

The Whiskered Clutch

A Macrame Cat Purse Pattern

A Javoews House pattern



Inspiration



Finished pattern

SKILL LEVEL	Intermediate
FINISHED SIZE	Purse 10 x 6.5 in (25 x 16 cm) - strap 40 in (102 cm)
BUILD TIME	10-13 hours for a beginner-to-intermediate crafter / 3-4 evening sessions
CORD	3 mm single-twist cotton, warm sand - approx. 95 yd total

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Materials

Item	Spec	Quantity
Cord, main	3 mm single-twist cotton, warm sand	approx. 88 yd (80 m)
Cord, accent	2 mm cotton, dusty rose (nose / inner ear)	2 yd
Cord, eyes	2 mm cotton or embroidery bundle, olive green	2 yd
Whiskers	1 mm waxed cotton, natural white	1.5 yd
Lining (optional)	Cotton fabric cut 11 x 14 in	1 piece
Tools	Cork/foam board, T-pins, tapestry needle, sharp shears, fabric comb, measuring tape	

TIME TO COMPLETE - 10-13 hours total

Mounting & body mesh: 3-4 hrs | Flap chevrons: 2 hrs | Cat face medallion: 2.5-3 hrs

Ears, nose, eyes & whiskers: 1.5 hrs | Tassel & strap: 1.5 hrs | Assembly & finishing: 1.5 hrs

Work the face medallion as its own session - fresh eyes make a friendlier cat.

Cord Cutting Chart

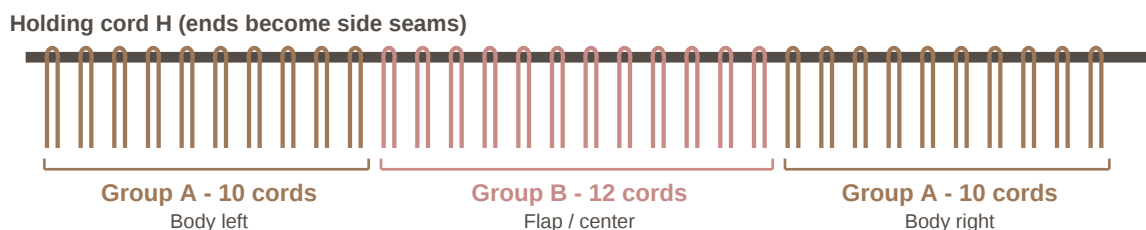
Label	Purpose	Qty	Cut length	Subtotal
H	Holding cord (top edge + side seams)	1	60 in	1.7 yd
A	Body mesh cords (fold to mount)	20	110 in	61 yd... see note
B	Flap / center cords (fold to mount)	12	120 in	40 yd
C	Face medallion carrier + fillers	9	30 in	7.5 yd
D	Tassel skirt cords	14	12 in	4.7 yd
E	Strap cords (HSK spiral)	4	150 in	16.7 yd
W	Wrapping cords (tassel + strap ends)	3	24 in	2 yd

Total approx. 95 yd of 3 mm main cord. Cut every cord 3-4 inches longer than listed - trimming is cheap, splicing is not.

Designer's note: cord gauge read as 3 mm from knot density (about 3 ASK per inch). If your cord runs 4 mm, drop to 18 A cords and 10 B cords.

Cord Layout & Mounting Diagram

The purse is worked FLAT from the top of the back panel, so the mounting row ends up hidden inside the top seam.



Mount all 32 working cords (folded LHK = 64 working ends) evenly across the middle 10 in of the holding cord.

Group B's 12 center cords carry the flap chevrons AND anchor the cat face medallion when it is stitched on.

Groups C (face medallion), D (tassel bundle) and E (strap) are worked OFF the dowel - see cutting chart.

Spacing check: 32 folded mounts across 10 in = one mount every 5/16 in. Snug but not crowded at 3 mm.

Knot Reference Guide

Lark's Head Knot (LHK)



Fold cord in half, loop over holding cord, pull ends through the loop.

Square Knot (SK)



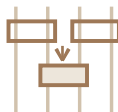
Left over right, right under; then mirror. Two halves = one flat knot.

Half Square Knot (HSK)



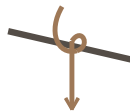
Tie only the first half of a SK repeatedly - the sinnet spirals naturally.

Alternating SK (ASK)



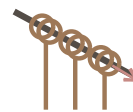
Each new row borrows 2 cords from each neighboring knot above - makes the mesh.

Half Hitch (HH)



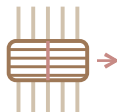
Loop working cord once around a carrier cord and snug up.

Diagonal Double Half Hitch (DDHH)



Two HH per cord onto an angled carrier - builds the raised ridge lines.

Wrapped Knot (WK)



Wrap a long cord around a bundle top to bottom, feed end through bottom loop, pull hidden.

Overhand Knot (OK)



Simple loop-and-through knot to stop cord ends from fraying.

Full Piece Assembly Map

1 STRAP - HSK spiral sinnet, 40 in

3 BODY MESH - ASK lattice,
front + back panels

6 WHISKERS - waxed cotton,
threaded + trimmed

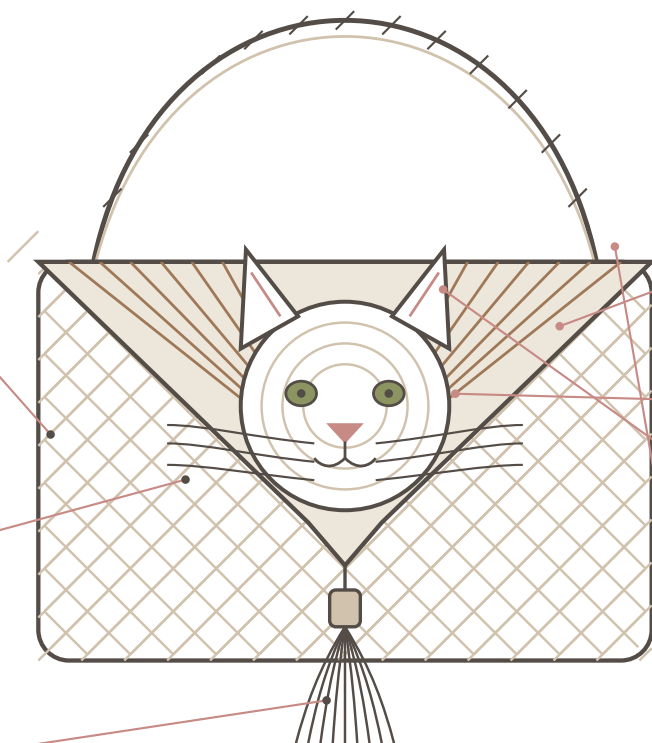
7 TASSEL CLOSURE - WK wrap

2 FLAP - DDHH chevron ridges

4 CAT FACE MEDALLION -
concentric DHH rounds

5 EARS - DDHH triangles

8 MOUNTING ROW inside top



Build Order Overview

1. Cut all cords per the cutting chart; seal ends that fray.
2. Mount groups A + B onto the holding cord (back panel top edge).
3. Knot the back panel: 6 in of tight ASK mesh.
4. Continue 6 in more for the front panel (the piece folds at the halfway line).
5. Work the flap: 6-7 nested DDHH chevrons ending in a point.
6. Off-board: knot the cat face medallion, ears, nose, eyes.
7. Stitch medallion to the flap; thread whiskers.
8. Tassel closure at the flap point (wrapped knot).
9. Strap: HSK spiral sinnet, 40 in; lash to side seams.
10. Fold, seam the sides, optional lining, final trim & steam.

Section 1 - Mounting

Pin the holding cord H horizontally on your board with 12 in of tail on each side (they become the side seams). Fold each A and B cord in half and LHK onto H per the layout diagram: 10 A, 12 B centered, 10 A. 64 working ends. Check width: mounted row should span 10 in. Slide knots to even out before the first mesh row locks it in.

Section 2 - Back panel - ASK mesh (6 in)

Row 1: SK across all cords in groups of 4 - 16 knots total.
Row 2: drop the first 2 and last 2 cords, SK the alternate groups - 15 knots. This offset builds the diamond lattice.
Repeat rows 1-2 with a snug 1/4 in vertical gap until the panel measures 6 in. Keep tension even; this face shows.

Section 3 - Front panel (6 in more)

Continue the identical ASK mesh for another 6 in - no visible change, the fold happens later at the 6 in line. Every 1 in, lay a ruler across the work: knot rows should be parallel. Correct drift now, not at 12 in.

Section 4 - Flap - DDHH chevrons

The flap continues off the front panel using all 64 ends. See the technique deep-dive for the carrier setup. Work 6-7 nested chevrons, decreasing the outer cords into the side edges each pass so the flap tapers to a point. Finish with both carriers meeting at the center point; leave their 8 in tails hanging - tassel core.

Section 5 - Cat face medallion (off-board)

Worked separately as a flat DHH disc, 3.5 in across, then detailed - full walkthrough in the deep-dive pages. Block the disc flat under a damp cloth before stitching it on; a cupped face never sits right on the flap.

Section 6 - Face details & whiskers

Ears: two DDHH triangles stitched behind the disc edge at 10 and 2 o'clock.
Nose in dusty rose satin stitch, eyes in olive wraps with a dark center knot, whiskers threaded and trimmed to 2.5 in.

Section 7 - Tassel closure

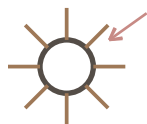
Bundle 14 skirt cords over the flap-point tails and finish with a wrapped knot - see deep-dive 3. The tassel is the closure's weight: it should hang just past the purse's bottom edge when the flap is shut.

Section 8 - Strap & assembly

Strap: 4 cords, HSK spiral for 40 in, wrapped knot at both ends. Lash securely into the top 1 in of each side seam.
Fold at the 6 in line, whip-stitch side seams closed with a doubled 3 mm cord, hiding the H tails inside.
Optional lining: fold fabric to a pouch, slip-stitch inside the top opening.

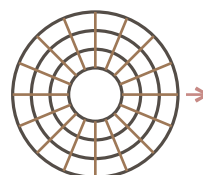
Technique Deep-Dive 1: The Cat Face Medallion

1



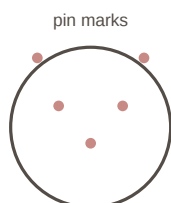
Coil a 12 in carrier cord into a 1 in ring;
HH 8 short cords onto it to fill the center.

2



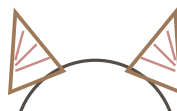
Round 2-4: spiral the carrier outward,
DHH every cord onto it each pass - flat disc grows.

3



At 3.5 in wide, pin disc to cork board.
Mark eye, nose and ear positions with pins.

4



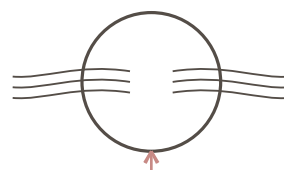
Ears: mount 5 cords each side, DDHH to a
point over 4 rows; stitch tips behind disc edge.

5



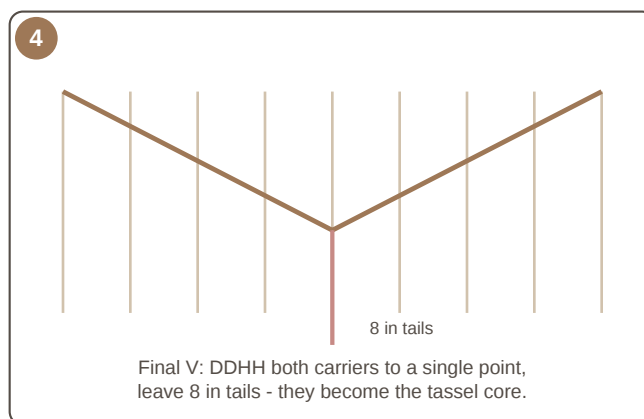
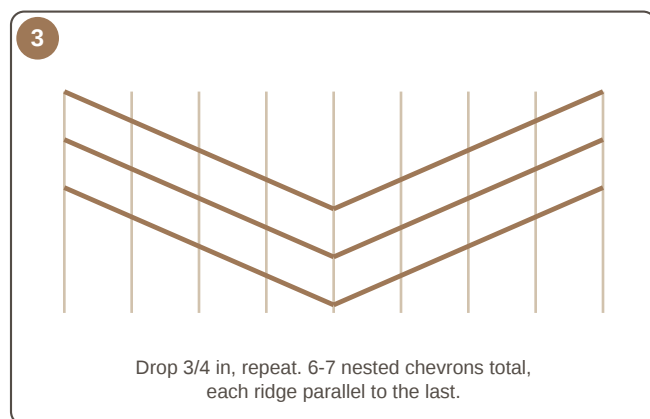
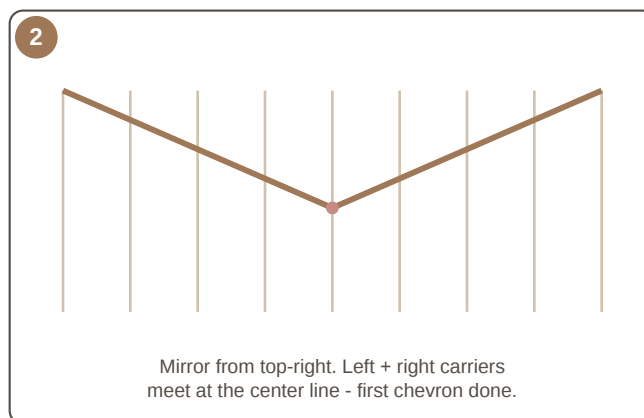
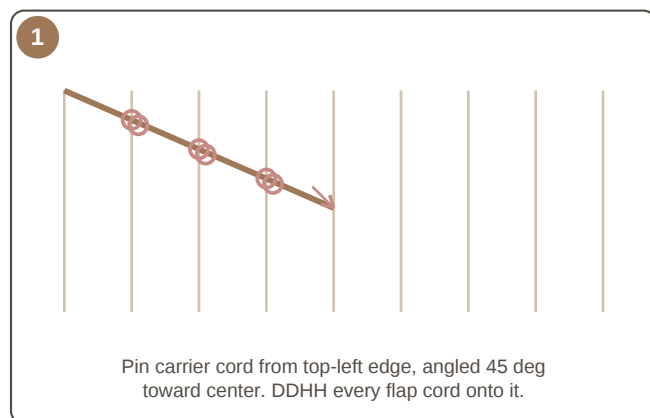
Nose: satin-stitch rose cord over a triangle;
eyes: 2 wraps of olive cord through disc, knot behind.

6



Whiskers: thread 3 waxed cords per side
through disc, OK flush behind, trim to 2.5 in.

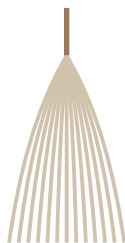
Technique Deep-Dive 2: DDHH Chevron Flap



Tension tip: DDHH ridges want a firm, consistent pull - snug each hitch upward against the carrier before the next cord.

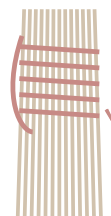
Technique Deep-Dive 3: Wrapped-Knot Tassel Closure

1



Cut 14 x 12 in cords; fold over the two 8 in carrier tails hanging at the flap point.

2



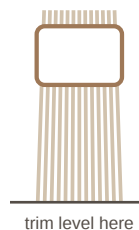
Lay a 24 in wrapping cord in a long loop; wrap firmly downward 8-10 times.

3



Feed the working end through the bottom loop; pull the TOP tail - loop slides under the wrap.

4



trim level here

Trim both hidden ends flush. Comb the skirt, trim level at 4 in. Steam to set the twist out.

A wrapped knot tightened in a hurry slips. Wrap firmly, pull the hidden tail hard, THEN trim - never trim first.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Likely cause	Fix
Mesh diamonds uneven	Inconsistent gap between ASK rows	Pin a 1/4 in spacer strip under each new row
Panel narrows as you work	Pulling SK working cords too hard	Loosen grip; measure width every inch
Chevron ridges wander	Carrier cord not pinned at a fixed angle	Pin carrier start AND endpoint before hitching
Face disc cups like a bowl	Rounds too tight as the spiral grows	Ease outer-round tension; block flat while damp
Eyes look crooked	Placed by eye, not by pin	Pin both positions, view at arm's length first
Tassel wrap slips loose	Loop not pulled fully under the wrap	Re-tie with firmer wraps; pull top tail hard
Strap twists on itself	Natural HSK spiral over-rotating	Steam the finished strap under light weight

Finishing & Care

Blocking: lay the finished purse under a damp press cloth, pat square, and let it dry flat overnight.

Fringe & tassel: comb with a fine fabric comb, trim level with sharp shears in one confident pass.

Sealing: a dab of clear fabric glue on whip-stitch knots inside the seams keeps daily use from working them loose.

Care: spot-clean only with mild soap and cold water; reshape damp and dry flat. Keep the tassel combed.

Steam (never iron directly) to relax any curl in the flap point before gifting or listing.