

Herringbone Leaf Key Hanger

A Javoews House pattern

Skill level: Intermediate • Finished size: 8.5 × 12.5 in (21.5 × 32 cm) framed

Estimated build time: 6–9 hours / 2–3 evening sessions (beginner-to-intermediate pace)



Inspiration



Finished pattern

A dense herringbone panel of diagonal double half hitch leaves in deep teal, stretched inside a walnut-stained frame with four brass cup hooks along the bottom rail. Wall-mounted, hardworking, and entirely built from two knots you already know — plus the patience to keep every rib snug.



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Materials

Item	Spec	Amount
Cotton string, single-twist	3 mm, deep teal	65 m (72 yd) total
Hardwood rod (hidden mount)	6 mm dia × 20 cm	1
Wooden frame, rebated back	8.5 × 12.5 in outer, 3/4 in rails, deep 2 in bottom rail	1
Backing board	3 mm MDF or ply, cut to rebate	1
Brass cup hooks	3/4 in, screw-in	4
Staples + fabric glue	6 mm staples	—
Tools	sharp scissors, tape measure, comb/brush, pins & board, drill with 2 mm bit	

Time to complete — 6–9 hours across 2–3 sessions

Mounting band: 45 min • Leaf rows 1–2: 1.5–2 hrs • Leaf rows 3–5: 2–3 hrs

Base lock row & trimming: 45 min • Frame installation & hooks: 1–1.5 hrs

Designer's note: the inspiration photo reads as 3 mm single-twist cotton in a petrol teal; the frame appears to be teak or walnut-stained pine. Leaf count (3 across × 5 staggered rows) is reverse-engineered from visible spines and may be tuned ±1 row to suit your frame depth.

Cord Cutting Chart

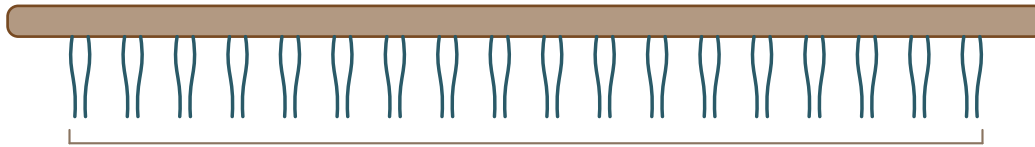
Label	Purpose	Qty	Cut length	Subtotal
A	Working cords (folded on rod)	18	3.2 m (126")	57.6 m
B	Top holding cord (lock row)	1	1.5 m (59")	1.5 m
C	Base holding cord (lock row)	1	1.5 m (59")	1.5 m
D	Spare / repair length	1	3.2 m (126")	3.2 m
TOTAL		21		63.8 m

Cut every cord 3–4 inches longer than listed — dense double half hitching eats length unevenly, and a short cord in row 4 is unfixable.



Cord Layout & Mounting Diagram

6 mm hardwood rod, 20 cm (7.9") — hidden behind top frame rail



Group A — 18 folded cords = 36 working ends, larks head mounted edge-to-edge

Spacing: cords sit snug with no gaps across the middle 16.5 cm (6.5") of the rod;
1.75 cm (0.7") of bare rod at each end seats into the frame rebate.

Cord B (holding cord) pinned across all 36 ends — work one HDHH lock row here



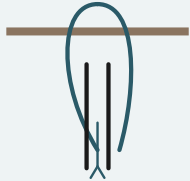
Frame top rail, back view — rebate channel (cream) receives rod + panel; staple every 2.5 cm



Hook rail, front view — 4 brass cup hooks at 1/5 intervals (marks from left edge shown)

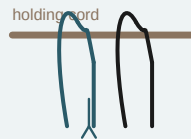
HAPPY JUST CRAFTING

Knot Reference Guide



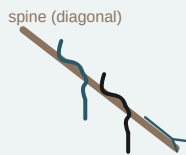
Lark's Head (LH)

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



Horizontal Double Half Hitch (HDHH)

Two half hitches over a horizontal holding cord; locks rows straight.



Diagonal Double Half Hitch (DDHH)

Two half hitches over an angled spine cord; builds every leaf rib.



Vertical Lark's Head (VLH)

Working cord knots around a vertical filler; forms the top braid band.

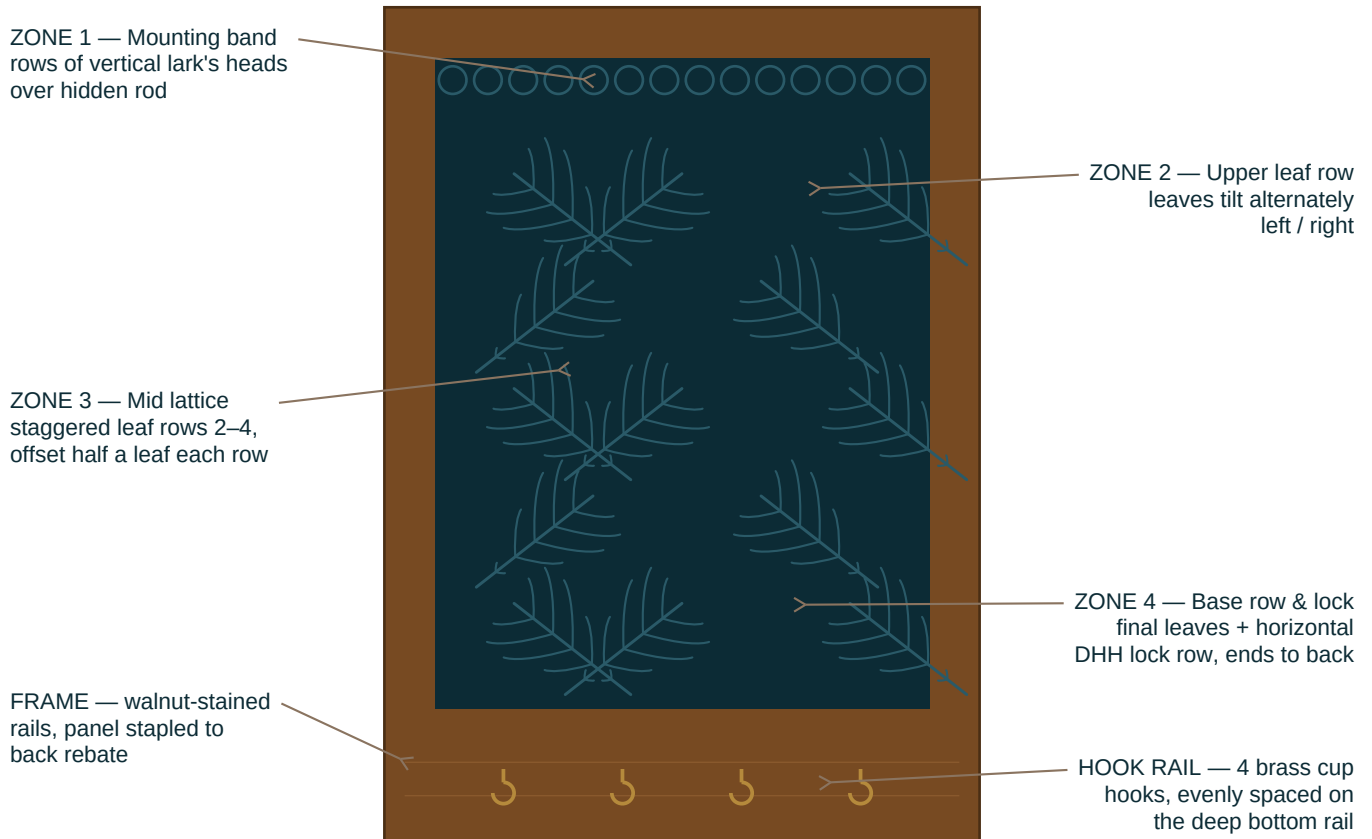


Overhand Knot (OK)

Simple loop-and-through; secures trimmed ends on the panel back.

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Full Piece Assembly Map





Build Order Overview

1. Prepare the frame: confirm rebate depth, mark the four hook positions on the bottom rail.
2. Mount 18 folded cords (A) on the rod with lark's heads; work the vertical lark's head braid band.
3. Lock row: HDHH all 36 ends over holding cord B.
4. Leaf row 1 — three down-right leaves across the panel.
5. Leaf rows 2–5 — alternate the half-leaf shift and the spine angle every row.
6. Base lock row: HDHH all ends over holding cord C; trim and secure ends to the back.
7. Install the panel in the frame: rod into top rebate, lock row stapled into bottom rebate, fit backing.
8. Drill pilots and set the four brass cup hooks; final brush and steam.

1 • Frame Prep & Marking

Dry-fit the backing board and confirm the rebate takes the 6 mm rod plus two layers of 3 mm cord (about 12 mm total). Sand the hook rail. Measuring from the left outer edge of the 8.5" rail, mark hook centers at 1.7", 3.4", 5.1", and 6.8" — the 1/5-interval spacing shown in the mounting diagram. Do not drill yet; drilling after the panel is in risks catching cords.

2 • Mounting Band

Lark's head all 18 folded A-cords onto the rod, snug across the middle 6.5". Take the leftmost working end as a filler and work one row of vertical lark's heads (VLH) across all remaining ends — this is the braided band visible along the top of the inspiration piece. Keep the band straight by pinning the rod to your board every 2".

3 • Top Lock Row

Pin holding cord B horizontally under the band and HDHH every working end over it, left to right. Check the row with a ruler before moving on — every leaf below hangs its geometry off this line.

4 • Leaf Rows (Zones 2–3)

Work leaf row 1 as three units of 8 cords each, spines angling down-right (full method in Deep Dive 1). For row 2, shift the starting cord by 6 and reverse the spine angle. Continue alternating through row 5. Comb the free ends straight after every row; twisted cords make lumpy ribs.

5 • Base Lock Row & Ends

Pin holding cord C at the target panel length of 9.5" below the rod and HDHH all 36 ends over it. Trim to 2 cm, fold to the back, secure pairs with overhand knots and a dab of fabric glue (Deep Dive 3, steps 1–2).

6 • Frame Installation

Seat the rod in the top rebate, tension the panel gently downward, and staple the base lock row into the bottom rebate — center staple first, then alternate outward so tension stays even. Fit the backing board over everything.



7 · Hooks & Finishing

Drill 2 mm pilots at the four marks and drive the brass cup hooks by hand. Brush the panel lightly with a fine comb, then hover a steamer 6" away to relax any cord memory. Wire or D-rings on the back complete the hanger.

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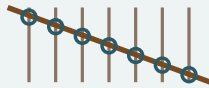
Technique Deep Dive 1 — The DHH Leaf Unit

1



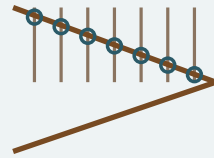
Pick 8 cords. The leftmost cord becomes the spine — hold it taut at 40° down-right across the other 7.

2



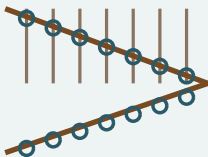
DDHH each of the 7 cords onto the spine, left to right. This makes the leaf's lower rib line.

3



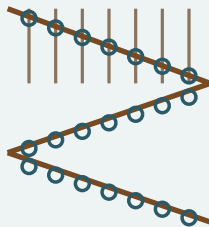
Turn: fold the spine back on itself, now angling 40° down-LEFT, and hold taut.

4



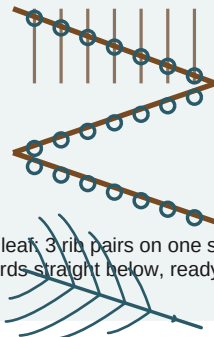
DDHH the same 7 cords back over the returning spine — the second rib closes the leaf half.

5



Repeat one more out-and-back pass. Push every hitch snug toward the tip as you go.

6



Finished leaf: 3 rib pairs on one spine. Comb cords straight below, ready for the next unit.

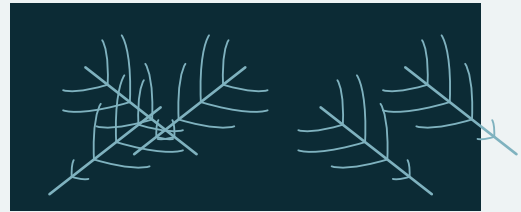
Technique Deep Dive 2 — Staggering the Herringbone Lattice

1



Row 1: three leaves across the panel, spines all starting at cords 1, 13, 25 and angling down-right.

2



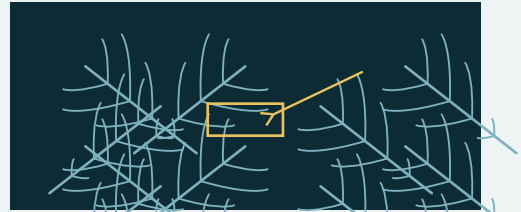
Row 2: shift the start by 6 cords (half a leaf). Angle these spines down-LEFT so leaves oppose row 1.

3



Rows 3–5: keep alternating the shift and the angle. Opposing tips should almost touch — that's the herringbone look.

4

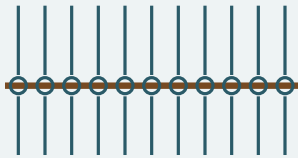


Gap check: hold the panel to the light. Any bright slit means a rib isn't snug — push hitches toward the tip to close it.

HAPPY JUST CRAFTING

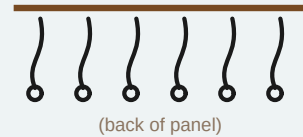
Technique Deep Dive 3 — Tensioning & Frame Installation

1



Work the HDHH lock row across all 36 ends at the panel base, over holding cord C. This freezes the weave length.

2



Trim ends to 2 cm below the lock row. Fold them to the back and OK-secure in pairs; dab fabric glue.

3



Seat the rod into the frame's top rebate. Pull the panel gently down and staple the lock row into the bottom rebate — center first, then out.

4



Fit the backing board, drill 4 pilot holes on the hook rail marks, and screw in the brass cup hooks.



Troubleshooting

Problem	Likely cause	Fix
Leaf ribs gap / show backing	Hitches not pushed to the tip	Re-tension: slide each hitch toward the spine tip before the next
Panel narrows toward the base	Spines pulled too tight	Hold spine taut but let hitches set the width; re-do the row
Rows drift off horizontal	Lock row was crooked	Ruler-check rows 1 and 5 against the top lock row; redo from the drift
Cord runs short mid-leaf	Uneven consumption	Splice with spare cord D behind a spine; hide the join under a rib
Panel sags after framing	Under-tensioned at stapling	Pull 5 mm more before the center staple; re-staple outward
Hooks split the rail	No pilot hole	Always drill 2 mm pilots; hand-drive only
Fuzzy, tired-looking cords	Over-handling	Comb once per row max; finish with a light steam, not water

General Tips & Finishing

- Blocking: pin the finished panel square on your board and steam-hover before framing — teal cotton holds a set beautifully.
- Consistency beats speed: all 15 leaves should use the same number of rib passes (three out-and-back).
- Key weight is real load — cup hooks into the rail, never into the macramé or backing board alone.
- Dust with a hairdryer on cool; spot-clean only. A framed panel should never be soaked.
- Label your pattern pieces: a strip of tape on the rod marking cord 1 saves every recount.