

# How to make a seashell top

While mermaids have been depicted with numerous accessories, the seashell top remains overwhelmingly the most popular. This guide will explain how to make one yourself.

## **You will need:**

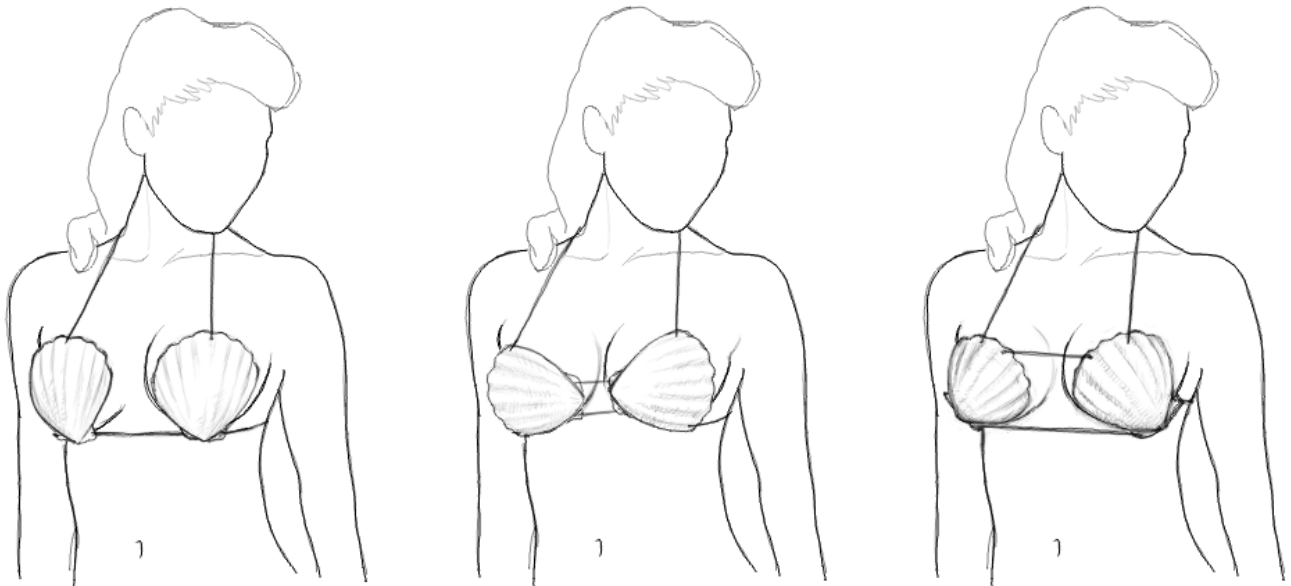
2 shells  
several feet of nylon cord or string  
a drill press

## **STEP 1: Collect the materials**

While there are numerous optional ways to customize a shell top, the most basic design requires only two shells and a section of cord or rope. The shells can be found at most craft stores or large department stores, like Michaels or Walmart. The shells may be available individually or in a bag of assorted shells, but either way they shouldn't cost more than 6 dollars total. Wherever you go to buy the shells will certainly have string, so pick some up if you don't already have some. I recommend nylon cord, as it is cheap and strong.

## **STEP 2: Design it**

After collecting the materials, decide how you want the top to look. This really just entails deciding where you will drill the holes. Pictured below are three examples of how the shells could be positioned. Remember when choosing a design to not only consider look but fit as well. Different shell sizes and design can offer varying levels of modesty, comfort, and support. This is particularly important for women with larger cup sizes. You may also wish to search online for images of shell tops to help decide on a design and get a better idea of where to drill the holes.



## **STEP 3: Drill the holes**

I recommend using a drill press, though if you don't have access to one a handheld power drill should work too. If you don't own any tools of your own but are currently a student, your school should have

a workshop available to you that's equipped with these tools.

Select a drill bit that is large enough for the string to fit through. Before drilling you may want to use a marker to indicate where the holes will be.

Because shells are brittle and likely to crack, I recommend drilling the hole with a smaller drill bit first, and then expanding the hole by drilling through it again with the regular sized drill bit you selected for the string to fit through.

#### **STEP 4: Put it together**

Once your holes are drilled, all you need to do is tie the shell top together. Measure out the lengths you want the rope to be. Thread the rope through the holes, and tie a knot on the other side. Because nylon cord is made of many plastic fibers woven together, you can also hold it over a lighter for a second to melt the end a bit to prevent it from fraying.

And now you're done. Of course if you want to, there are numerous ways to customize and decorate it. Between painting it, making accessories, and adding shells, beads or netting, there are lots of options. Have fun!

