

Evelyn Baxter Competition, Macrame Necklace

The rule for the length of cords used, is 3 times the length of the item you require, so for example, if you want your necklace to be 1 metre long (or 50cm each side), your cords would be 3m in length (or slightly longer)

You will need:

- 4 long cords of equal length – these will form the body of the necklace
- 4 shorter cords – each approximately 60cm (these will form the tassel at the bottom, so could be longer depending on length required)
- 2 cords – each 50cm (these will form the wrap knots above and below the stone - you will only need one this length if you do an overhand knot at top of stone)
- Stone, pebble or large bead (hereafter referred to as stone)

Instructions:

1. Arrange the 4 long cords on a flat surface and the 4 shorter cords together on top and across the longer cords as follows:



Lilac cords are the longer ones
Purple cords will fold over the cords and form tassel below

2. Place the stone onto the centre of the cords (as a guide)
3. Form a square knot on either side of the smaller cords – this will form the base of your basket – NOTE - keep the holes formed by the square knots small enough to keep the stone in place



4. Gather the shorter 4 cords hanging from the base, fold them in half, and using the 50cm cord remaining use a wrap knot to join them all and create a tassel

5. Brush the tassel at the bottom of the wrap knot to create a feathery finish, or leave it with the cords hanging (as in image below)



6. Using alternate square knots, create a basket for the stone, working up the cords and away from the base/centre - work to the top of the stone



7. At top of basket, insert stone and join the cords together above the stone using either an overhand knot or a wrap knot (using one of the 50cm cords)



Wrap knot used at top of basket in this image

8. Above the knot (overhand or wrap), split the cords into 2 sets of 4 and using either square knots (flat), or half square knots (twist), knot to approximately 5cm from the end of your shortest cords



Square knots used in this image

9. Join both sides of your necklace to each other using an overhand knot
10. Brush out the cords above overhand knot to create a feathered finish at the neck or leave cords whole, (your preference), and trim appropriately

Feel free to embellish necklace to your taste, you may use beads, knot combinations, spaces between knots – whatever you like, and make sure that your necklace goes over your head!

Judging:

The judging criteria is as follows:

- Suitability of materials
- Workmanship
- Individual flair
- General finish
- Adherence to the brief

The deadline for entries will be Friday 21st August, with judging taking place at SWI Central Office on Friday 4th September. The winners will be announced at the Member's Gathering in Dundee.