

Braided Sisters Wall Hanging

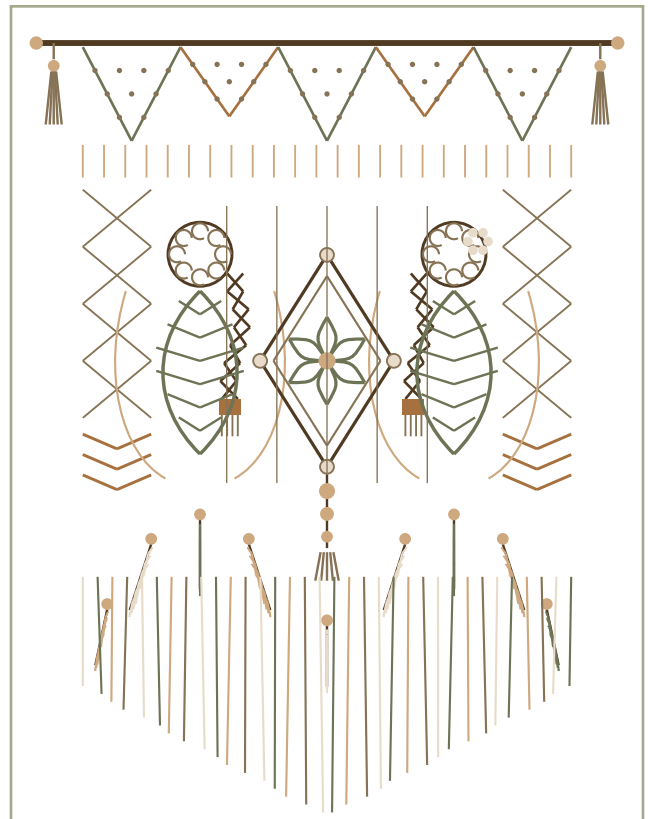
A Javoews House pattern

Advanced | Finished size approx. 26" W x 38" L (66 x 97 cm) on a 32" dowel | 18-24 hours / 6-8 evening sessions

Inspiration



Finished pattern



Two braided figures, a blooming medallion, and three tiers of sculpted feathers in sage, rust, and cream.



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Materials

Item	Spec	Qty
Cotton cord, single-twist, cream	4 mm	~175 m / 191 yd
Cotton cord, single-twist, sage green	4 mm	~85 m / 93 yd
Cotton cord, single-twist, rust / cinnamon	4 mm	~85 m / 93 yd
Cotton cord, single-twist, camel / ochre	4 mm	~45 m / 49 yd
Wooden dowel, sanded	32" x 3/4" (81 x 2 cm)	1
Raw wood beads, large hole (fits 2x 4mm)	16-20 mm	~22
Raw wood beads, small	10-12 mm	~14
Fabric stiffener spray (for feathers)	any craft brand	1 can

Tools: sharp fabric shears, metal pet brush or fine comb (feathers), tapestry needle, fabric glue, measuring tape, masking tape, S-hooks or a garment rack to work vertically.

Designer's note: single-twist (3-ply untwisted) cotton is essential here - the brushed feathers and braided heads rely on cord that combs out into soft fiber. Braided cord will not fluff.

TIME TO COMPLETE - 18-24 hours, 6-8 sessions

Mounting & top band: 2 hrs | Side panels: 2.5 hrs | Figures (heads, braids, bodies): 5-6 hrs | Center medallion panel: 3 hrs | Feathers (approx. 15 pieces): 4-5 hrs | Fringe, dangles & finishing: 2.5 hrs. Feathers batch well - make them across two evenings while panels rest.

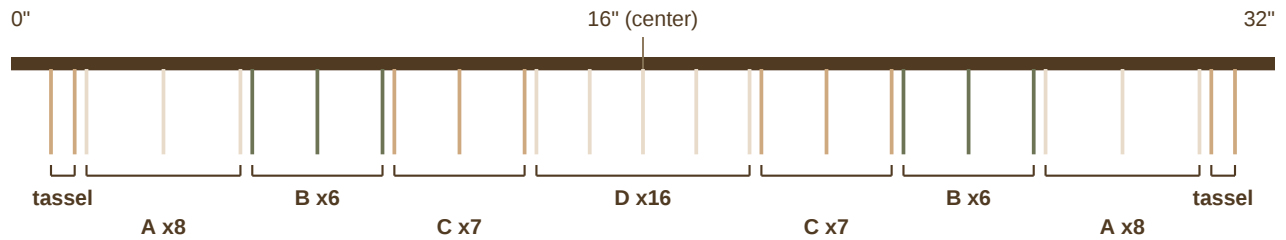
Cord Cutting Chart

Label	Purpose	Qty	Cut length	Subtotal
A	Side panels + outer fringe (cream)	16	4.2 m / 4.6 yd	67.2 m
B	Sage accents: chevrons, net (sage)	12	3.8 m / 4.2 yd	45.6 m
C	Rust accents: chevrons, halos (rust)	14	3.8 m / 4.2 yd	53.2 m
D	Center field: figures, medallion, net (cream)	16	4.5 m / 4.9 yd	72.0 m
E	Figure hair - heads + braids (cream)	16	2.5 m / 2.7 yd	40.0 m
F	Feather rya cords, mixed colors	180	35 cm / 14"	63.0 m
G	Feather spines + bead hangers (camel)	15	80 cm / 31"	12.0 m
H	Wraps, tassels & dangles (rust + camel)	14	1.5 m / 1.6 yd	21.0 m
TOTAL		283		~374 m / 409 yd

Cut every cord 3-4 inches longer than listed - the leaf lattice and braids eat length unevenly, and trimming is always easier than splicing.



Cord Layout & Mounting Diagram



Mounting legend (each mark = 1 folded cord = 2 working ends)

- A - Cream side panel + fringe, 8 per side (LH fold)
- B - Sage accent, 6 per side, sits behind figure body
- C - Rust accent, 7 per side, feeds chevrons + halo cords
- D - Cream center field, 16 cords: figures, medallion, net
- T - End tassel bundles: 6 short cords + wood bead, wrapped

Total on dowel: 58 folded cords = 116 working ends. Keep groups snug; the top band closes any gaps.

HAPPY JUST CRAFTING

Knot Reference Guide



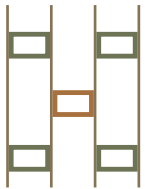
Lark's Head (LH)

Fold cord in half, loop over dowel front-to-back, pull both ends through the loop. Reverse LH hides the bump at the back.



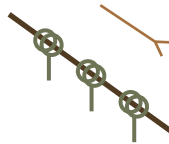
Square Knot (SQ)

Over 2 filler cords: left working cord over fillers, right cord over it, through the left loop; then mirror. Two halves = one flat SQ.



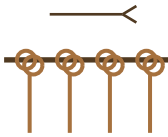
Alternating Square Knot (ASK)

Rows of SQs offset by 2 cords each row - borrow half the cords from each neighboring knot to open the diamond net.



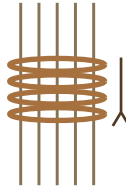
Diagonal Double Half Hitch (DHH)

Hold a filler cord taut on a diagonal; each working cord makes two hitches over it, left to right. Builds ribs, diamonds, leaf veins.



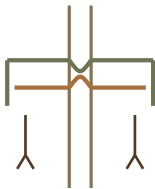
Horizontal Double Half Hitch (HDHH)

Same two-hitch move over a filler held horizontal. Used for the solid rust/sage bars in the top border band.



Gathering Wrap (WRAP)

Lay a loop down the bundle, wrap upward around everything 6-10 times, feed the end through the loop, pull the hidden tail to bury it.



Rya (Feather) Knot (RYA)

A folded pair lies under the spine with ends over; the next pair lies over with ends under. Alternate and snug upward - the base of every feather.



4-Strand Round Braid (BR4)

Outside strand crosses over two, under one, alternating sides. Makes the rope-like hair used for heads and falling braids.

HAPPY JUST CRAFTING

Full Piece Assembly Map

ZONE 1 - MOUNTING ROW

58 lark's heads on dowel

ZONE 2 - TOP BORDER BAND

ASK triangles + HDHH accents

ZONE 3 - SIDE PANELS

diamond net + rust chevrons

ZONE 4a - LEFT FIGURE

crown braid head + falling braid

ZONE 5 - FIGURE BODY

sage leaf lattice (DHH veins)

ZONE 7 - FEATHER TIER

rya-knot feathers + wood beads

END TASSELS

wrapped, wood bead cap

ZONE 4b - RIGHT FIGURE

braid bun + flower accent

ZONE 6 - MEDALLION

DHH diamond + 6-petal flower

BEAD DANGLE

graduated beads + mini tassel

ZONE 8 - FRINGE HEM

V-cut, color-blocked

build direction: top to bottom



Build Order Overview

1. Mount all cord groups on the dowel per the mounting diagram; hang the dowel at eye level.
2. Work the top border band: ASK triangle points with HDHH color bars, then the short fringe row.
3. Knot both side panels: diamond ASK net, closed with three rust DHH chevrons each.
4. Build both figure heads: coiled 4-strand braids, stitched flat, falling braid bound with a wrap.
5. Shape the figure bodies: sage leaf lattice in DHH veins with rust halo cords framing each.
6. Open the center diamond, knot the 6-petal flower medallion, bead the points, hang the dangle.
7. Make approx. 15 feathers off-loom (rya, brush, stiffen, cut) and tie them into the feather tier.
8. Level and cut the V-hem fringe, add wrapped tassels + beads, seal, steam, and finish.

Construction

Section 1 - Mounting (30 min)

- Mark the dowel center (16") with tape. Mount group D (16 cords) centered, reverse LH.
- Working outward each side: C x7, then B x6, then A x8 per the diagram. 58 folds total.
- Slide everything snug toward center; even spacing beats exact inch marks here.
- Bundle the T tassel cords at each dowel tip: 6 short cords, wood bead, gathering wrap.

Section 2 - Top Border Band (1.5 hrs)

- Row 1: one solid row of SQs straight across all 116 ends.
- Divide into 5 triangle blocks (~23 ends each). ASK each block, dropping one knot per row to a point.
- Under blocks 2 and 4, run 3 rows of HDHH in rust over camel fillers for the solid color bars.
- Add the short fringe row: 6" rya pairs across the band base, trimmed level at 2".

Section 3 - Side Panels (2.5 hrs)

- Each side uses its A group (16 ends). Work 4 rows of open ASK net, 1" between rows.
- Close each panel with three stacked rust DHH chevrons (point down), fillers from group C.
- Keep panel width at 3.5" - pin to a cork board if the net wants to waist inward.

Section 4 - Figure Heads & Braids (2.5-3 hrs)

- Left figure: bundle 8 E-cords, braid 4-strand for 9", coil flat into a 2.5" disc, stitch (see deep-dive 1).
- Continue the tail as the falling braid, curving toward the outside; bind with a rust wrap.
- Right figure: braid 11", coil into a higher bun; tuck a 5-loop cream flower into the coil edge.
- Stitch each head to the backing net at 4 points so it floats without sagging.

Section 5 - Figure Bodies - Leaf Lattice (2.5-3 hrs)

- Below each head, gather 12 D-ends. Run a DHH spine straight down 7".
- Vein outward: alternating sage DHH ribs left/right off the spine, 7 pairs, shortening toward the tip.
- Frame each body with 2 rust halo cords in loose vertical curves, tacked with single hitches.
- Bind the body tip with a small camel wrap where the feather tier will hang.

Section 6 - Center Medallion Panel (3 hrs)

- Keep the center 16 D-ends as a vertical net: alternating SQs at 1.25" spacing, 4 rows.



- Open the diamond and build the 6-petal flower (see deep-dive 3). Bead all 4 points.
- Below the diamond, thread the graduated 3-bead dangle and finish with a mini tassel.

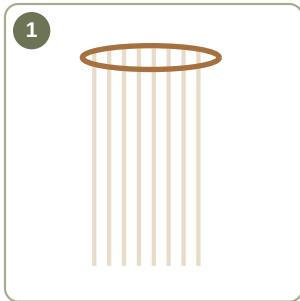
Section 7 - Feather Tier (4-5 hrs, batches well)

- Make 15 feathers off-loom per deep-dive 2: 6 cream, 5 sage, 4 rust. Vary lengths 4.5-6".
- Thread a small wood bead on each hanger; tie feathers under the figures and body tips, 3 per cluster.
- Hang the longest feathers center-low; step lengths so no two neighbors match.

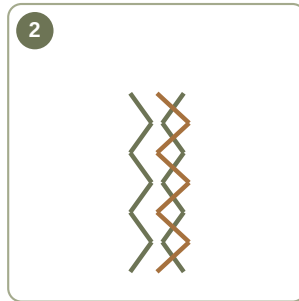
Section 8 - Fringe & Finishing (2.5 hrs)

- Comb all remaining ends straight down. Tape the V-hem line on the wall behind the piece.
- Cut the V: longest at center (~14" below the feather tier), rising to the sides.
- Steam the fringe (garment steamer, 6" away) so it hangs dead straight before the final trim.

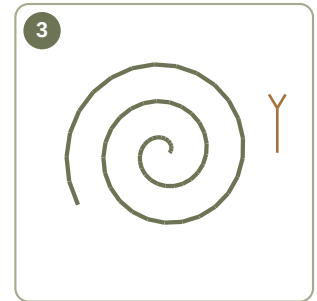
Technique Deep-Dive 1 - Braided Head & Falling Braid



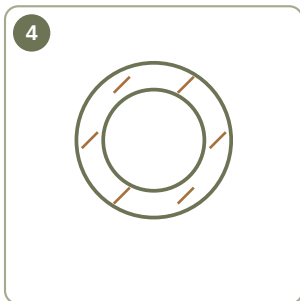
Bundle 8 head cords; tie off at top with scrap cord.



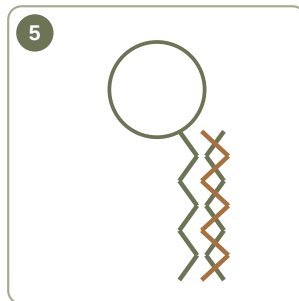
Split into 4 strands of 2; braid outside-over-middle, alternating sides.



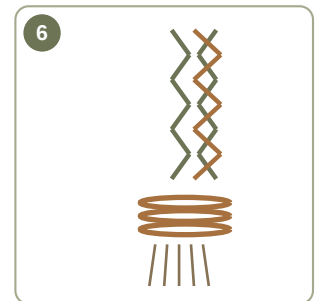
Coil the braid into a flat spiral to form the head disc.



Stitch the coil edges invisibly with a tapestry needle + cream thread.

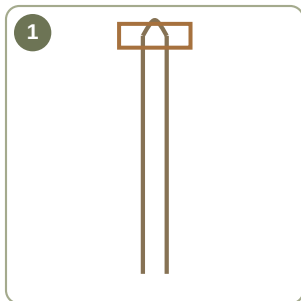


Continue remaining length as the falling braid; curve it beside the body.

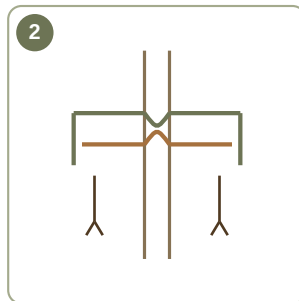


Bind the braid tail with a rust gathering wrap; trim and brush the tail.

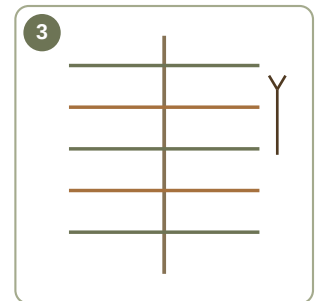
Technique Deep-Dive 2 - Sculpted Feathers



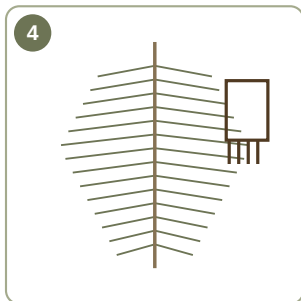
1 Fold 2 spine cords in half; secure the fold in a clip or tape it down.



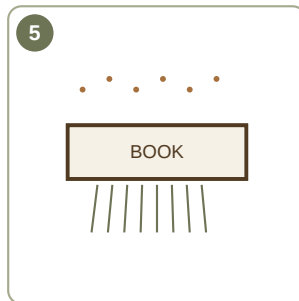
2 Lay a folded rya pair UNDER the spine, loop up; second pair OVER, ends through.



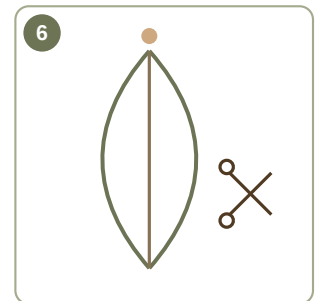
3 Alternate pairs down the spine, snugging each pair tight upward.



4 Comb both sides out with a pet brush until the cord fully fluffs.

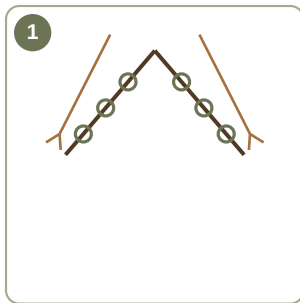


5 Spray with stiffener; press flat under a book for 20 minutes.

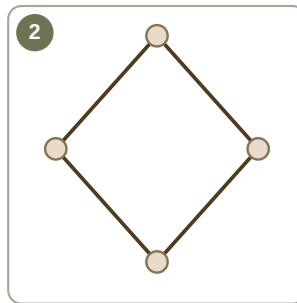


6 Cut the leaf silhouette with sharp shears; thread the bead on the hanger.

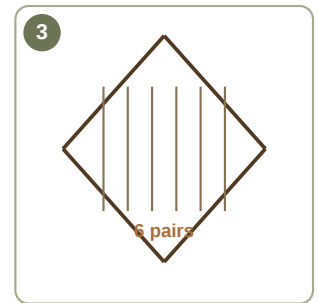
Technique Deep-Dive 3 - Flower Medallion in Diamond



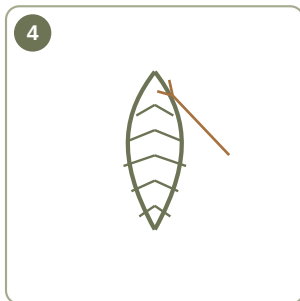
1 Split center cords; run DHH diagonals out-and-down to open the diamond.



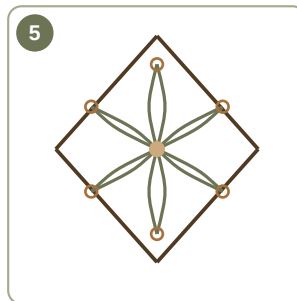
2 Thread a wood bead onto the 2 center cords at each diamond point.



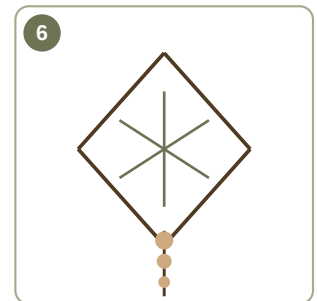
3 Inside the diamond, divide 12 filler cords into 6 petal pairs.



4 Shape each petal: vertical clove hitch around a folded guide, point outward.



5 Anchor petal tips into the diamond frame with a single half hitch each.



6 Close the diamond with mirrored DHH; hang the graduated bead dangle below.



Bead Placement Map

All beads are raw wood. Large (16-20 mm): 4 at the medallion diamond points, 3 in the center dangle (graduated), 2 capping the end tassels, ~13 topping feathers and dotting the braids. Small (10-12 mm): scattered on halo cords beside each figure body - 3 per side, spaced a hand-width apart, threaded on 2 cords and locked with an overhand knot beneath.

Rule of thumb from the inspiration piece: beads always sit at a transition - where a braid becomes a wrap, where a diamond meets a dangle, where a feather meets its hanger. Never mid-field.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Likely cause	Fix
Braided head coil won't lie flat	Braid too tight or coil too fast	Re-coil looser; steam the disc under a plate for 10 min
Feathers shed and look stringy	Braided cord or no stiffener	Use single-twist only; spray, press, then cut
Leaf lattice pulls the net sideways	DHH tension uneven left vs right	Alternate rib sides every pair; pin the spine vertical
Medallion diamond gapes open	Filler cords too slack at points	Re-tension fillers; beads at points hide small gaps
Side panels narrower than 3.5"	ASK rows over-tightened	Block on cork board; re-knot the last chevron looser
Fringe V looks lopsided	Cut before steaming	Steam first, hang 1 hr, then trim to the taped line
Wood beads slide down cords	Hole too large for 2x 4mm	Overhand knot beneath, or dab of fabric glue in hole

General Tips & Finishing

- Work vertically on a garment rack from Section 2 onward - the figures and medallion need gravity to read correctly.
- Photograph the inspiration image on your phone and zoom while you work; the leaf-vein spacing is easier to copy by eye than by measure.
- Brush the feathers a second time after hanging, then re-mist lightly with stiffener in place.
- Seal all wrap tails with a dot of fabric glue pushed inside the wrap with a needle.
- Final blocking: mist the whole piece lightly, hang 24 hours, then the last fringe trim. Dust with a hair dryer on cool.