

# Learning Macrame Basics

Macrame is the art of knot tying. It is different than other fiber arts because it is built on individual knots. Learning these knots is the key to creating beautiful macrame projects. This project teaches you three unique knots that are widely used in modern macrame art. Practice each of the following knots before starting the project to have a smoother experience. **Be sure not to cut any ropes that came with your kit at this point because you'll need these ropes later to complete your plant hanger.**

## Vocabulary

**Working Cords:** The cords you manipulate and twist to form knots.

**Filler Cords:** Cords you do not actually manipulate and twist but are used to support the knot by being the base and inner portion of the knot.

### Materials Needed

- Rope from your kit
- Either a Dowel or hoop from kit
- Tape or pins with a macrame board.

### Larks Head Knot

This knot is commonly used in the beginning of macrame projects to attach ropes to a dowel, a hoop, or to other ropes. It can also be used in the body of a project.

#### Step 1

Fold a rope in half. Make sure the ends are together so that you can properly identify the middle of the rope.



#### Step 2

You should have a folded end and an end with the cut sides of the rope. Take the folded end and place it an inch or so over the dowel or hoop.



### Step 3

Treat the cut ends as one, placing them through the loop you created with the last step. Tighten by pulling the cut ends taught. Make sure the ropes that wrap around the dowel are pushed together with no gaps for a clean professional look.



### Step 4

Practice this knot a few times. Make sure you go in the same direction everytime so that your knots look the same.



### Right Square Knot

Likely the most commonly used macrame knot. It can be manipulated to form a variety of other knots. Learning the square knot allows you to create a multitude of macrame designs. In a way, this knot is really the foundation of the macrame artform.

### Step 1

Start with two larks head knots as shown. Then tape your dowel down to the table to prevent the project from moving around. The two center cords are filler cords and the two outside cords are working cords. Fold the right most cord over the two center filler cords.



## Step 2

Place the most left cord on top of the folded right cord.



## Step 3

Twist the left rope behind the filler cords and through the loop you originally created, bringing the left cord to the front. Tighten by holding the center cords taut while pulling the outer cords in different directions. You should have two center filler cords and the working cords forming a twist around them. Play close attention to make sure what you're doing looks like the photo. It's okay if you have to try a few times before you get it.



## Step 4

To complete this knot you will simply repeat the last three steps except this time you will start with the left most cord. Fold the left most cord over the center filler cords.



### Step 5

Place the most right cord on top of the folded left cord. Refer to the photo.



### Step 6

Pull the right cord behind the filler cords and back through the loop you made on the left to bring the cord forward. This should form another twist around the filler cords. Tighten the twist by holding the middle cords taught while you pull the right and left ropes in opposite directions.



### Step 7

This is what a completed right square knot looks like. Practice this many times. It is the most commonly used knot in macrame. Once you've learned this knot you will be able to make so many beautiful macrame items. Remember that macrame is not the easiest skill to learn so don't be too hard on yourself if you don't get it on the first try.



## Double Half-Hitch

This is the knot that creates the line effect you see in some macrame pieces. It's very commonly used. Learning it really levels up your macrame art to a new level.

### Step 1

Start with four larks head knots on your dowel. The left most cord will be your filler cord. With your right hand you will hold this cord in the direction of the line you're creating.



### Step 2

Begin by taking the next cord and wrapping it towards the left around your filler cord. Pay close attention to the photos to help you.



### Step 3

Using the same cord wrap around the filler cord again. Tighten and you will have a completed knot.



### Step 4

Move on to the next rope (3rd rope from the left) and repeat steps 2 and 3.



### Step 5

Continue creating double half-hitch knots until you've used all the ropes, remembering to keep your filler cord straight. This will make the line design you're making straight.



### Step 6

Practice going in the opposite direction. Using the same filler cord start a new row of knots by holding toward the left- the opposite direction.



### Step 7

using the most right rope, wrap it around the filler cord toward the right. Then wrap it again and tightening it.



### Step 5

Continue creating double half-hitch knots in this direction until you've used all the ropes.



**Now that you've learned all your knots you can move on to your project!**