

The Dragon Keep

A Four-Dragon Macramé Wall Hanging

A Javoews House pattern

Skill level: Advanced • Finished size: approx. 30" W × 40" L (76 × 102 cm)

Estimated build time: 28–36 hours / 8–10 evening sessions (beginner-to-intermediate pace)



Inspiration

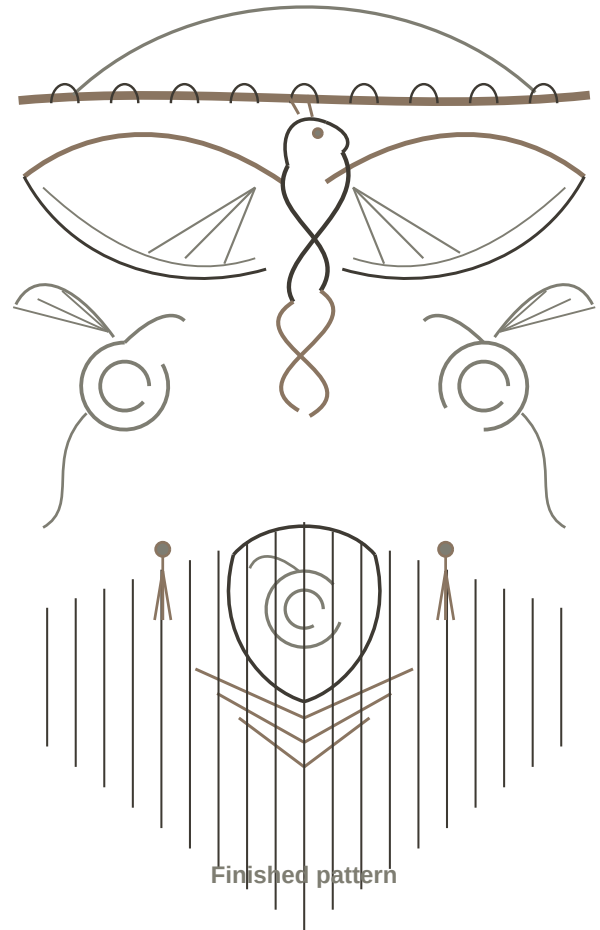




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Materials

Item	Color	Quantity
Cotton cord, single-strand, 4 mm	Natural ecru	~380 yd (348 m)
Cotton cord, single-strand, 4 mm	Smoke grey	~120 yd (110 m)
Cotton cord, single-strand, 3 mm	Warm taupe	~40 yd (37 m)
Driftwood branch, 1–1.5" dia.	Weathered natural	34–38" long
Jute or 6 mm rope (hanger)	Natural	2 yd (1.8 m)
Wooden beads, 16–20 mm bore ≥ 8 mm	Walnut / natural	6 pcs

Tools: macramé/cork board with T-pins, 6" tapestry needle, fabric shears, fine-tooth comb or pet slicker brush (fringe), steamer or iron, fabric glue (ends), measuring tape.

TIME TO COMPLETE — 28–36 hours total

Mounting & lashings: 1 hr • Great wings: 5–6 hrs each • Central dragon head/body: 4–5 hrs
Guardian dragons: 4 hrs each • Spiral medallion: 2–3 hrs • Chevron lattice: 3–4 hrs
Fringe, tassels, beads & finishing: 2–3 hrs. Work one zone per session and block as you go.

Designer's note: cord weight read as 4 mm from knot scale against the 1–1.5" branch; the grey core cords sit slightly heavier in the photo — if you prefer more relief, substitute 5 mm for group B only.



Cord Cutting Chart

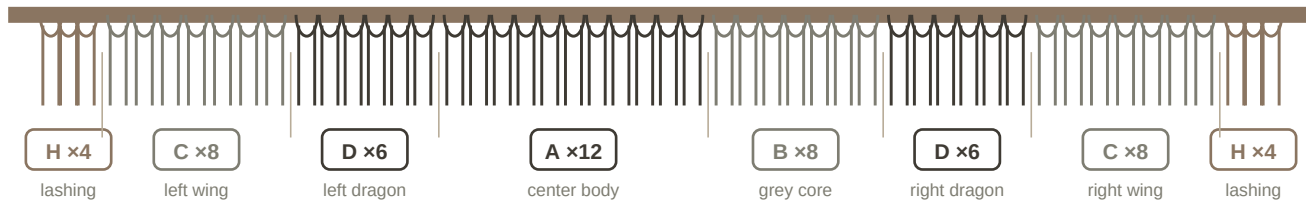
Label	Purpose	Qty	Cut length	Subtotal
A	Center body & head (ecru)	12	15 ft (4.6 m)	180 ft
B	Grey core / medallion (smoke)	8	14 ft (4.3 m)	112 ft
C	Great wings, per side (ecru)	8+8	13 ft (4.0 m)	208 ft
D	Guardian dragons, per side (grey)	6+6	11 ft (3.4 m)	132 ft
E	Chevron lattice fills (ecru)	16	9 ft (2.7 m)	144 ft
F	Fringe & rya bundles (ecru)	40	3.5 ft (1.1 m)	140 ft
G	Tassels + wraps (taupe 3 mm)	12	6 ft (1.8 m)	72 ft
H	Branch lashings (ecru)	8	5 ft (1.5 m)	40 ft
	TOTAL	116		1,028 ft (~343 yd)

Cut every cord 3–4 inches longer than listed. Sculptural DHH work eats length unevenly — long tails are trimmed into fringe, short ones become a problem.

Cord Layout & Mounting Diagram

Mount groups symmetrically, working from the center out. Lash the H cords at each end AFTER all lark's heads are on, cinching the outermost bundles so nothing slides on the taper.

Driftwood branch — 34" usable span, mount within center 30"



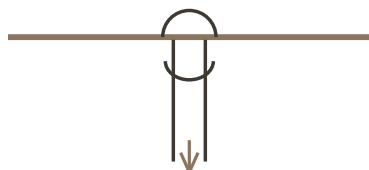
Reading order along the branch, left to right: H lashing · C left wing (8) · D left dragon (6) · A center body (12) · B grey core (8) · D right dragon (6) · C right wing (8) · H lashing. Groups E, F, G are added later — E is introduced at the lattice carriers, F is rya-knotted into the hem, and G wraps the tassels. Keep ~1" of bare branch between neighboring groups so the wing carriers can angle outward without crowding the dragon panels.

MOUNTING TIP

Hang the branch at working height from two wall hooks before mounting anything. This piece is heavy — building it flat and lifting it later distorts the wing tension you worked hard to set.

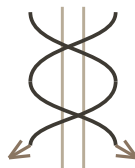
Knot Reference Guide

Lark's Head Knot (LHK)



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

Square Knot (SK)



Left cord over fillers/under right; right under fillers/through left loop. Reverse to close.

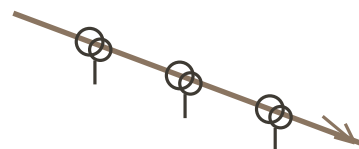
Alternating Square Knot (ASK)



rows offset by 2 cords

Offset each SK row by two cords to build open mesh fabric.

Diagonal Double Half Hitch (DHH)



2 hitches per cord, snug to carrier

Hitch each cord twice over an angled carrier cord; keeps a crisp raised ridge.

Horizontal Double Half Hitch (HDHH)



Same as DHH but carrier held level; used for straight border ridges.

Berry Knot (BK)



3 SK pushed up + locked

Tie 3 SK, thread working cords back up through the top, push to pop the ball forward.

Half-Knot Spiral (HKS)



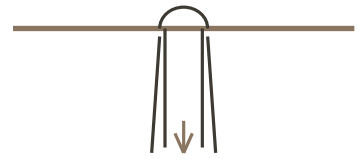
same half knot repeats = twist
Repeat the same half of an SK; the sinnet twists into a rope-like spiral.

Wrapped Knot (WK)



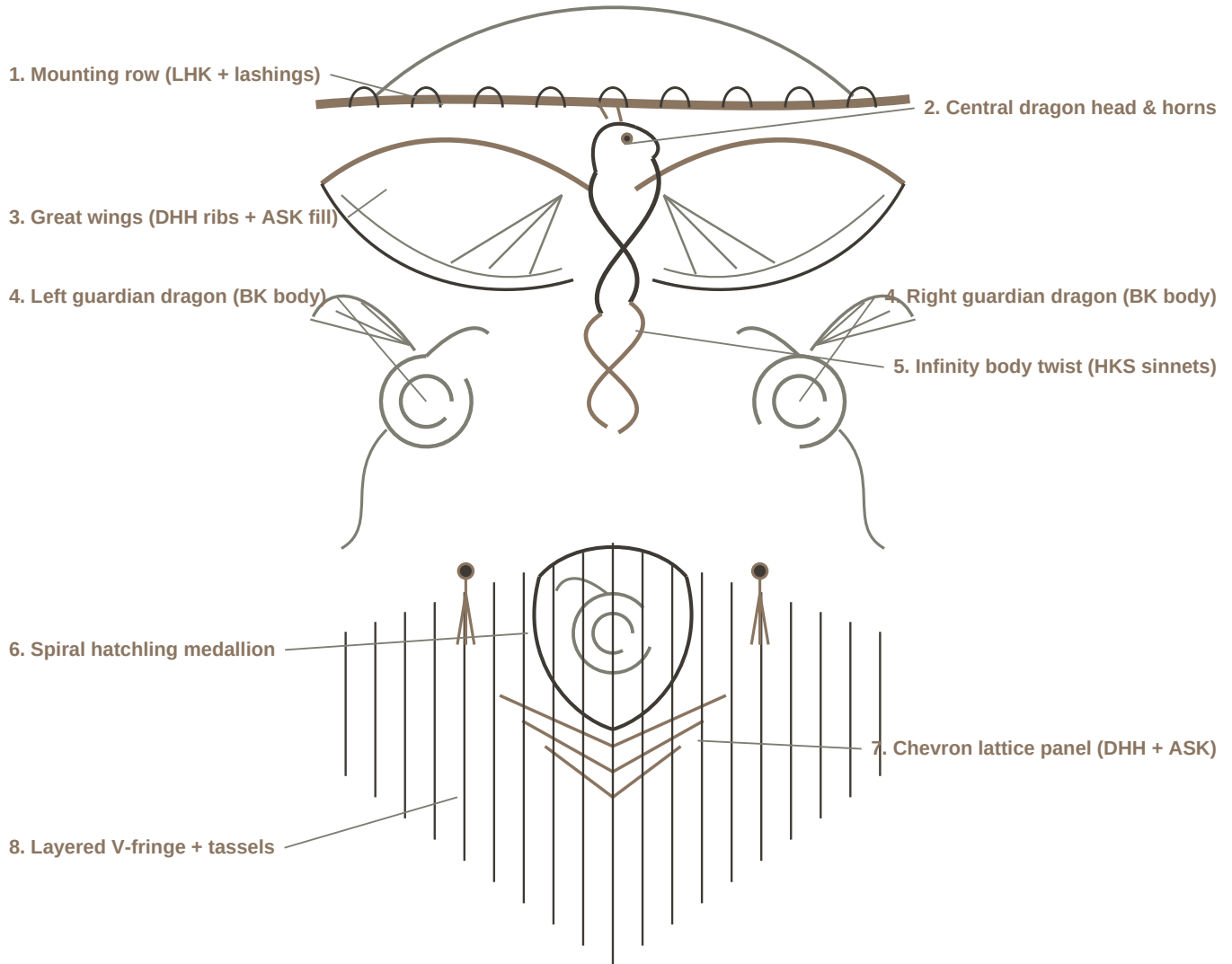
wrap down, tail through loop, pull up
Gather cords, wrap tightly downward, feed tail through bottom loop, pull hidden.

Rya Knot (RK)



folded bundle over base cords
Fold a fringe bundle over base cords and pull ends through for dense tassel fringe.

Full-Piece Assembly Map





Build Order Overview

1. Mounting row — LHK all groups onto the branch; lash ends with H cords.
2. Central dragon head & neck — sculpt skull, snout, horns from group A.
3. Great wings — left then right: DHH rib carriers, ASK membrane fill, picot bone line.
4. Guardian dragons — left then right: berry-knot bodies, coiled tails, small spread wings.
5. Infinity body twist — two HKS sinnets from A + B interlaced down the center.
6. Spiral hatchling medallion — teardrop frame, coiled grey sinnet dragon inside.
7. Chevron lattice panel — alternating grey DHH chevrons and ecru ASK diamonds.
8. Tassels, beads, layered V-fringe — rya rows, wrapped tassels, bead drops; finish & block.

Construction

Section 1 — Mounting (≈1 hr)

- 1.1 Fold and LHK each cord group onto the branch in the layout-diagram order. Keep the fold bumps facing forward.
- 1.2 With each H pair, lash 6 tight wraps just outside the outermost C group on each end; square-knot the lash closed at the back and glue.
- 1.3 Tie the jute hanger with a timber hitch 2" in from each branch end. Check level before continuing.

Section 2 — Central Dragon Head & Neck (≈4–5 hrs)

- 2.1 Take the center 6 cords of group A. Work a 2" HKS sinnet, then split into two 3-cord DHH curves to open the skull outline.
- 2.2 Snout: carry the right curve forward into a hooked DHH ridge; hitch back on itself to close the jaw line.
- 2.3 Horns: with 2 taupe G cords, work two 1.5" tight HKS spikes off the crown; stitch upright from behind.
- 2.4 Eye: thread one walnut bead onto the top jaw carrier before closing the cheek panel — the bead should sit proud of the surface.
- 2.5 Neck: braid the remaining A cords into two crossing DHH ridges dropping 5" — this S-curve becomes the top of the body twist.

Section 3 — Great Wings, one side at a time (≈5–6 hrs each)

- 3.1 Pin the top C cord as the wing-finger carrier, angling up-and-out ~30° from the head. DHH all remaining C cords onto it out to the wingtip.
- 3.2 Lay 3 more rib carriers fanning below the finger, ~1.5" apart at the body tapering wider at the tip. DHH each in turn.
- 3.3 Fill each membrane panel with ASK mesh — one knot looser than your body tension, so the membrane reads lighter than the ribs.
- 3.4 Bone line: with grey D-scrap or B cords, add a row of picot bumps along the top finger edge (see deep dive, step 5).
- 3.5 At the wingtip, gather the last 4 cords in a WK, trim to a short point. Steam-block the whole wing flat before starting the other side.
- 3.6 Mirror everything for the second wing. Check symmetry against the assembly map at arm's length — wings read as a pair or not at all.

Section 4 — Guardian Dragons, left & right (≈4 hrs each)

- 4.1 With the 6 D cords, work the stepped berry-knot arc: 5 BK in a rising curve — this is the plated back (deep dive 1).
- 4.2 Tail: continue the lowest 4 cords as a 12" HKS sinnet; coil twice and tack from behind so the spiral floats over the fringe layer.
- 4.3 Head: shape a small DHH loop off the top berry, snout hooked toward the center dragon; add a bead eye.
- 4.4 Wing: pin a short grey carrier off the shoulder, DHH 4 struts fanning outward, no mesh fill — the open struts read as a webbed wing.



4.5 Mirror on the opposite side, snout again toward center. The two guardians should frame the body twist symmetrically.

Section 5 — Infinity Body Twist (≈2 hrs)

- 5.1 From the neck's two DHH ridges, continue with A cords as one HKS sinnet and B cords as a second, each ~16" long.
- 5.2 Cross them in a figure-eight: A over B at the first crossing, B over A at the second. Pin at each crossing.
- 5.3 Hand-stitch each crossing from behind with matching sewing thread — the twist must not slump when the piece hangs.

Section 6 — Spiral Hatchling Medallion (≈2–3 hrs)

- 6.1 Frame: from the bottom of the body twist, split cords into two mirrored DHH carrier curves forming a 7"-wide teardrop.
- 6.2 Hatchling: with 4 B cords, work a 14" grey HKS sinnet, coil into a flat spiral and tack (deep dive 3).
- 6.3 Let the final 4" exit as neck and head; shape the snout, stitch, and seat the whole coil inside the teardrop.
- 6.4 Close the teardrop point with 3 rows of chevron DHH in taupe.

Section 7 — Chevron Lattice Panel (≈3–4 hrs)

- 7.1 Introduce the 16 E cords onto two long grey B carriers angling down-and-in from below each guardian dragon.
- 7.2 Alternate bands: one grey DHH chevron row, then two rows of open ASK diamonds in ecru. Repeat 3 times, each band narrower.
- 7.3 Keep the V centered under the medallion point — check plumb with a hanging thread from the central dragon's snout.

Section 8 — Tassels, Beads & Fringe (≈2–3 hrs)

- 8.1 Rya-knot the 40 F bundles along the hem, densest at the center V, thinning toward the sides.
- 8.2 Tassels: at each marked drop (2 below the wings, 2 mid-panel, 2 at the medallion), thread a walnut bead, then WK a taupe tassel below it.
- 8.3 Cut the fringe in a layered V following the assembly map: longest at center (≈12"), stepping up ~1" per bundle outward.
- 8.4 Comb every fringe section, steam, and trim once more after 24 hrs of hanging — cotton relaxes overnight.

Technique Deep-Dive 1 — Berry-Knot Dragon Body & Coiled Tail

1



Tie 3 tight square knots around 2 filler cords.

2



thread back through top

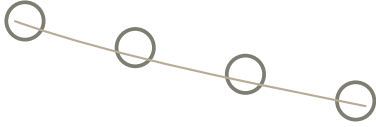
Thread both working cords back up through the sinnet top.

3



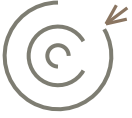
Pull down and push the sinnet forward — it pops into a berry.

4



Chain berries in a stepped arc to build the dragon's plated back.

5



Coil the tail: HKS sinnet coaxed into a spiral, tacked from behind.

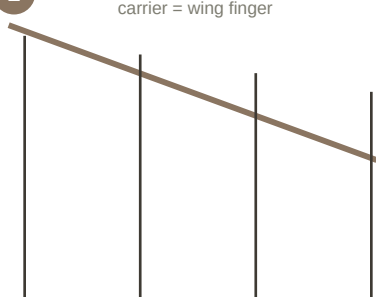
6



Shape head, add DHH horns and a wooden bead eye; stitch to lock.

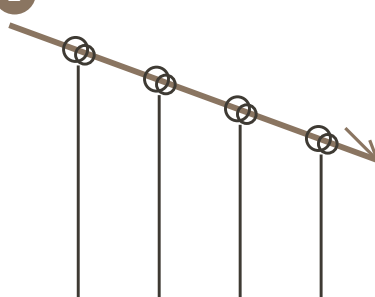
Technique Deep-Dive 2 — Wing Ribs & Membrane Mesh

1 carrier = wing finger



Pin carrier cord along the wing-finger angle on your board.

2



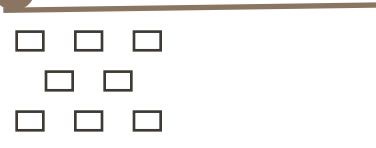
DHH every cord onto the carrier — 2 hitches each, snug and even.

3



repeat: 3 parallel rib carriers
Lay 3 parallel carriers for the rib bones, 1.5" apart.

4



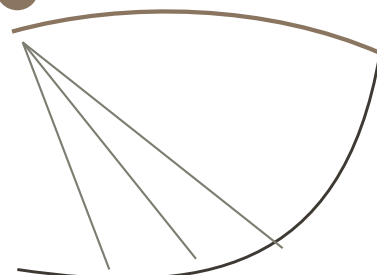
ASK mesh fills between ribs
Fill each membrane panel with ASK mesh — looser than body mesh.

5



picot bumps along leading edge
Add grey picots along the top edge for the scalloped bone line.

6



tension the tip; block flat
Pull the wingtip taut, pin, and steam-block so the sweep holds.

Technique Deep-Dive 3 — Spiral Hatchling Medallion

1

teardrop = 2 DHH carriers



Shape the teardrop frame with two mirrored DHH carrier curves.

2


start HKS sinnet, curl the end

With 4 grey cords, work a HKS sinnet ~14" long; curl one end.

3


coil outward, tack each pass

Coil the sinnet into a flat spiral; hand-stitch each pass from behind.

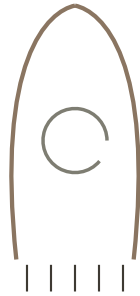
4


head + snout exit the coil

Let the last 4" exit as neck + head; shape snout, tack firmly.

5

seat coil inside teardrop



Stitch the finished coil inside the teardrop; keep tension even.

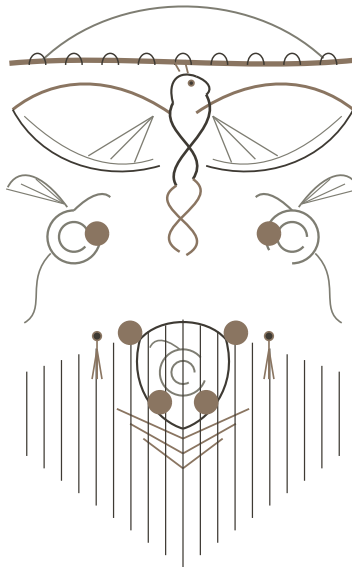
6



close with chevron DHH + fringe

Close the point with 3 chevron DHH rows and graded fringe.

Bead & Tassel Placement Map



Six walnut beads (marked •): one below each great wing at the tassel drops, one at each guardian dragon's tail coil, and a pair flanking the medallion point. Each bead sits above a wrapped taupe tassel. A seventh optional bead can cap the central fringe drop below the medallion.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Likely cause	Fix
Wings droop after hanging	ASK fill too loose / no blocking	Steam-block flat; stitch rib carriers to mesh from behind
Berry knots flatten	SK sinnet not tight enough	Retie with max tension; push ball forward before locking
Spiral medallion sags	Tacking stitches too sparse	Stitch every coil pass, not just the outer ring
Piece pulls left or right	Uneven mounting spacing	Re-space LHK groups; re-cinch the H lashings
Chevron V is off-center	Carrier angles unequal	Re-pin carriers against a plumb thread before hitching
Fringe looks thin	Rya bundles too small	Use 4-strand bundles at center V, 3 at the sides
Grey core dominates	B cords too heavy/tight	Loosen HKS tension or drop to 4 mm grey

General Tips & Finishing

Blocking: hang the finished piece and mist lightly; pin the wingtips out to a door or foam wall overnight.

Fringe: comb with a slicker brush, steam, then trim the V one final time — always cut less than you think.

Ends: dab hidden knot tails with fabric glue and trim flush behind the work.

Care: dust with a hairdryer on cool; spot-clean only. Keep out of direct sun to preserve the ecru/grey contrast.

Display: this piece weighs ~3 lb finished — use two anchored hooks, not a single nail.