

## [Fun with Japanese Paper Strings – Mizuhiki \(small RAK giveaway!\)](#)

Posted by: Gemin [General](#), [Projects](#) 21Jul



Last week, we went to Daiso – a store like Dollar Tree, only that everything is \$1.50 and the goods are mostly Japanese stuff (they have an online store, too). Of course, I headed straight to where their papers are (there were plenty of beautiful origami papers, washi papers and tapes, gift wrapping paper, etc). While looking around, I saw these:

On the package, it says: Japanese Paper Strings – Mizuhiki. They look like metal wires,



but the core is a linen paper string. The Japanese use these to make beautiful knots to tie and decorate packages and envelopes. At the back of these packages are instructions on how to make some basic knots. This one shows how to make abalone and apricot knots (or awabi and ume knots in Japanese) –

click on the pictures to make them

larger:





And here's another one (kind of like a continuation of the one above), the pine tree or matsu knot:

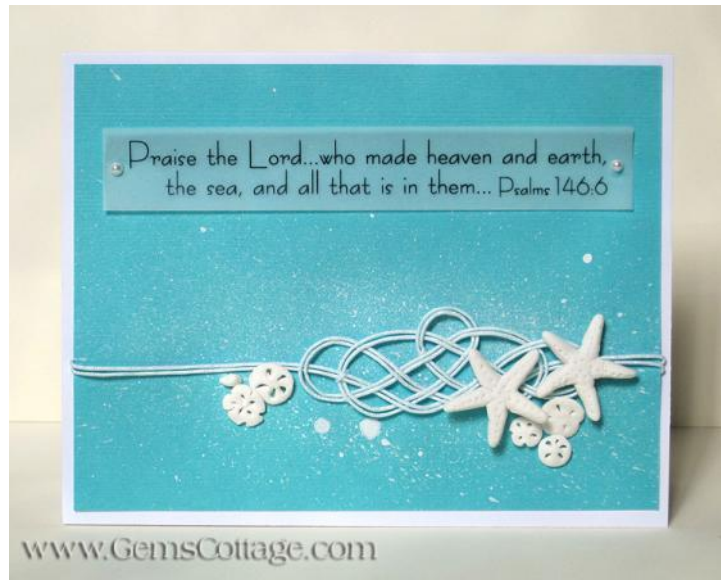
As soon as we got home, my daughter and I started experimenting with the paper strings and how to knot them. It's a bit difficult at first, since some strings are slippery – especially the gold one. We googled for more instructions, checked out YouTube videos, and after numerous tries, we came up with some knots that will pass, LOL!

The knot in the Congratulations card was made by my daughter using the instructions above (follow steps 1 – 4 in the first picture, then proceed to the second set of instructions). The card I made with it is for [Monday's Technique Lover's Challenge](#) – use score lines in the design. I went CAS because the knot is beautiful on its own – no need for additional embellishments, just score lines and the sentiment printed in AL Afternoon Delight font.

Here is my knot (BTW, both knots are pine tree knots, flipped over):



And here is the card I made with it – it's for [Monday's CAS Challenge at SplitcoastStamps](#) – A Day at the Beach):



I used Bazzill – Navajo cardstock for the background, lightly spattered it with white acrylic paint, then added some starfish and sand dollars made with white air-dry clay by Crayola. Here is a close-up:



Now there's quite a bit of paper strings in each package and I want to share...so, if you leave a comment or subscribe by e-mail to my blog (those who have subscribed already are automatically in!), I will draw 5 lucky winners by Monday, July 28. Good luck!