

How to...

Make a Macramé Bag

You will need:

Macramé Cord - TMC3\NAT
Bag Handles - CFH2\AMB
Scissors - 2189021

Ideal but not essential:

Pins
Pin board



Step one

Cut your macramé cord into 2.5m lengths and tie a knot in each end to stop the cord from unravelling. You will need 44 lengths in total- 22 for each handle. Using the larks knot, feed each length the slot at the bottom of the handle and tie as shown.



Step Two

Once you have tied all of your lengths to your handle, you need to join 2 of your lark knots together with a half knot. To do this you will need to take 2 of your larks knots and pass the far left cord over the 2 centre cords (or anchors) and under the far right cord. Then pass the far right cord behind the 2 anchor cords and over the far left cord as shown. Repeat until all the lark knots have been knotted together.

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Step three

Now you need to join 2 of your half knots together with a square knot. A square knot is basically 2 half knots, however for the second knot the outer cords cross over the anchor cords in the opposite direction. For the first row of square knots you will need to take 2 of your half knots and cast the first and last 2 cords aside, so you will be creating the square knot using the right anchor cord and far right cord of the first half knot and the far left cord and left anchor cord of the second half knot with the last anchor and far right knot cast aside. Pass the left cord over the 2 anchor cords and under the far right cord, then pass the far right cord behind the 2 centre cords and over the far left cord as shown. Then to finish the square knot pass the right cord over the 2 anchor cords and under the far left cord, then pass the far left cord behind the 2 centre cords and over the far right cord- this will look like 2 half knots on top of each other. Then keep repeating this across the first line connecting all of the half knots together. You will be left with 2 cords at the beginning and end of the row.



Step four

For the second row of square knots you will take the 2 cords you discarded and start knotting the square knots by passing the far left cord over the next 2 cords which will become the anchors and under the far right cord. Then pass the right cord over the 2 anchor cords and under the far left cord. Repeat this until you get to the end of the row, you will have no spare cords. Keep repeating steps 3 & 4 on both handles until you finish row 6. On each row you can increase the space between the rows by pinning the knots on a cork board- this will create a wider bag opening. Or if you want a narrower bag keep the rows knotted tightly together so there is no space between them- this is what we have done for this bag so it will end up long and narrow.

Step five

Once you get to row 7 we will knot the 2 halves of the bag together. To do this lay the 2 halves next to each other, right sides up, and using the right anchor cord and far right cord of the last knot on the left bag panel and the first far left cord and left anchor cord of the first knot on the right bag panel, create a square knot so the 2 panels have been knotted together. Work your way along the rest of the row until you get to the end of the right panel and repeat the process above, so you use the left anchor cord and far left cord of the last knot on the right bag panel and the first far right cord and right anchor cord of the first knot on the left bag panel. Continue until you reach the end of the row and both panels are knotted together.

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Step six

Continue along each row creating square knots around the bag so both sides are knotted together until you get to your desired bag length. At this point you can also throw in some other types of knot, beads or leave some spaces! Go wild and get creative but make sure you mirror your design on both sides of your bag! I added in some spaces that measured 3cm and then some spiral knots to give my bag some interest. To create the spiral knots take 4 cords- I used the last 2 and first 2 of the 2 square knots on the row above- and tie a half knot as used in step one, and keep repeating the half knot in the same direction using the same 4 cords. By doing this the knots will start to twist and create a spiral.

Step seven

Finally, finish your design with a couple of rows of square knots to add some strength to the gusset. Finally tie the opposite cords on each side of the bag together into a double knot to close the gusset and tie the two sides together. You could leave some length to the cords to create some tassels on the end as I have done here, or add some beads or shapes for an extra flourish!



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