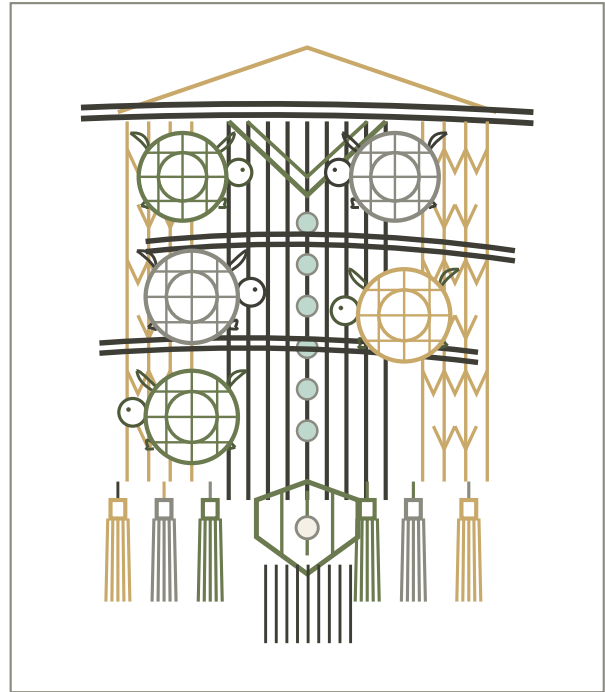


Sea Turtle Bale Wall Hanging

A Javoews House pattern



Inspiration



Finished pattern

Skill level: Intermediate-Advanced

Finished size: approx. 20" W x 30" L including tassels (51 x 76 cm)

Estimated build time: 14-18 hours / 5-6 evening sessions (beginner-to-intermediate pace)

Five knotted sea turtles on driftwood with a sea-glass strand and gathered tassels



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Materials

Everything you need before you cut the first cord

Item	Spec	Amount / Notes
Cotton cord, natural cream	3 mm single-strand	~85 yd (78 m) - panel, turtles, tassels
Cotton cord, sage green	3 mm single-strand	~48 yd (44 m) - 2 turtles, accents, tassels
Cotton cord, warm sand/mustard	3 mm single-strand	~46 yd (42 m) - 1 turtle, lattice, tassels
Cotton cord, pale wheat	3 mm single-strand	~18 yd (17 m) - side lattice, hanger
Driftwood, main hanger	26-28" long, 3/4-1" dia.	1 piece, sturdy and dry
Driftwood, inserts	16-22" long, 1/2-3/4" dia.	2 pieces, gently curved
Sea glass / glass nuggets	3/4-1" frosted, drilled or caged	6-7 pcs, aqua + frosted white
Small shells (optional)	cowrie or 3/4" spiral	3-4 pcs, one for pouch center
Wooden beads (turtle eyes)	6 mm, dark brown	5 pcs (1 per turtle)
Tools	-	Sharp shears, tape measure, comb, fabric glue
Workspace	-	Garment rack or wall hooks, S-hooks, tape

Time to complete - 14-18 hours total

Mounting & top diamond panel: 1.5 hrs | Side lattice columns: 1.5 hrs | Turtles: 2-2.5 hrs each x 5 = 10-12 hrs

Driftwood inserts & sea-glass strand: 1 hr | Bottom pouch: 1 hr | Tassels, fringe & finishing: 1.5 hrs

Plan 5-6 evening sessions. The turtles are repetitive - by turtle three you will be noticeably faster.

Designer's note: cord ends read as 3 mm single-strand cotton in the photo; the dense shell texture relies on single-strand's brushable twist. The sea glass appears wire-caged or pre-drilled - either works, and a simple cord cage is covered in the embellishment map.



Cord Cutting Chart

Label	Purpose	Color	Qty	Cut length	Subtotal
A	Central panel working cords	Cream	16	4.0 m (158")	64 m
B1	Side lattice, left column	Wheat/sand mix	8	3.2 m (126")	25.6 m
B2	Side lattice, right column	Wheat/sand mix	8	3.2 m (126")	25.6 m
C1	Turtle shells (12 per turtle)	Sage x2, cream x2, sand x1	60	1.5 m (59")	90 m
C2	Turtle head + flipper cords	Match each shell	20	1.0 m (39")	20 m
D	Shell filler / ridge cords	Match each shell	10	0.8 m (31")	8 m
E	Tassel bundles (7 tassels)	Cream, sage, sand	70	0.6 m (24")	42 m
F	Wrap cords (tassels + pouch)	Cream	9	0.5 m (20")	4.5 m
G	Hanger + lashing cords	Wheat	3	1.2 m (47")	3.6 m
TOTAL			204		~283 m (310 yd)

Cut generous

Cut every cord 3-4 inches longer than listed. Turtle cords (C1) run out fastest if your hitches are tight - a too-long tail trims away; a too-short cord means splicing mid-shell.

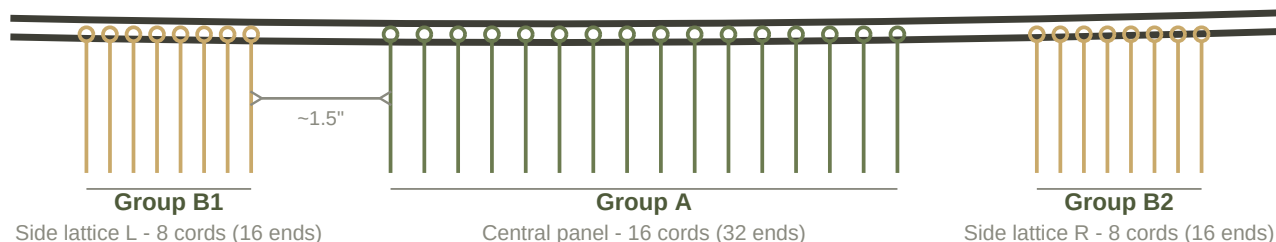
Color split for the five turtles: T1 and T5 in sage green, T2 and T3 in cream, T4 in warm sand. Keep each turtle's C1/C2/D cords bundled and labeled with masking-tape flags before you start knotting.



Cord Layout & Mounting Diagram

Top-down view of the main driftwood branch

Driftwood branch, approx. 26" usable span - center your groups



Mount groups with Lark's Head knots (LH) in this order: Group B1 (8 cords), a 1.5-inch gap, Group A (16 cords centered), a 1.5-inch gap, then Group B2 (8 cords). Leave at least 2 inches of bare driftwood at each end so the branch reads as found wood, not a covered dowel.

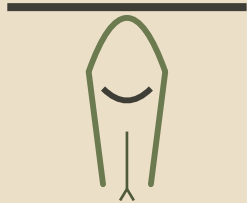
The turtles, tassel bundles, sea-glass strand, and hanger cord are NOT mounted now - they attach in Sections 4-7. Only groups A, B1, and B2 go onto the branch at this stage: 32 cords, 64 working ends.

Check before you knot

Hang the branch at eye level and confirm all 64 ends fall level. Re-seat any LH that sits proud of its neighbors now - a crooked mounting row telegraphs through the whole panel.

Knot Reference Guide

Every knot in this pattern, drawn and described



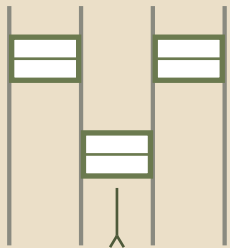
Lark's Head Knot (LH)

Fold cord in half, lay loop over the dowel from front, pull both tails through the loop and snug upward. Mounts every cord.



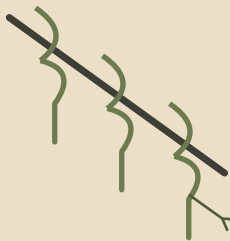
Square Knot (SK)

4 cords: outer two work, inner two fill. Left over fillers under right; right under fillers through the left loop; repeat mirrored. Flat, stable.



Alternating Square Knot (ASK)

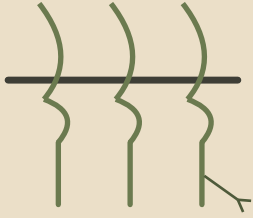
Rows of SKs where each new row borrows two cords from each neighboring knot above, producing the open net of the side panels.



Diagonal Double Half Hitch (DDHH)

Hold a filler cord at ~45 degrees; each working cord makes two half hitches over it. Builds the turtle shell ridges and diamond outlines.

Knot Reference Guide (continued)



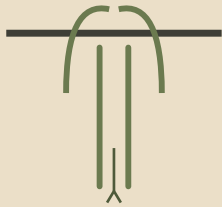
Horizontal Double Half Hitch (HDHH)

Same two-hitch wrap over a filler held horizontally. Used to lock rows above the driftwood inserts and across the shells.



Gathering (Wrap) Knot (GK)

Wrap a separate cord tightly around a bundle 6-10 times, feed the tail through the starting loop, pull hidden. Heads every tassel.



Rya Knot (RK)

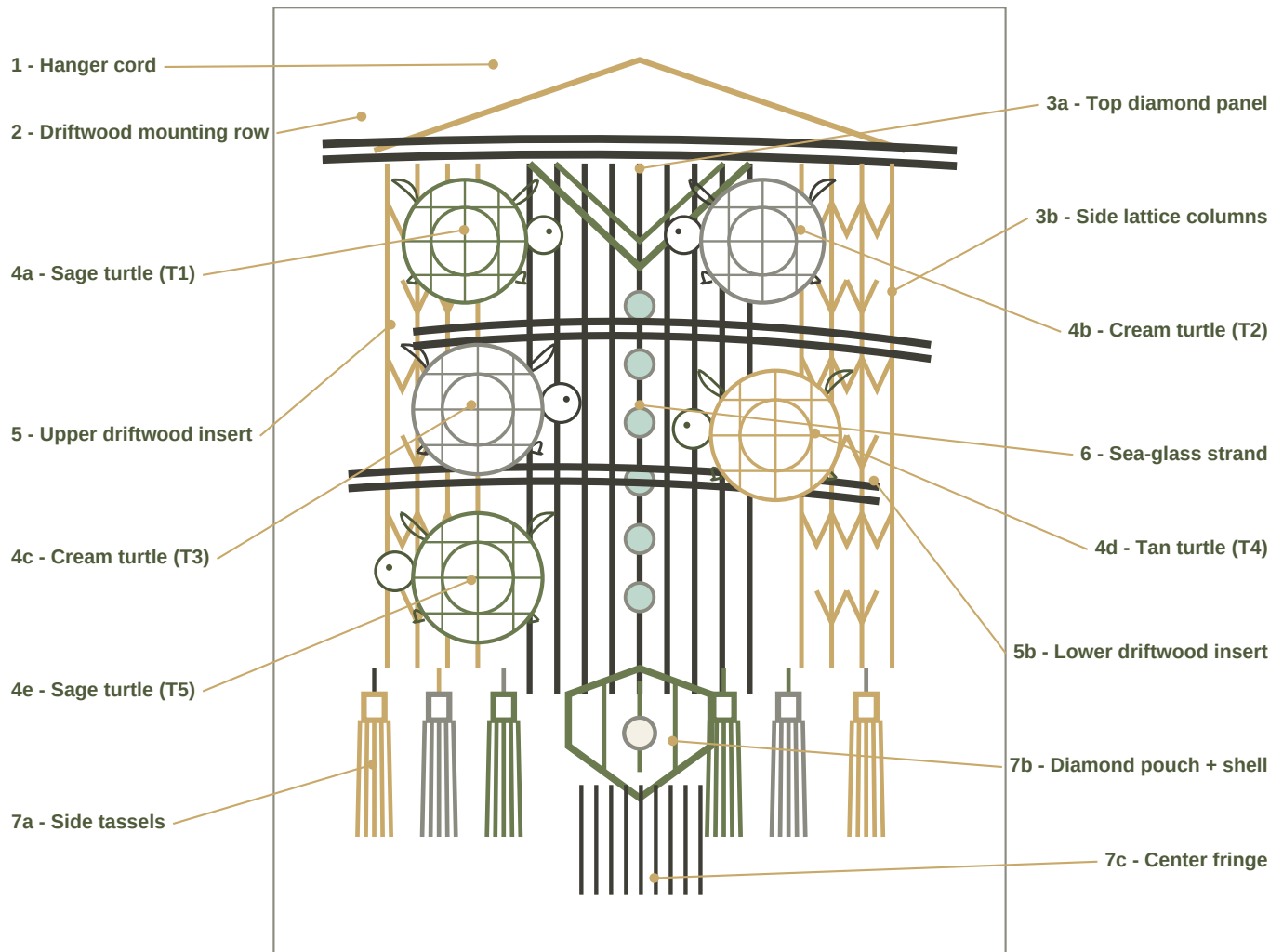
Fringe knot: drape a folded group over a bar or cord pair, pull tails through the fold and tighten downward. Makes the bottom fringe.

Reading the diagrams

Sage lines are the working cord path for the current move; grey/black lines are fillers and context cords; small arrows show pull direction as you tighten.

Full Piece Assembly Map

Your map of the whole build - numbers match the build order



Turtles T1-T5 are built off-loom as separate appliques and stitched on in Section 4 - their numbers here show final placement, not knotting location.



Build Order Overview

- 1 Mount the driftwood**
Hang the main branch; mount groups B1, A, B2 with LH knots; tie the hanger cord.
- 2 Top diamond panel**
DDHH diamond point at the center top, then ASK infill across group A.
- 3 Side lattice columns**
Open ASK net down both B columns to about 26 inches.
- 4 The five turtles**
Build T1-T5 off-loom: DDHH shell dome, SK flippers, bead-eyed head. Attach in map positions.
- 5 Driftwood inserts + sea-glass strand**
Weave the two smaller branches through the panel; HDHH lock rows; thread sea glass down the center.
- 6 Bottom diamond pouch**
Gather the panel into a DDHH diamond, net the pouch, seat the shell.
- 7 Tassels, fringe & finishing**
GK-headed tassels at the panel base, RK center fringe, trim, brush, steam.

Why this order

The turtles hide their attachment points against a finished panel, so the panel and lattice must exist first. The branches weave through knotted structure, and the pouch needs final cord lengths - resist the urge to attach a finished turtle early; it will fight you at every row below it.



Section 1 - Mounting the Driftwood

~30 minutes

1. Suspend the main branch at eye level from two S-hooks so it hangs the way it will on the wall - driftwood is rarely straight, and you want to knot to its true attitude.
2. Mount Group B1 (8 cords, LH) starting 2 inches in from the left end. Alternate wheat and sand cords for the mottled edge seen in the photo.
3. Leave a 1.5" gap, mount Group A (16 cream cords, LH) centered on the branch, leave another 1.5" gap, then mount Group B2 to mirror B1.
4. Cut one G cord to 1.2 m, tie it to the branch just outside B1 and B2 with two tight clove hitches each side, and knot a small overhand loop at the peak for the wall hook.
5. Snug every LH so its bar sits flush under the wood; level check before moving on.

Section 2 - Top Diamond Panel

~1 hour | uses Group A

1. Find the center of Group A (between cords 16 and 17 of the 32 ends). Take end 16 as the left filler and end 17 as the right filler.
2. DDHH each filler outward and downward at 45 degrees, hitching 7 ends onto each side - this draws the V that starts the diamond point.
3. Row 2: repeat with the next center pair one knot lower, hitching 5 ends per side, to double the diamond outline as in the photo.
4. Fill the V with ASK: one SK at the point, two above it, three above that - a small inverted triangle of net inside the diamond.
5. Let the remaining panel length hang straight and open below the diamond - the sea-glass strand and branches occupy this space later. Do not knot it solid.



Section 3 - Side Lattice Columns

~1.5 hours | Groups B1 + B2

1. Row 1: across B1's 16 ends, tie 4 SKs directly below the mounting row.
2. Row 2: drop 1 inch, alternate - leave the first 2 ends, tie 3 SKs, leave the last 2. The offset makes the open diamond net.
3. Continue alternating rows with a 1-inch drop until the column reaches about 26 inches. Keep the drop consistent; the airy look dies if rows creep closer.
4. Repeat for B2. Hold the two columns side by side and match row heights before finishing ends.
5. Leave 6-7 inches of loose end at each column base - these become side tassel cores in Section 7.

Section 4 - The Five Turtles

~2-2.5 hours each | Groups C1, C2, D

1. Each turtle is built flat, off the main piece, on a clipboard or foam board. Full shell technique is on the deep-dive page 14 - read it before turtle one.
2. Shell: pin a D cord in an arc, mount 12 C1 cords across it with LH, then work concentric DDHH rows over curved D fillers to dome the shell. Finish the rim with one tight HDHH round.
3. Scute grid: run two vertical and two horizontal D cords across the dome, hitching at each crossing, to draw the checkerboard scute lines visible on every turtle in the photo.
4. Head: fold 4 C2 cords, wrap a 10-turn GK neck, shape the head with 3 tight SKs, and seat a 6 mm bead eye with a hidden overhand knot behind it.
5. Flippers: 2 C2 cords each. Front pair: 3 SKs with picot loops for the scalloped edge. Rear pair: 2 SKs, trimmed short and rounded.
6. Build order: T1 sage, T2 cream, T3 cream, T4 sand, T5 sage. Attachment is Section 5's partner deep-dive on page 15 - turtles go on after the branches are woven.



Section 5 - Driftwood Inserts & Sea-Glass Strand

~1 hour

1. Weave the upper insert branch through the central panel about 9 inches below the mounting row: over the first third of cords, under the center, over the last third. Let both tips extend past the panel edges.
2. Lock it with one HDHH row worked directly above the branch across all 32 panel ends, using the branch itself as visual filler and a D cord as the actual filler.
3. Repeat with the lower insert about 7 inches further down, weaving the opposite over/under sequence so the branches bow in opposite directions like the photo.
4. Lash each branch tip to the nearest lattice column edge with a G cord: 4 figure-eight wraps, ends buried.
5. Sea-glass strand: on the two centermost cords, thread or cord-cage 6-7 glass pieces spaced 2 inches apart between the diamond point and the pouch zone, locking each with an overhand knot above and below.
6. Now attach the five turtles at their map positions (deep-dive page 15): T1 and T2 overlapping the mounting row, T3 riding the upper branch, T4 the lower branch, T5 at lower left.

Section 6 - Bottom Diamond Pouch

~1 hour

1. About 24 inches below the mounting row, gather the central 16 ends. Take the outermost two as fillers and DDHH inward to a point - two rows, doubling the outline like the top diamond.
2. From the point, reverse: DDHH outward and back in to draw the full diamond frame of the pouch.
3. Net the frame's interior with small ASKs (rows of 2-3-2 SKs) to make the pocket that holds the shell.
4. Seat the feature shell inside the net before closing the lower frame edges; snug the last DDHH row around it.
5. Deep-dive with step diagrams is on page 16.



Section 7 - Tassels, Fringe & Finishing

~1.5 hours

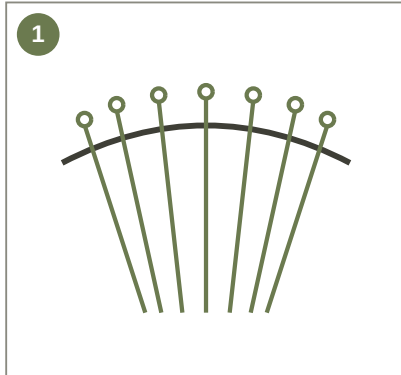
1. Side tassels (6): bundle 10 E cords with the loose lattice ends, fold, and head each with an 8-turn GK. Color order left to right: sand, cream, sage - sage, cream, sand.
2. Slide a small shell onto the two center tassels' wrap loops before closing, matching the photo's shell-topped pair.
3. Center fringe: RK the remaining E cords across the pouch's lower edge, 2 cords per knot, for a full skirt below the diamond.
4. Trim: tassels to a soft point, center fringe to a shallow V about 5 inches below the pouch.
5. Comb every tassel and the fringe, steam lightly, and re-trim strays. Finishing checklist lives on page 18.

Session breaks

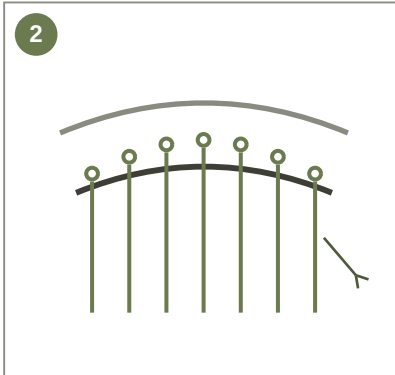
Natural stopping points: after Section 2, after each pair of turtles, and after Section 5. Always finish a DDHH row before stopping - a half-hitched filler loosens overnight and the row will show it.

Technique Deep-Dive: Turtle Shell Dome

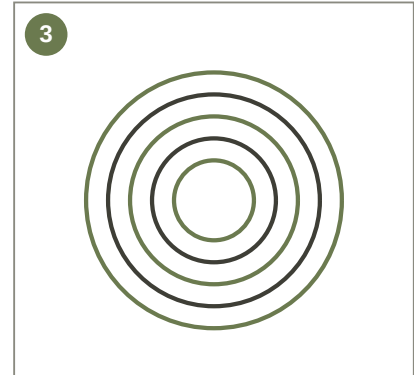
The signature move - one page, six steps, five turtles



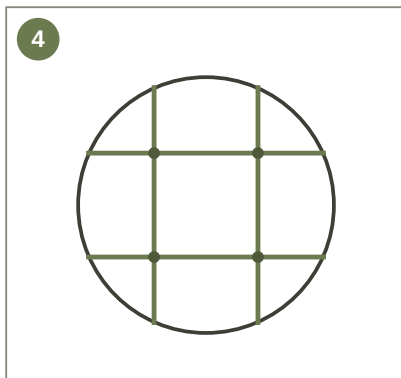
1
Pin a D cord in a shallow arc.
Mount 12 C1 cords along it with LH
- ends hang inward like rays.



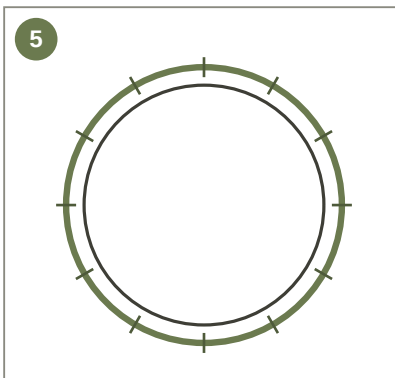
2
Curve a second D filler just below
the arc; DDHH every end onto it.
Keep hitches touching - density is
the dome.



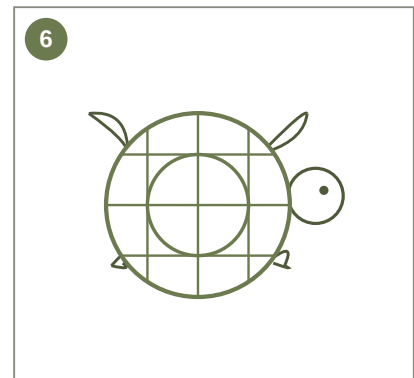
3
Work 5-6 concentric rows, easing
tension outward so the fabric
cups. Pin to the board as a circle
forms.



4
Lay 2 vertical + 2 horizontal D
cords across the dome; hitch at
every crossing to draw the scute



5
Close the rim: one tight HDHH
round over a final D filler, then
trim inner tails to 1/4 inch on



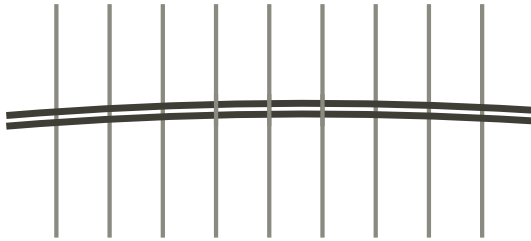
6
Finished dome, ~3.5-4 inches
across, firm enough to hold shape
when squeezed. Head and flippers

Tension is everything

Rows too loose = a flat pancake; too tight = a puckered bowl. Aim for a dome that rises about 1 inch at center. Test against the photo's turtles: rounded, not spherical.

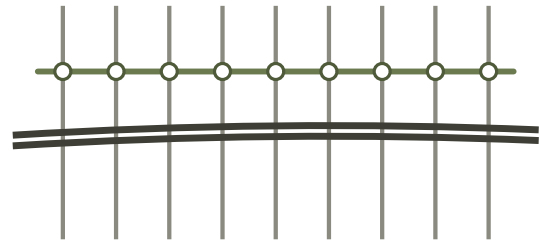
Technique Deep-Dive: Attaching Turtles & Weaving Branches

1



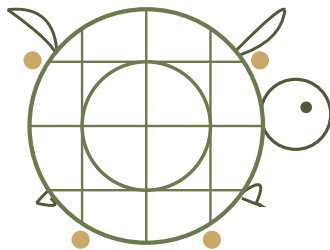
Weave the insert branch over/under through the hanging panel cords - over a third, under the center, over the rest.

2



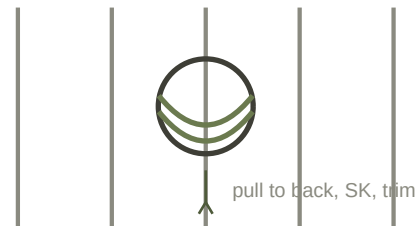
Lock with an HDHH row over a D filler directly above the wood, then lash each branch tip to the lattice edge.

3



Place a turtle on the panel. Tack at 4 hidden points - behind the rim at 10, 2, 5 and 7 o'clock - with a D cord threaded through panel knots.

4

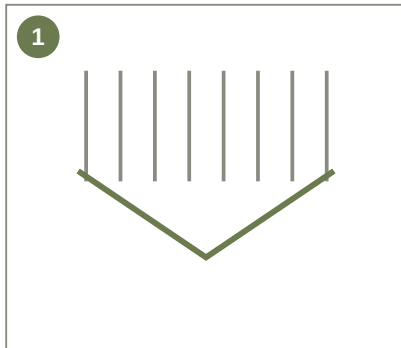


Each tack: two passes through a panel knot and the shell's back rim, square-knotted on the reverse, tails trimmed and dabbed with fabric glue.

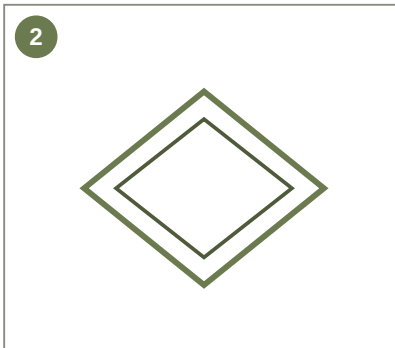
Placement check

T3 and T4 should visually ride their branches - top rim overlapping the wood by half an inch. Pin all five turtles with T-pins and step back three feet before you commit a single tack. The photo's charm is the loose diagonal walk of turtles down the piece.

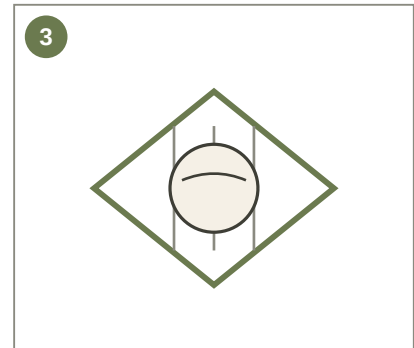
Technique Deep-Dive: Diamond Pouch & Gathered Tassels



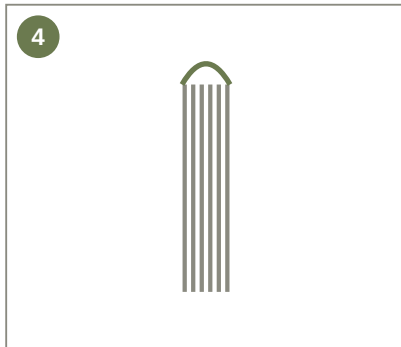
1 Gather 16 ends; DDHH from both outer fillers down to a center point - the pouch's top V.



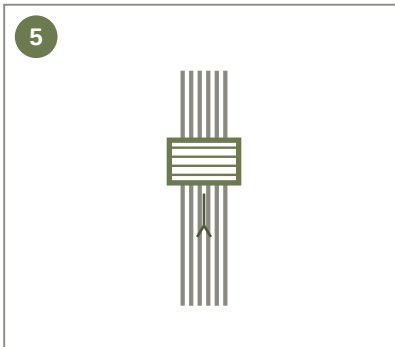
2 Reverse outward then back in: the doubled DDHH diamond frame, about 4 inches point to point.



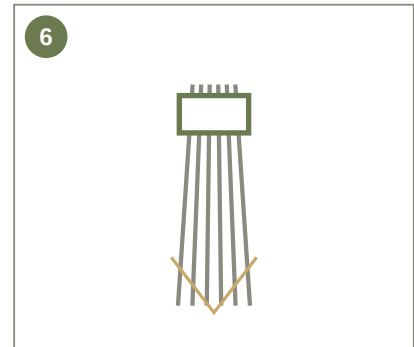
3 ASK-net the interior (2-3-2), seat the shell in the pocket, close the lower frame snug around it.



4 Tassel: bundle 10 E cords with the loose structural ends; fold over so the fold sits at the head.



5 Head with an 8-turn GK half an inch below the fold; pull the tail down inside the wrap until hidden.



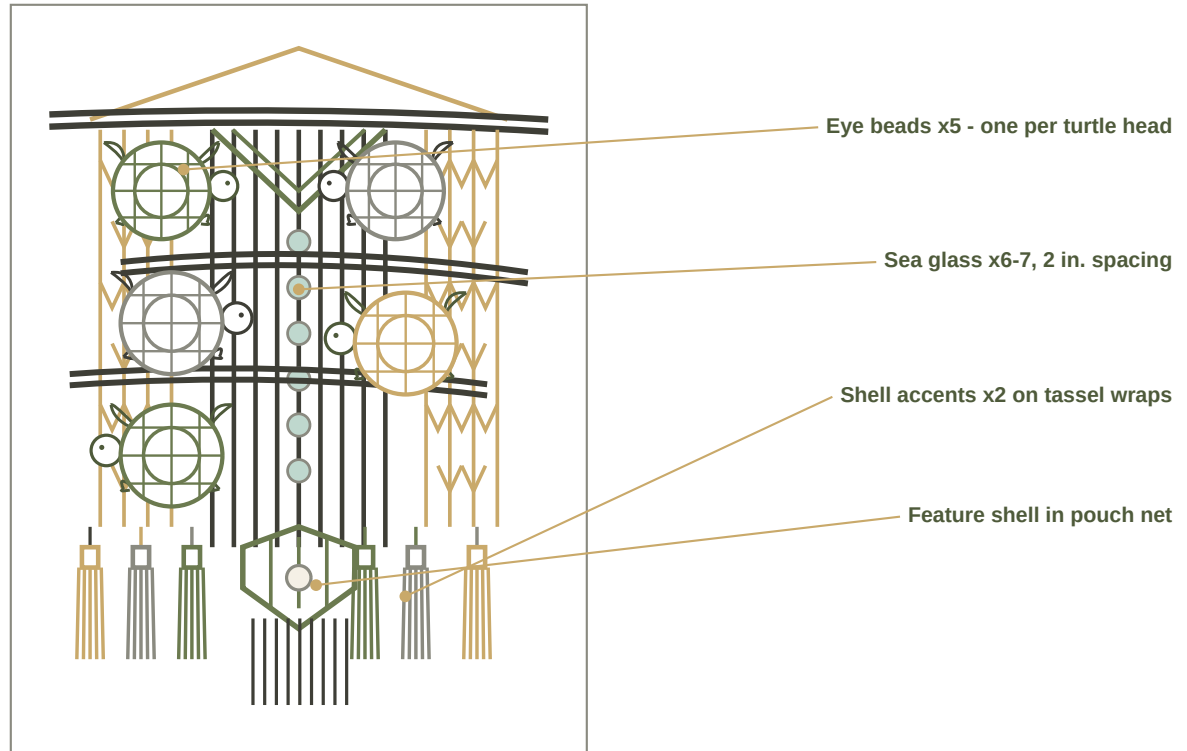
6 Comb the skirt straight, trim to a soft point, steam. Shell-topped pair: slide the shell on before

Match the photo's rhythm

Tassel heads should all sit on one imaginary line; skirt lengths step slightly longer toward the center. The center fringe hangs 1-2 inches below the longest tassel.

Embellishment & Bead Placement Map

Sea glass, shells, and eye beads



Cord cage for undrilled glass: cut a 40 cm D cord, cross it under the glass, bring all four ends up, and tie two stacked overhand knots snug against the top of the piece before knotting it into the strand. The cage disappears against frosted glass and holds under a firm tug.

Weight check

Glass adds real weight to only two cords. After threading, hang the piece for an hour and confirm the center panel is not stretching visibly longer than the lattice columns.



Troubleshooting

Problem	Likely cause	Fix
Turtle shell won't dome	DDHH rows too loose / even tension	Tighten each new row slightly more than the last; re-pin center high
Shell puckers into a bowl	Outer rows over-tightened	Unpick to the last flat row; ease outward rows, block flat overnight
Panel hangs longer than lattice	Glass weight stretching center cords	Redistribute: lash strand cords to a branch; steam-relax the lattice
Branches slip in the weave	Lock row above wood too loose	Re-hitch the DDHH lock row; add a hidden lash at each tip
Turtles droop forward	Tacks only at top rim	Add the 5 and 7 o'clock tacks; keep all four points behind the rim
Lattice diamonds uneven	Inconsistent row drop	Cut a 1-inch card spacer; gauge every drop against it
Tassel heads at odd heights	Bundles folded off-center	Re-fold before wrapping; align folds against a taped guide line
Fringe curls after trimming	Cord twist released by combing	Steam, comb, weight ends with clips for an hour, re-trim

General Tips & Finishing

Blocking: pin the finished piece flat on a towel-covered board, mist lightly, and leave overnight - this settles the turtles against the panel and evens the lattice.

Brushing: comb tassels and fringe with a wide-tooth comb, then a pet slicker brush for the soft, full skirt in the photo. Brush before the final trim, never after.

Sealing: dab fringe tips and every buried tail with diluted fabric glue (1:1 with water). Invisible when dry, and it survives dusting and shipping.

Hanging: driftwood is rarely balanced - slide the hanger loop along the branch until the piece hangs square before you set the wall hook.