

Sea Turtle Driftwood Wall Hanging

A Javoews House pattern

Skill level: Advanced | Finished size: approx. 20" W x 32" L (51 x 81 cm) | 16-20 hours / 5-6 evening sessions



Inspiration



Finished pattern

Five hand-knotted sea turtles gliding across a driftwood-and-diamond current, with sea glass, shells and tassels.



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Materials & Time

Item	Spec	Amount
Cotton string, natural (cream)	3 mm single-strand	295 yd / 270 m
Cotton string, sage/olive green	3 mm single-strand	88 yd / 80 m
Cotton string, camel/mustard	3 mm single-strand	72 yd / 66 m
Cotton string, sand/pale yellow	3 mm single-strand	40 yd / 37 m
Driftwood, main hanger	approx. 24" (61 cm), 1" dia.	1
Driftwood, accent branches	18-20" (46-51 cm), 3/4" dia.	2
Sea-glass beads, drilled	12-15 mm, green + frosted	5
Wooden beads (turtle eyes)	6 mm, dark walnut	10
Shells (drilled)	cowrie / spiral, 3/4 - 1 1/4 in	3
Tools	shears, tapestry needle, comb, pins + board, fabric glue	

Time to complete - 16-20 hours (5-6 evening sessions), beginner-to-intermediate pace

Mounting & central panel: 2.5 hrs | Side panels: 1.5 hrs | Turtles: 2-2.5 hrs each x 5 = 10-12 hrs

Branch weaving & glass strand: 1 hr | Bottom net, tassels & fringe: 1.5 hrs | Finishing: 1 hr

Designer's note: cord weight read as 3 mm from knot scale against the branch; turtles use single-strand for crisp hitch ridges.

Cord Cutting Chart

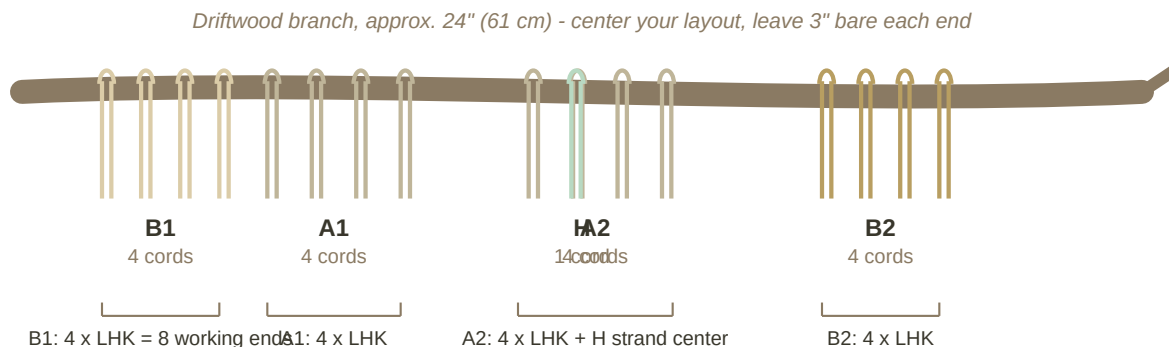
Label	Purpose	Qty	Cut length	Subtotal
A1, A2	Central diamond panel (natural)	8	13 ft / 4.0 m	104 ft
B1	Sand side panel	4	10 ft / 3.0 m	40 ft
B2	Camel side panel (camel)	4	10 ft / 3.0 m	40 ft
H	Sea-glass strand (natural)	1	7 ft / 2.1 m	7 ft
T-core	Turtle shell cores, 1/shell (mixed)	5	6 ft / 1.8 m	30 ft



T-work	Turtle shell workers, 1/shell (mixed)	5	30 ft / 9.1 m	150 ft
F	Flipper cords, 6/flipper x 4 x 5 (mixed)	120	20 in / 51 cm	200 ft
HD	Head bundles + wrap (mixed)	10	3 ft / 0.9 m	30 ft
TS	Tassels (2 cream, 2 green, 2 camel)	6 x 12	26 in / 66 cm	156 ft
W	Wrapping-knot cords	8	3 ft / 0.9 m	24 ft
HG	Hanging cord (natural)	1	5 ft / 1.5 m	5 ft

Total approx. 786 ft / 240 m. Cut everything 3-4 inches longer than listed - trimming is cheap, splicing is not. Turtle colors: 2 olive/sage, 2 natural, 1 camel.

Cord Layout & Mounting Diagram



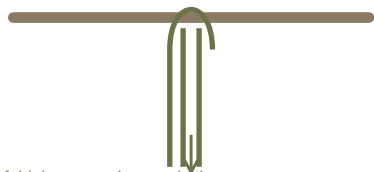
Mounting order (left to right):

1. Find the visual center of the branch and mark it lightly with chalk.
2. Mount group A1 just left of center and A2 just right - these 8 cords (16 ends) form the central diamond panel.
3. Leave a 1/2" gap, then mount B1 (sand) on the far left and B2 (camel) on the far right.
4. Fold cord H over the branch at dead center between A1 and A2 - it carries the sea-glass strand.
5. Tie the hanging cord to each end of the branch with two half hitches + OK, 3 in from the tips.
6. Slide all LHKs snug together within each group; the gaps BETWEEN groups stay open.



Knot Reference Guide

Lark's Head Knot (LHK)



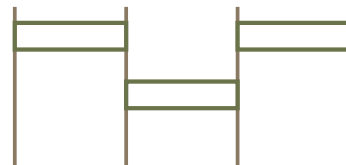
fold, loop over bar, ends thru
Fold cord in half, loop over the bar, pull both ends through the loop.

Square Knot (SK)



L over, R over: pull flat
Left cord over fillers, right cord over left; repeat mirrored. Keeps a flat face.

Alternating Square Knot (ASK)



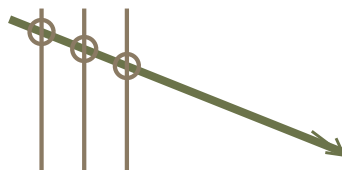
offset SKs, drop 2 cords each row
Rows of SKs offset by two cords - builds the open lattice fabric.

Horizontal Double Half Hitch (HDHH)



2 hitches per cord over holder
Each cord makes two hitches over a horizontal holding cord.

Diagonal Double Half Hitch (DDHH)



holder on diagonal; keep taut
Same hitch worked over a holding cord angled 30-45 degrees.

Wrapping Knot (WK)



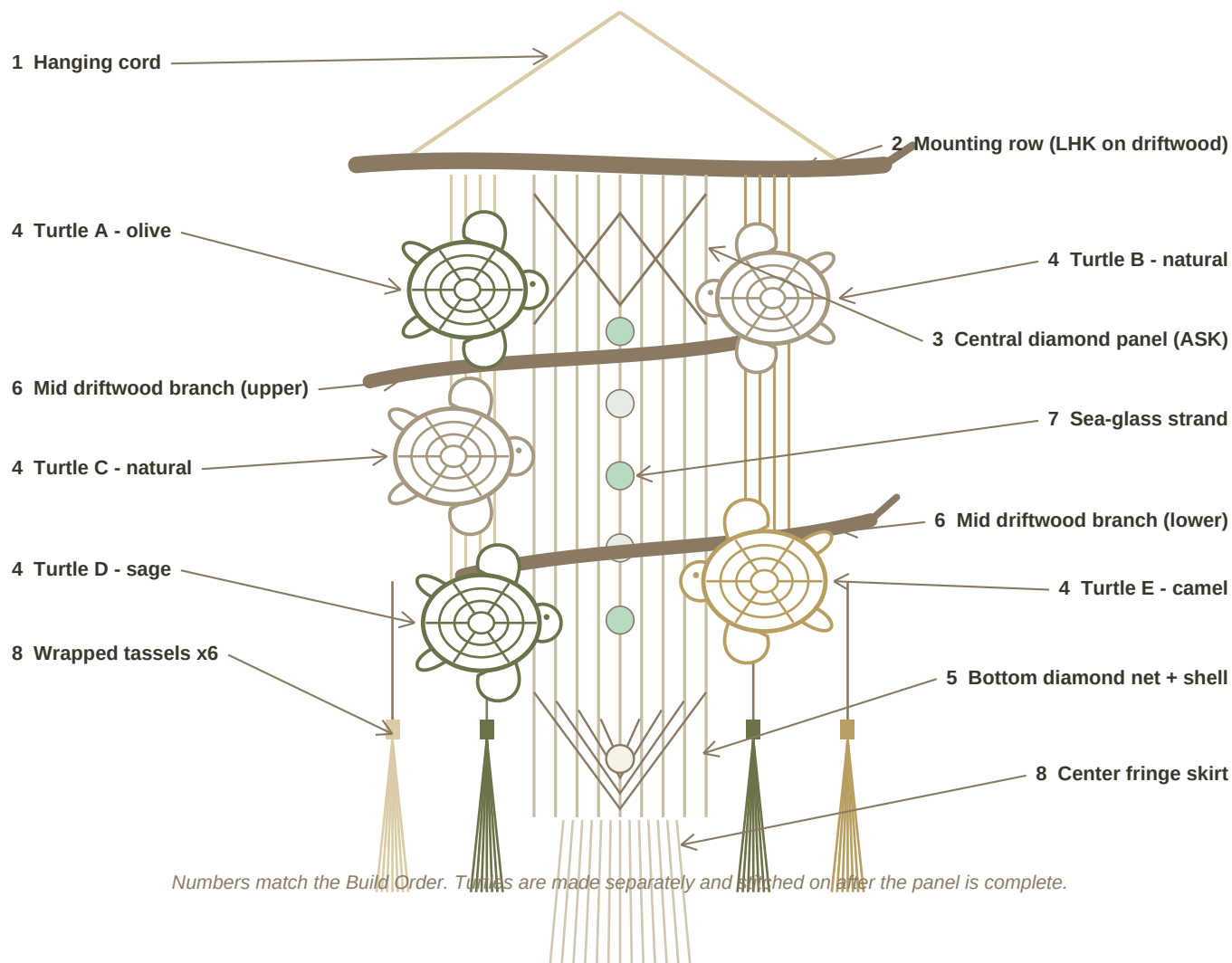
wrap down, tail thru loop, pull up
Gathers a bundle; wrap down, tuck tail through bottom loop, pull hidden.

Overhand Knot (OK)



loop, end thru, snug at bead
Simple stopper knot - seats beads and finishes tassel skirt cords.

Full-Piece Assembly Map





Build Order Overview

1. Mount all cord groups on the main branch (Cord Layout diagram).
2. Work the central diamond panel: top diamond, ASK fill, mirrored close.
3. Work both side panels in HDHH + SK columns.
4. Make the five turtles off-loom as a batch (Deep-Dives 1 & 2).
5. Work the bottom diamond net and mount its feature shell.
6. Weave in the two accent branches and lock them (Deep-Dive 3).
7. String and fix the sea-glass strand.
8. Add wrapped tassels and comb out the center fringe.
9. Stitch the turtles on, then block, trim and finish.

Section 1 - Mounting

Follow the Cord Layout diagram exactly. Mount A1 + A2 (8 cords, LHK) astride the marked center, then B1 sand and B2 camel toward the tips, leaving a 1/2 in gap between each group. Fold cord H over dead center. Row-zero lock: work one HDHH row across each group using its own outermost cord as holder - this stops the LHKs rotating on round driftwood.

Section 2 - Central diamond panel

With the 16 A-ends: outer cords become DDHH holders angled to a point 3 in below the branch; hitch inward from both sides to draw the top V. Open back out with mirrored holders to complete the diamond outline, fill with ASK rows in 1-2-1 rhythm, and close. Repeat the diamond motif once more, then leave the cords hanging straight - they become the vertical current the branches weave through.

Section 3 - Side panels

Each side group (8 ends) works a column: 2 SK sennits framed by an HDHH bar every 2 in, four bars total, finishing about 12 in below the branch. Keep the sand side slightly shorter (approx. 1 in) than the camel side - the asymmetry in the photo is deliberate and keeps the eye moving.

Section 4 - The five turtles (off-loom)

Batch-build: 5 shells (Deep-Dive 1), then 20 flippers and 5 heads (Deep-Dive 2). Shell colors: olive, natural, natural, sage, camel. Target 4 - 4 1/2 in shells; keep a finished shell beside you as the sizing gauge. Do not attach yet.

Section 5 - Bottom diamond net

8 in below the second diamond, work three concentric loose ASK V-rows to form the open net, tie the feature shell through its drill hole at the net center with a doubled OK, and let the remaining cord fall as the center fringe skirt.

Section 6 - Accent branches

Upper branch weaves across at 5 in below the hanger, tilted slightly down to the right; lower branch at 11 in, tilted opposite. Over-4 / under-strand / over-4 weave, then an HDHH lock row under each (Deep-Dive 3, steps 4-5).

Section 7 - Sea-glass strand

String G1-G5 onto cord H, alternating green and frosted, spaced 2 1/4 in with an OK above and below each bead. The strand hangs in the panel's open center channel and should swing free of both branches.

Section 8 - Tassels & fringe

Fold each 12-cord tassel bundle through the panel's edge cords at the four marked drops plus two inner drops; secure with a tight 3/4 in WK, threading shells S1/S2 on the two inner tassels before the final wraps. Trim tassels level at 5 in; comb the center fringe and trim to a soft V.



Section 9 - Attach turtles & finish

Pin all five turtles on the blocked panel per the Assembly Map - alternate the facing direction as shown. Stitch each with matching cord: 3 anchor stitches per flipper region, 2 at the head (Deep-Dive 2, step 6). Turtles should overlap the branches slightly so they read as swimming over the current.

Technique Deep-Dive 1: Turtle Shell - Spiral DHH Rounds

Each shell is one long working cord hitched in a growing spiral around a core cord - like coiled basketry in macrame.

1


Fold the core cord into a tight flat coil of 2 turns; hold pinched flat.

2


Hitch the working cord around the core with DHHs, packing each hitch tight against the

3

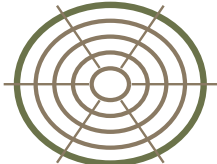

Keep spiraling outward - every round adds one ring; the core always leads, hitches

4


At round 4, work 2 hitches into one gap every 5th hitch to keep the disc flat

5


After 6-7 rounds (approx. 4in / 10cm across), hitch to the last core end and pull both to the

6


Weave tails under the back rounds with a tapestry needle; the ridged spiral face is the

Tension is everything: hitches packed loose make a floppy dome; packed tight make the crisp ridged disc in the photo.

Technique Deep-Dive 2: Flippers, Head & Turtle Assembly

1



Front flipper: pin a holding cord in a shallow S-curve, approx. 3in long.

2



DDHH 6 cords down the curve, then hitch back up the second side - a solid leaf shape.

3



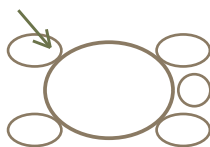
Taper: drop one cord at each end of the last two rows so the tip narrows; trim + glue-dot

4



Head: wrap a 1in cord bundle with a tight WK; thread the wooden bead eye before the

5



Arrange shell + 4 flippers + head face-down; flippers tuck 1/2in under the shell rim, swept

6



x = anchor stitch

Stitch through back rounds with matching cord: 3 anchor stitches per flipper, 2 for the

Make all five turtles as a batch - shells first, then flippers - so sizing stays consistent across the piece.

Technique Deep-Dive 3: Diamond Panel & Weaving In the Branches

1



Split the 16 central ends: outer cords become DDHH holders angled to the center

2



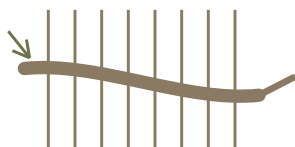
Hitch each cord over both holders - two crossing diagonals make the top diamond

3



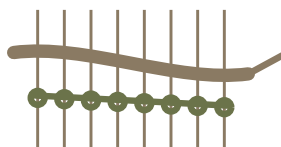
Fill the diamond with ASK rows (1-2-1), then close with mirrored DDHH diagonals below.

4



Lay the mid branch ACROSS the panel; weave it over 4 cords, under the glass

5



Lock the branch: one HDHH row worked directly below it, snugged up so the wood

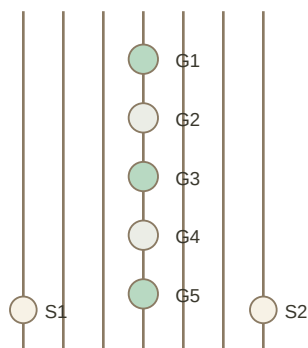
6



Repeat lower branch at 60% width, opposite tilt; then work the bottom net of loose ASKs.

Choose branches with a gentle bow - a curve that echoes the diamond reads as ocean current across the piece.

Bead & Shell Placement Map



G1-G5 Sea-glass beads on center cord H. String all five before mounting; fix each with an OK above and below, spaced 2 1/4in apart.

S1, S2 Cowrie/spiral shells at tassel necks - thread on the wrapping cord before the final two wraps of each WK.

Eyes 5 pairs of 6mm wooden beads, threaded during head wrap (Deep-Dive 2, step 3)

Net shell One feature shell at the bottom diamond center, tied through its drill hole with a doubled OK.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Likely cause	Fix
Shell domes instead of lying flat	Too few increases in outer rounds	Add a 2-in-1 hitch every 5th stitch from round 4
Shell ruffles / waves	Too many increases	Skip increases for one full round
Turtles sag after hanging	Anchor stitches only at shell rim	Add hidden stitches at flipper tips + head
Branches slide sideways	Lock row too loose	Re-tension HDHH lock row snug under the wood
Diamond pulls off-center	Uneven holder tension	Re-pin center, rework hitches at equal 45 degrees
Panel narrows toward bottom	ASKs pulled too tight	Loosen fill knots; block wet with pins
Glass strand tangles in fringe	Strand cut too long	Raise the lowest OK; strand ends above the net
Fringe looks stringy	Not combed / uneven trim	Comb damp, trim with rotary cutter and ruler

Finishing & Care

Blocking: mist the panel lightly, pin square on a foam board and leave overnight before attaching turtles - hitch-heavy pieces hold whatever shape they dry in. Fringe: comb from the bottom up in short strokes, then trim. Ends: a dot of fabric glue on trimmed hitch tails behind the shells keeps them invisible. Care: display out of direct sun to protect the sage and camel dyes; dust with a hairdryer on cool. To refresh flattened tassels, steam briefly and finger-fluff.

Selling / gifting tip

Photograph the piece against warm white with side light - the spiral shell ridges are the money shot. It also hangs beautifully from a wall-mounted hook rail so the driftwood tips stay proud of the wall.