

Sculpted Cat Face Wall Hanging

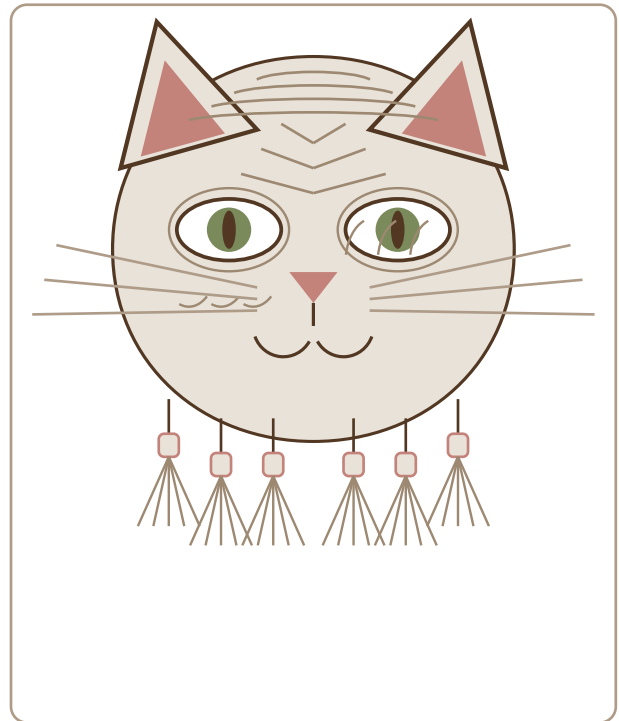
A Javoews House pattern

Skill level: Advanced • Finished size: 9" W × 16" L with tassels (23 × 41 cm)

Estimated build time (beginner-to-intermediate): 14–18 hours / 5–6 evening sessions



Inspiration



Finished pattern

A dense, low-relief cat portrait sculpted entirely in hitch work over a hidden ring armature — carved brow chevrons, inset green eyes, a dusty-rose nose and inner ears, stiffened fan whiskers, and six brushed tassels swinging below the chin. Slow, meditative knotting with a show-stopping finish.



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Materials List

Item	Spec	Amount
Single-strand cotton cord, beige/oat	4 mm	≈ 85 m (93 yd)
Single-strand cotton cord, dusty rose	3 mm	≈ 8 m (9 yd)
Cotton cord, white (whiskers)	2 mm	≈ 5 m (5.5 yd)
Metal or wooden ring (face armature)	10" (25 cm) dia.	1
Straight brace wire or dowel scrap	9" (23 cm)	1
Resin/safety cat eyes, green	20 mm	1 pair
Small brass ring (hanger, hidden)	3/4" (2 cm)	1
Fiberfill or cotton scrap (ear/muzzle padding)	—	small handful

Tools: sharp scissors, tapestry needle, pet slicker brush or fine comb, fabric glue, rust-proof pins, measuring tape, painter's tape for cord ends.

Designer's note

The inspiration piece reads as sculpted fiber over a rigid round form with inset eyes. This pattern reproduces it as hitch-work over a 10" ring with a horizontal brace wire; if you prefer an all-fiber look, substitute woven DHH spirals in green 3 mm cord for the resin eyes (see Eye Placement Map).

Time to complete — 14–18 hrs total

Frame & warping: 1 hr • Face sculpting rows: 6–8 hrs • Ears: 2 hrs • Eyes, nose & muzzle: 2–3 hrs • Whiskers: 1 hr (+ overnight dry) • Tassels & finishing: 2–3 hrs. Plan 5–6 evening sessions; the face rows split cleanly across two of them.



Cord Cutting Chart

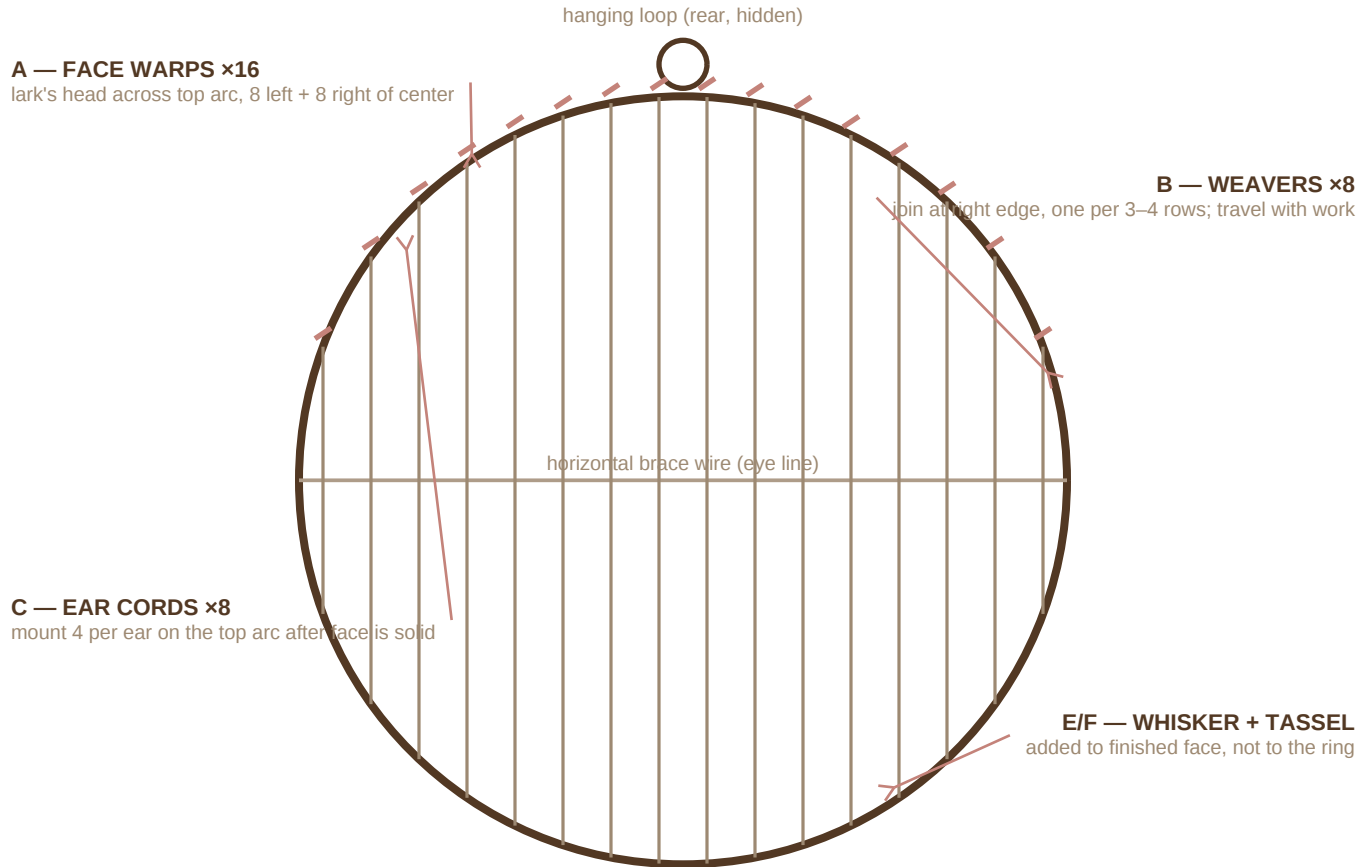
Label	Purpose	Qty	Cut length	Subtotal
A	Face warps (4 mm beige)	16	3.0 m (3.3 yd)	48 m
B	Weavers — face rows (4 mm beige)	8	2.5 m (2.7 yd)	20 m
C	Ear cords (4 mm beige)	8	1.2 m (1.3 yd)	9.6 m
D	Rose accents — nose wrap + ear inlay (3 mm)	6	1.2 m (1.3 yd)	7.2 m
E	Whiskers (2 mm white)	12	0.4 m (16")	4.8 m
F	Tassel skirts (4 mm beige)	6 bundles	12 wraps of hand $\approx$ 0.5 m ea.	$\approx$ 6 m
G	Tassel hangers + wraps (4 mm beige)	12	0.6 m (24")	7.2 m

Totals: $\approx$ 91 m of 4 mm beige (buy 100 m), 7.2 m of 3 mm rose, 4.8 m of 2 mm white. Cut every cord 3–4 inches longer than listed — dense hitch work eats length unevenly.



Cord Layout & Frame Mounting Diagram

Front view of the 10" ring armature. Letters match the cord cutting chart.



Warp spacing: 16 cords across the 10" span = one cord every $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm).
Keep the two center warps snug to the vertical midline — the nose builds on them.

HAPPY JUST CRAFTING

Knot Reference Guide

Every knot in this pattern, with its abbreviation as used in the construction steps. Rose lines show the working cord's path; dark lines are carriers; arrows show pull direction.



Lark's Head (LH)

Fold cord in half, loop over the ring from front, pull both ends through the loop and snug.



Horizontal Double Half Hitch (HDHH)

Working cord makes two hitches over a horizontal carrier. The row-builder for cheeks and brow ridges.



Vertical Double Half Hitch (VDHH)

Weaver wraps twice around each vertical warp in turn. The face-fabric knot — 90% of this piece.



Square Knot (SK)

Left cord over, right cord through; then mirrored. Used only to lock tassel hangers to the chin edge.



Wrap Knot (WK)

Wrap a binder cord upward around a bundle 4+ times, feed the end through its own start loop, pull the loop hidden.



Rya Knot (RK)

Folded cord straddles a carrier; both tails pull down through the fold. Whisker and fringe knot.



Overhand Knot (OK)

Simple single knot. Stops cord ends from fraying while you work.

Full-Piece Assembly Map

Numbers show build order (Section 8). Work top-down; whiskers and tassels last.

1 HIDDEN HANGING RING

wire loop behind crown

2 EARS

padded VDHH + rose inlay

3 BROW CHEVRONS

HDHH ridge rows

4 EYE SOCKET RINGS

DHH ring + 20 mm resin eye

5 CHEEK CONTOURS

curved HDHH carriers

6 NOSE + MUZZLE

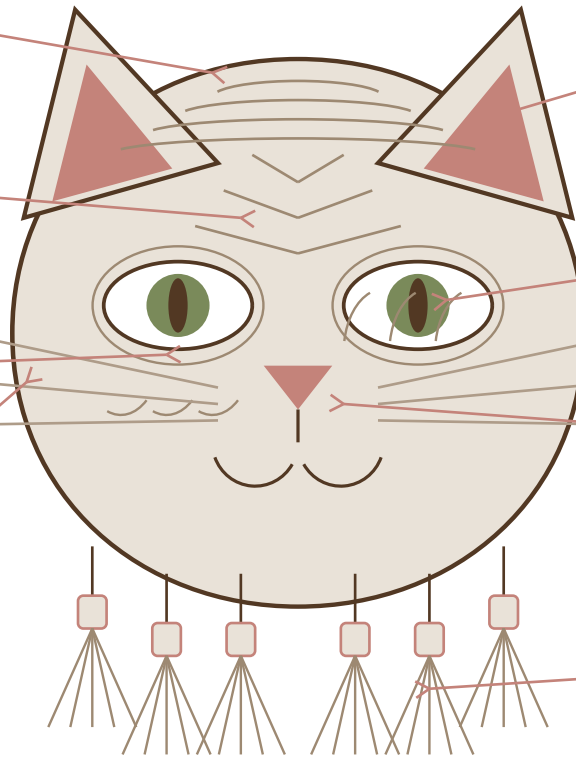
rose wrap + arc carriers

7 WHISKERS

stiffened rya knots, 6 per side

8 TASSEL ROW

six wrap-knot tassels





Build Order Overview

1. Lash the brace wire across the ring at eye height; tie on the hidden hanging ring at back-top.
2. Mount the 16 face warps (A) across the top arc with lark's heads.
3. Sculpt the face in VDHH rows (weavers B), shaping brow chevrons and skipping the eye sockets.
4. Build both padded ears (C) with rose inlays (D); stitch them to the crown.
5. Ring the eye sockets in HDHH and seat the resin eyes.
6. Wrap the rose nose (D) and set the muzzle arc carriers.
7. Set, trim, and stiffen the whiskers (E).
8. Make six tassels (F/G), hang them from the chin edge, brush, trim, and finish.

Construction

Section 1 — Frame & Mounting (30 min)

Center the brace wire horizontally across the ring, 40% down from the top; lash each end to the ring with 20 cm scrap cord and a dab of glue. This wire keeps the face flat and marks the eye line.

Tie the small brass ring to the back of the top arc with a doubled scrap cord — this is the hidden hanger.

Mount all 16 A warps along the top arc with LH: 8 left of center, 8 right, one every 5/8" (see Mounting Diagram). Let them hang through the ring; tape the tips.

Section 2 — Crown Rows (1 hr)

Join weaver B1 at the right edge, level with the tops of the ears-to-be. Work VDHH right-to-left across all 16 warps, following the curve of the ring so rows arc like fur growth.

Work 5–6 arcing rows to fill the crown. Splice in a new weaver behind the work whenever less than 30 cm remains (leave both tails at the back; weave in later).

Section 3 — Brow Chevrons (1 hr)

At forehead height, work three chevron ridge rows: on each, VDHH out from the two center warps, dropping one warp lower on each side to form a shallow V.

Double-pass each chevron row (a second VDHH on the same warps) so the ridge stands proud of the surrounding fabric — this is the carved look.

Section 4 — Cheeks & Eye Sockets (3–4 hrs)

Continue VDHH rows down the face. When a row reaches an eye position (warps 4–6 and 11–13, straddling the brace wire), skip those three warps and carry the weaver behind.

After 6 skipped rows you'll have two open sockets roughly 1.6" across. Keep row tension even — cheeks pull tighter than the center if you rush.

Below the sockets, resume full rows, easing tension so the muzzle area bells slightly outward.

Section 5 — Ears (2 hrs)

Work both ears per Deep-Dive 2: mount 4 C cords per ear on the top arc, decrease-triangle in HDHH, pad, rose inlay, stitch upright.



Section 6 — Eyes, Nose & Muzzle (2–3 hrs)

Ring each socket with one round of HDHH over a curved scrap-cord carrier to firm the opening, then push a 20 mm eye through from the front and seat its washer behind (or glue a flat-back).

Nose: bundle the two center warps at nose height and cover 1" with tight rose VDHH; finish the bottom point with a rose OK pulled to the back.

Muzzle: pin two scrap carriers in shallow arcs under the nose; HDHH over them with the local warps to raise the cheeks of the muzzle.

Section 7 — Whiskers (1 hr + overnight)

Set and stiffen 6 whiskers per side per Deep-Dive 3, steps 1–3. Leave pinned overnight.

Section 8 — Chin Edge & Tassels (2–3 hrs)

Turn remaining warp ends to the back along the lower ring edge; whip them to the ring with a scrap cord, trim to 1", and glue flat.

Make 6 tassels (Deep-Dive 3, steps 4–6). Lock each hanger to the chin edge with one SK through the fabric: outer pair 1" higher than inner pairs so the row swings in a shallow smile.

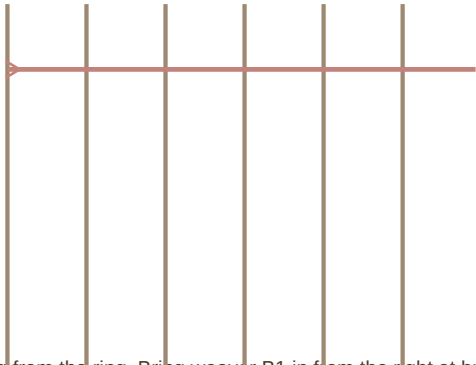
Brush all tassels, trim level, and steam lightly. Weave every remaining tail into the back of the face fabric.



Technique Deep-Dive 1: Cavandoli Face Sculpting

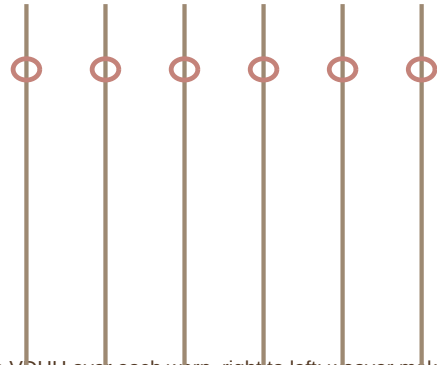
Vertical double half hitch rows that build the dense, carved fur texture

1



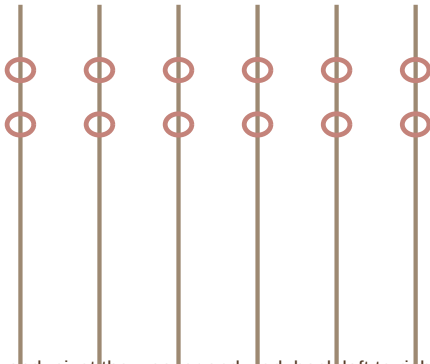
Warps hang from the ring. Bring weaver B1 in from the right at brow level, behind all warps.

2



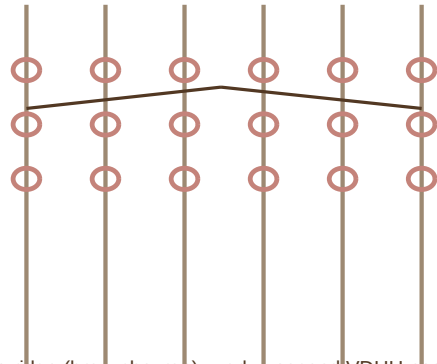
Work one VDHH over each warp, right to left: weaver makes two wraps around the warp, snug up.

3



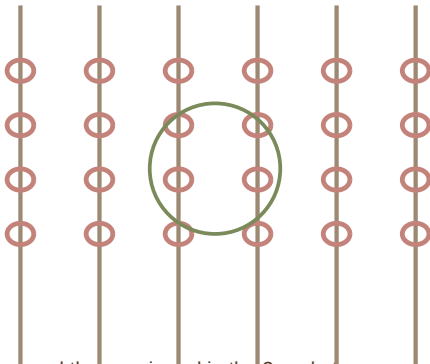
At the row end, pivot the weaver and work back left to right. Rows stack into solid fabric.

4



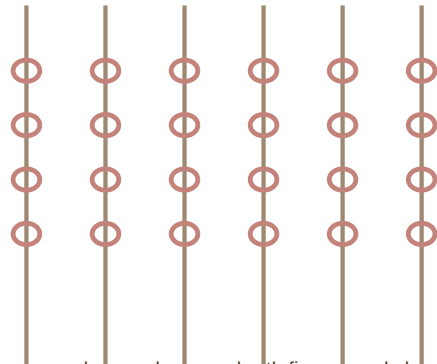
To raise a ridge (brow chevron), work a second VDHH pass over the same warps before moving on.

5



To shape around the eye ring, skip the 3 socket warps; carry the weaver behind, resume after.

6



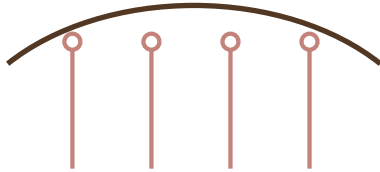
Every 4 rows, comb rows downward with fingers and check the face stays flat against the brace wire.

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Technique Deep-Dive 2: Padded Ear with Rose Inlay

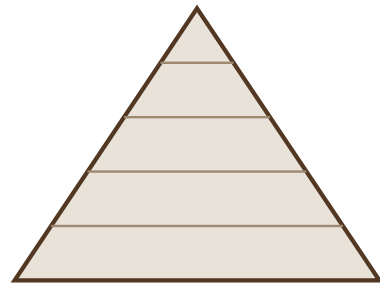
Sculpted triangular ear worked in VDDH over a fiberfill core, with the dusty-rose inner ear

1



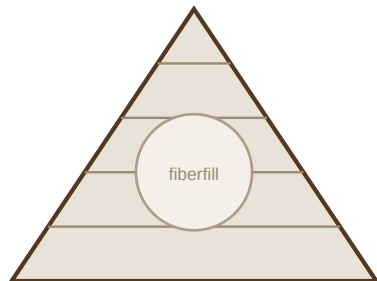
Mount 4 ear cords (group C) on the top arc with lark's heads — 8 working ends per ear.

2



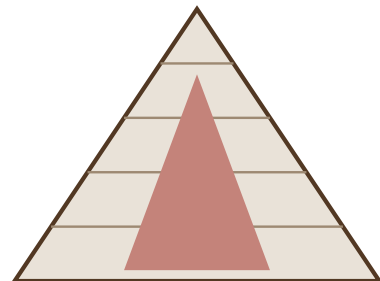
Work HDHH rows that shorten by one knot each row: 8, 7, 6 ... down to 1. A flat triangle forms.

3



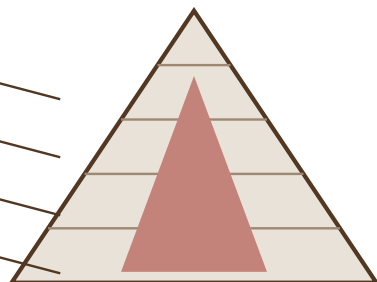
Fold a walnut-size pinch of fiberfill against the back of the triangle and pin it in place.

4



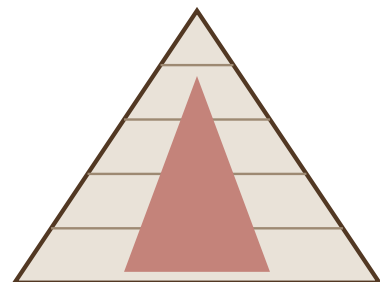
With a rose cord (group D), work VDDH over the center 4 warps only, base to tip — the pink inlay.

5



Stitch the triangle edges to the crown rows through the back with a tapestry needle; ear now stands.

6



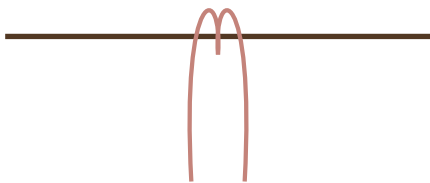
Repeat mirrored for the second ear. Check both tips sit level before locking the last stitches.

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Technique Deep-Dive 3: Stiffened Whiskers & Wrap-Knot Tassels

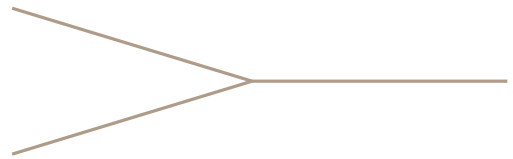
The two finishing moves that make the piece read instantly as a cat

1



Fold a 16" white 2 mm cord in half. Rya-knot it around a muzzle carrier cord from the front.

2



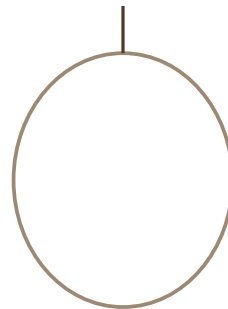
Set 3 rya knots per side in a shallow fan. Trim ends to 5–6", cutting each pair 1/2" different.

3



Paint whiskers with 1:1 fabric glue and water; pin them in their fan shape until fully dry.

4



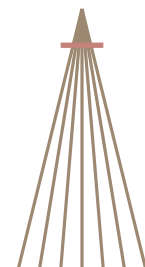
Tassel: wrap 12 cords of group F around your hand, thread a hanger cord through the top of the loop.

5



Bind the neck with a wrap knot (group G): lay a loop, wrap 4 times upward, feed the end through, pull hidden.

6

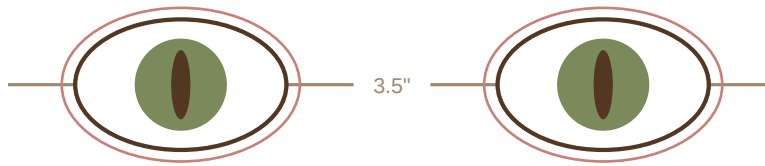


Cut the bottom loops, brush the skirt with a pet comb, trim level. Hang 3 tassels per side under the chin.

HAPPY JUST CRAFTING

Eye Placement Map

Eyes sit on the brace-wire line, centered on warps 5 and 12, pupils 3.5" apart. The diagram shows the socket ring and seating order. All-fiber option: replace each resin eye with a spiral of green 3 mm cord coiled and stitched to fill the socket, black OK center.



rose ring = HDHH socket round • seat eye AFTER the socket round, BEFORE the muzzle carriers

Troubleshooting

Problem	Likely cause	Fix
Face fabric waves or cups	VDHH tension uneven row to row	Comb rows down every 4 rows; re-tension against the brace wire
Eye sockets different sizes	Skipped different warp counts	Both sockets must skip exactly warps 4–6 / 11–13; unpick to the miscount
Ears flop forward	Padding too light / edges unstitched	Add fiberfill; whip-stitch both edges to two crown rows, not one
Whiskers droop after a week	Glue mix too thin	Re-paint with 2:1 glue:water; pin flat until bone dry
Tassels look stringy	Skirts unbrushed or uneven	Brush hard with slicker brush, steam, then trim with one straight cut
Nose wrap slips down	Wrap started too loose	Restart: first rose wrap must bite both warps; pull each wrap with pliers
Rows creep off the ring curve	Weaver pulled inward at row ends	End every row with the weaver exiting over the ring, not under it

General Tips & Finishing

- Blocking: lay the finished face over a rolled towel and steam the cheeks from 6" away, then press gently with palms — this settles the relief without crushing the chevrons.
- Brushing: only the tassel skirts get brushed. Never brush the VDHH face fabric; it will fuzz and blur the carved lines.
- Sealing: dab every trimmed end on the back with fabric glue. Dense hitch work hides tails well, but glue keeps them hidden through dusting and moves.
- Hanging: the piece hangs from the hidden brass ring on a single nail; the tassels clear the wall best on a nail with 1/2" stand-off.
- Care: dust with a hairdryer on cool. Spot-clean only — a soak will relax the rose wraps.