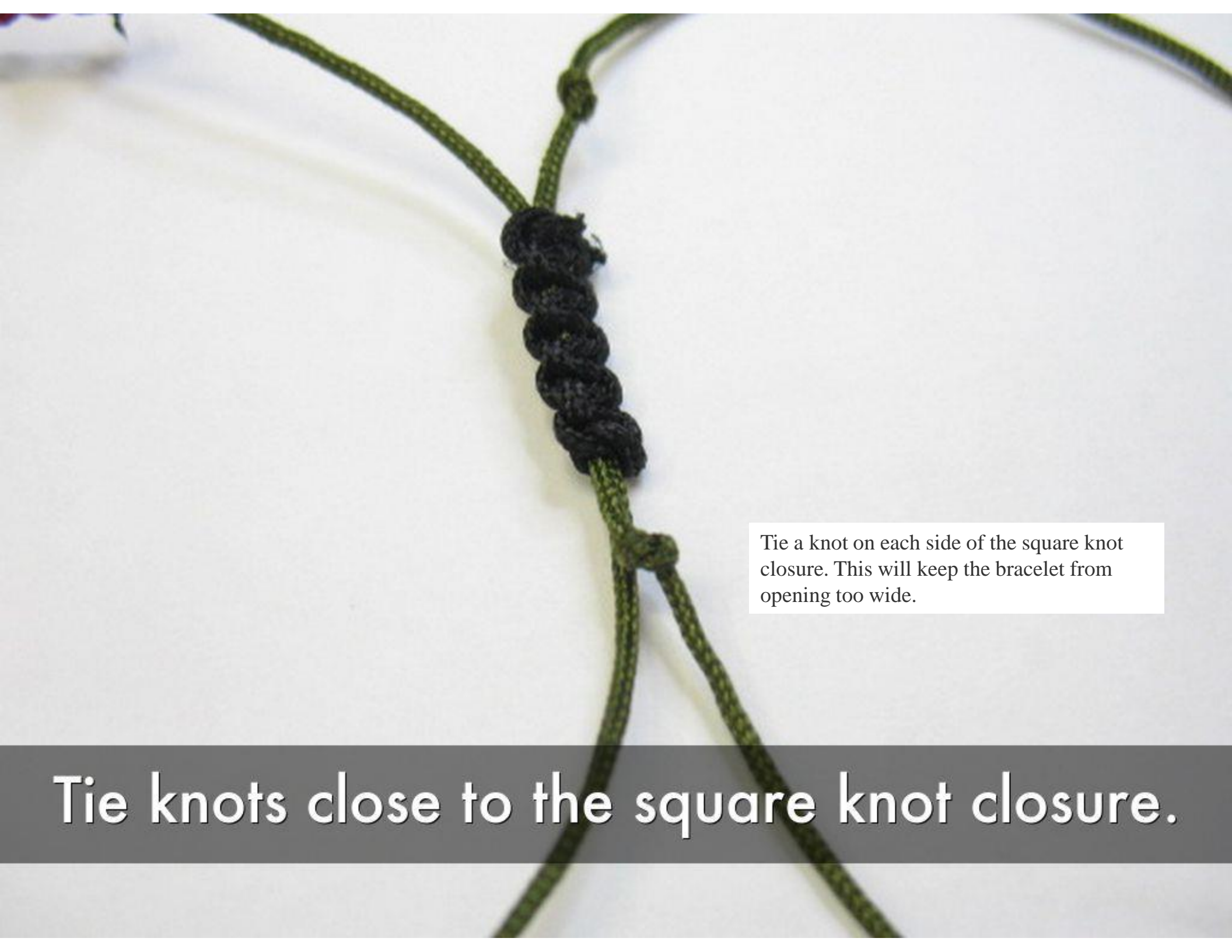


You can have as few or as many square knots as you want.

We usually make 6 to 10 knots for our closures.



**Pull the center cords to open the bracelet
and make sure it fits easily over your hand.**



Tie a knot on each side of the square knot closure. This will keep the bracelet from opening too wide.

Tie knots close to the square knot closure.



Add beads if desired to the ends
and finish with knots to secure.



If you're using a nylon cord, such as Chinese Knotting Cord, you can melt the ends with a match or candle flame. The Thread Zap tool is especially nice for this.

If you're not using a material that melts, be sure you've tied tight knots, put a clear glue on the knots and when it's dry snip close to the end.

Secure the end knots.



Gallery



Bead In Hand

145 Harrison St., Oak Park, IL