What you’ll need . . .

» Key ring
» String
» Bead with large hole
» Scissors
» Ruler or measuring tape
» Paper clip

1. Measure two lengths of string to about 36” each and cut. Fold as shown. The two outer tails should be roughly twice as long as the inner tails.

2. To attach each string to the ring: pull the fold (loop) up through the ring, then pull the tails up through the loop. Snug gently until tight.
In steps 3–5 you will learn to tie a “square knot.” First, position your strings as shown. Then, loosely cross the left outer string over the center strings, and under the right outer string. Note how this forms a number four. Lastly, cross the right outer string under the center strings, and up through the loop of the “four.”

Gently pull the outer strings snug to the ring, while keeping the center strings hanging straight down. Take your time to ensure the “half-knot” is neat. Patience pays off, especially while you are learning.

The second half-knot is tied exactly the same way, except it is a mirror image of the first. Note how the “four” is backwards in the picture. Once you have snugged this half-knot, pat yourself on the back. Your square knot is complete!

Tie 2 more square knots before going to step 6.
6. Make a bead-threader by unfolding all but the smallest loop of a paper clip. Catch the center threads in the threader hook as shown. Gently pull the threader through the bead, and remove it. Snug the bead up as shown.

Tie 3 more square knots under the bead.

7. Tie off all the strings together in a simple knot as neatly as possible. You will have to adjust the tension on each string a little to make the knot sit evenly.

Finally, decide how long you want the tails to be, and tie a simple knot in each one. Cut off the excess, and you’re done.

More options...
Try a Twist: Spiral Knots

What these instructions refer to as a “half-knot” is also known as a spiral knot. Just keep tying “four-shaped” knots one after the other to create a spiral. You can also tie reversed “four-shaped” knots to turn the other direction. The example to the left consists of 6 spiral knots.

Mix It Up

You can achieve many different designs by tying different numbers of knots, using more beads, and mixing square and spiral knots together. Have fun experimenting!