# Knotting the threads of time

*DECK: Senior revisits a childhood activity and finds a new hobby in the process.*

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## **Word Count:** 477

## Photo/Graphic with credit (required for sign off): maybe a photo of some of the bracelets i’ve made?

## Image: /images/bracelet.jpg

## Attribution: Alekhya Vadlakonda

## ID: bracelets

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## Tag: columns

**Caption:**

## Linked to spreadsheet?

Forward knot, backward knot, switch threads, repeat.

When I was in elementary school, I loved friendship bracelets and the process of making them and giving them to my friends. We all had a sense of pride in wearing them since they were just about the coolest thing back then, and also because they held years of friendship with their threads. But after a few years, they became a relic of the past and I completely forgot about them.

Years down the road, when the pandemic hit and my home became home, school and everything in between, I quickly got bored. I had a bit of time on my hands despite being in the thick of second semester junior year and found myself constantly wondering what to do. I wandered around my room mindlessly organizing and reorganizing, and suddenly I came across a bundle of thread stashed away in a corner of my shelf. There were various colors, some knotted together and some neatly looped in on themselves, and I vaguely remembered using some of them ages ago.

Though there was that voice in the back of my head telling me to just throw away these scraps, I wanted to see if I could make something with them. After all, I was bored and this embroidery thread seemed like the perfect way out.

There was only one problem: I forgot everything about making bracelets.

So for the next few hours, I went down the infamous YouTube rabbit hole, watching other people make friendship bracelets, hoping their expertise would somehow pass to me. Unfortunately, it didn’t work— go figure.

I eventually found a good tutorial for a bracelet I liked that was supposedly too advanced for beginners, and took a gamble on the thread lengths before knotting them and taping it to my desk.

It looked pretty simple to me, a pattern of weaving and knotting the threads over and over again to get a wavy pattern. How hard could something so repetitive actually be? Turns out, it could be pretty hard, as I quickly learned having to painstakingly undo tight knots to fix my all-too-common mistakes.

Although I spent a sizable portion of two days whiling away at the bracelet, I *was* still in school and had homework to do and tests to prepare for, so I snuck in time over the course of the next few weeks to work on the bracelet.

And then finally, it was done. I felt happy and accomplished: I had not only created a pretty cool looking bracelet, but also found a new hobby in the process. Over the course of this past year, I’ve rediscovered the simple calm and joy in these bracelets, making several to test out different types of patterns. The trip down memory lane was tedious and frustrating at times, but definitely worth it.