

# *Sorry, Knot Sorry*

## ANASTASIA'S MACRAMÉ TIPS

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Macramé is the decorative art of knotting. It's a craft that dates to Arabian weavers in the thirteenth century. From Asia, the craft traveled to Europe and saw a resurgence in Victorian times. The popularity of macrame soared when Hippies and Baby Boomers discovered it in the late 1960s. Just ask Flora Sudberry Periwinkle Ramirez Scoffield Goldberg O'Keefe Tuttnauer. Mama still has a few macramé plant hangers in her condo.

Other popular macramé items include jewelry, wall-hangings, belts, tote bags, vests, table runners, curtains, and even hammocks and chairs.

One of the charms of macramé is that it takes very little skill. If you remember your basic knots from scouting or summer camp, you can do macramé. If you don't remember or never learned how to tie basic knots, there are plenty of tutorials online.

All you really need is cord made from cotton, linen, jute, or hemp, a pair of scissors, a measuring tape or yardstick, and a little practice. Depending on the project, you may also need metal or wooden hoops and rings, purse handles, and belt buckles. Once you've mastered the art of knotting, you might want to branch out using thin strips of leather. You can also incorporate decorative beads as embellishments.

Most home décor projects are made with 4-6mm cord. Use a 2mm elasticized cord for jewelry. For outdoor projects like hammocks or chairs, you'll want to use polypropylene rope.

As with any craft, work in an area with good lighting. Small projects can be worked on a flat surface. For wall-hangings, it's best to work vertically from a clothing bar or shower rod.

The most common knots used in macramé are the Mounting Knot (also known as the Lark's Head Knot or Cow Hitch Knot), Square Knot, Clove Hitch Knot (also known as a Double Half Hitch), Spiral Stitch (also called a Half Knot Sinnet or Half Knot Spiral), Overhand Knot, and Gathering Knot (also called a Wrapping Knot.)

Some projects, like wall-hangings, lend themselves to fringe. If you'd like to add fringe to a project, trim the cord to the desired length. Working from the bottom up, use a stiff wire brush to separate the cord fibers.

Always purchase enough cord or rope for your project. If you're working from directions on the Internet or from a book, buy the amount specified in the materials list. If you're creating your own project, a good rule of thumb is to multiply the desired length of the finished project by five or six. It's always best to have more cord than you need rather than to run out!

Just like when doing needlework, knitting, or crochet projects, it's important to keep your tension even as you knot in macramé. That's why it's so important to master the skill of knotting before tackling any large projects. Remember, practice makes perfect!