

Highland Thistle Pendant

A micro-macramé zipper pull, fan pull, or necklace charm

A Javoews House pattern

SKILL LEVEL

Advanced

FINISHED SIZE

2.6" dia (6.5 cm) + clasp

BUILD TIME

6–9 hrs / 2–3 evening sessions

CORD

0.8 mm waxed polyester



Inspiration (redrawn reference)



Finished pattern

The Scottish thistle, worked flat inside a wrapped ring — purple ridged crown, lattice receptacle, and two knotted leaf sprays.

Table of Contents

Materials list	2
Cord cutting chart	2
Knot reference guide	3
Cord layout & ring mounting map	4
Full-piece assembly map	5
Build order overview	6
Construction sections 1–8	6
Technique deep-dive: wrapping & anchoring the ring	7
Technique deep-dive: crown & lattice receptacle	8
Technique deep-dive: knotted leaf fronds	9
Troubleshooting	10
Finishing & care	10

1. Materials

- Waxed polyester cord, 0.8 mm (Linhasita / C-Lon Tex 400 class) — deep olive: 26 m (29 yd)
- Waxed polyester cord, 0.8 mm — orchid purple: 5 m (5.5 yd)
- Metal ring, 60 mm (2 3/8") outer diameter, brass or steel
- Lobster-clasp zipper-pull hardware with 8 mm jump ring (or necklace chain)
- Tools: sharp micro scissors, thread zap or lighter, T-pins + cork/foam board, tapestry needle, clear jewelry glue (E6000 or GS Hypo), flat-nose pliers for the jump ring

TIME TO COMPLETE — 6–9 hours for a confident intermediate knotter (2–3 evening sessions)

Ring wrap: 45 min · Thistle crown: 1 hr · Lattice receptacle & calyx: 1 hr
 Left leaf spray: 2–2.5 hrs · Right leaf spray: 1.5–2 hrs · Stem & mounting: 45 min · Finishing: 30 min

Designer's note: this piece was catalogued as a lotus pull, but the inspiration photo is unmistakably a Scottish thistle — the pattern below builds the thistle as photographed. The original upload could not be embedded, so the cover carries a redrawn color reference in its place.

2. Cord Cutting Chart

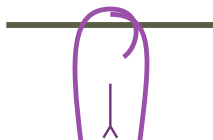
Label	Purpose	Qty	Cut length	Subtotal
A	Ring wrap (olive)	1	3.5 m / 138"	3.5 m
B	Crown petals (purple)	8	60 cm / 24"	4.8 m
C	Receptacle lattice (olive)	6	70 cm / 28"	4.2 m
D	Left leaf spray (olive)	10	90 cm / 36"	9.0 m
E	Right leaf spray (olive)	8	90 cm / 36"	7.2 m
F	Stem core & wraps (olive)	2	100 cm / 40"	2.0 m
TOTAL		35 cords		olive 25.9 m · purple 4.8 m

Cut every cord 3–4 inches longer than listed — micro-macramé eats tail length at every tack-off.

3. Knot Reference Guide

Lark's Head Knot

LHK



Fold cord, loop over holder, pull ends through.

Half Hitch

HH



One loop of working cord around a holding cord.

Double Half Hitch

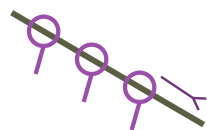
DHH



Two half hitches side by side; makes a ridge.

Diagonal Clove Hitch

DCH



DHH row worked along an angled holding cord.

Vertical Double Half Hitch

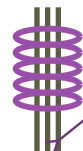
VDHH



Working cord hitches across vertical holders.

Wrapping Knot

WK



Coil a cord around a bundle; tuck tail inside.

Overhand Knot

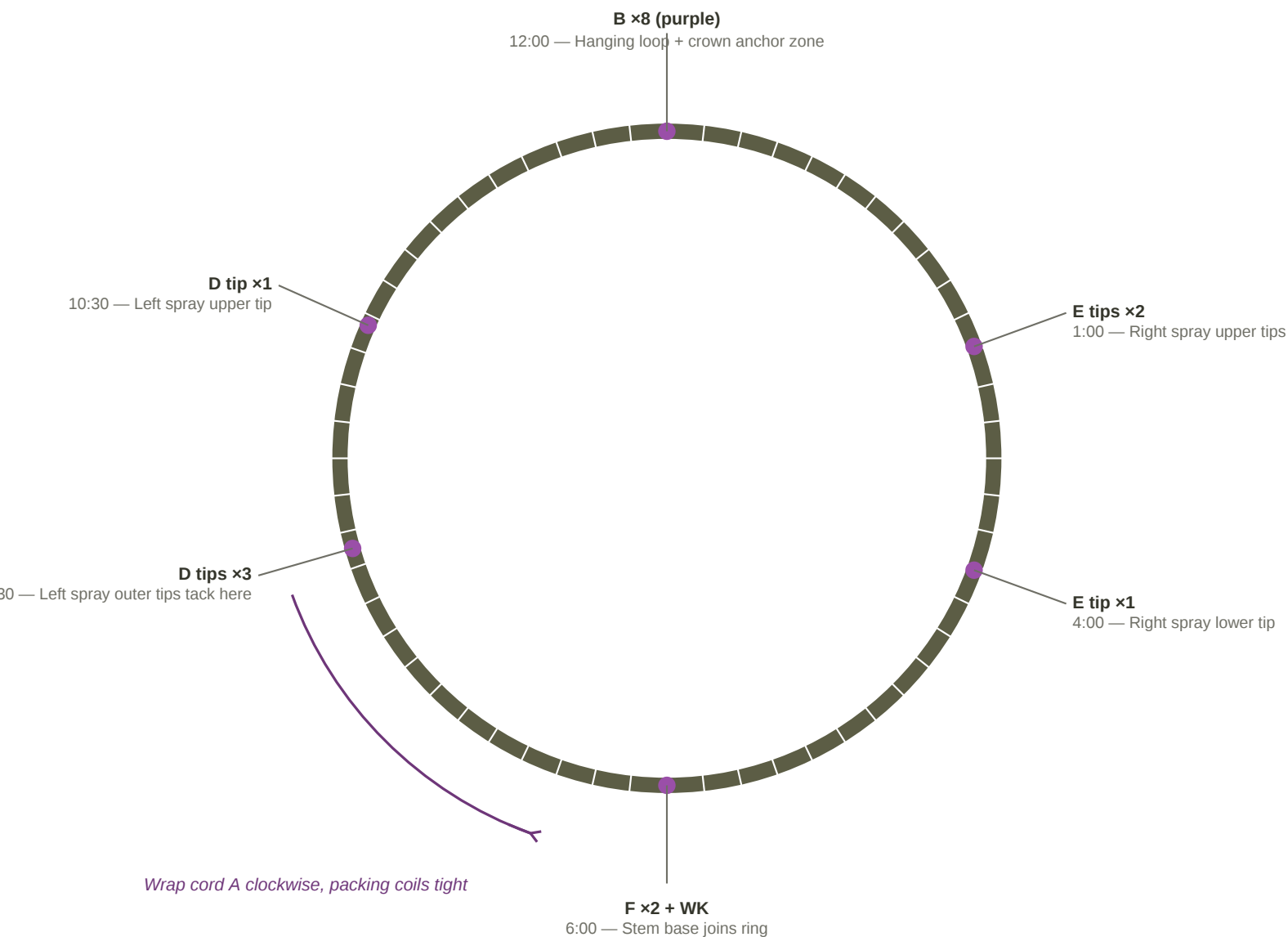
OK



Simple loop-and-through knot to secure ends.

4. Cord Layout & Ring Mounting Map

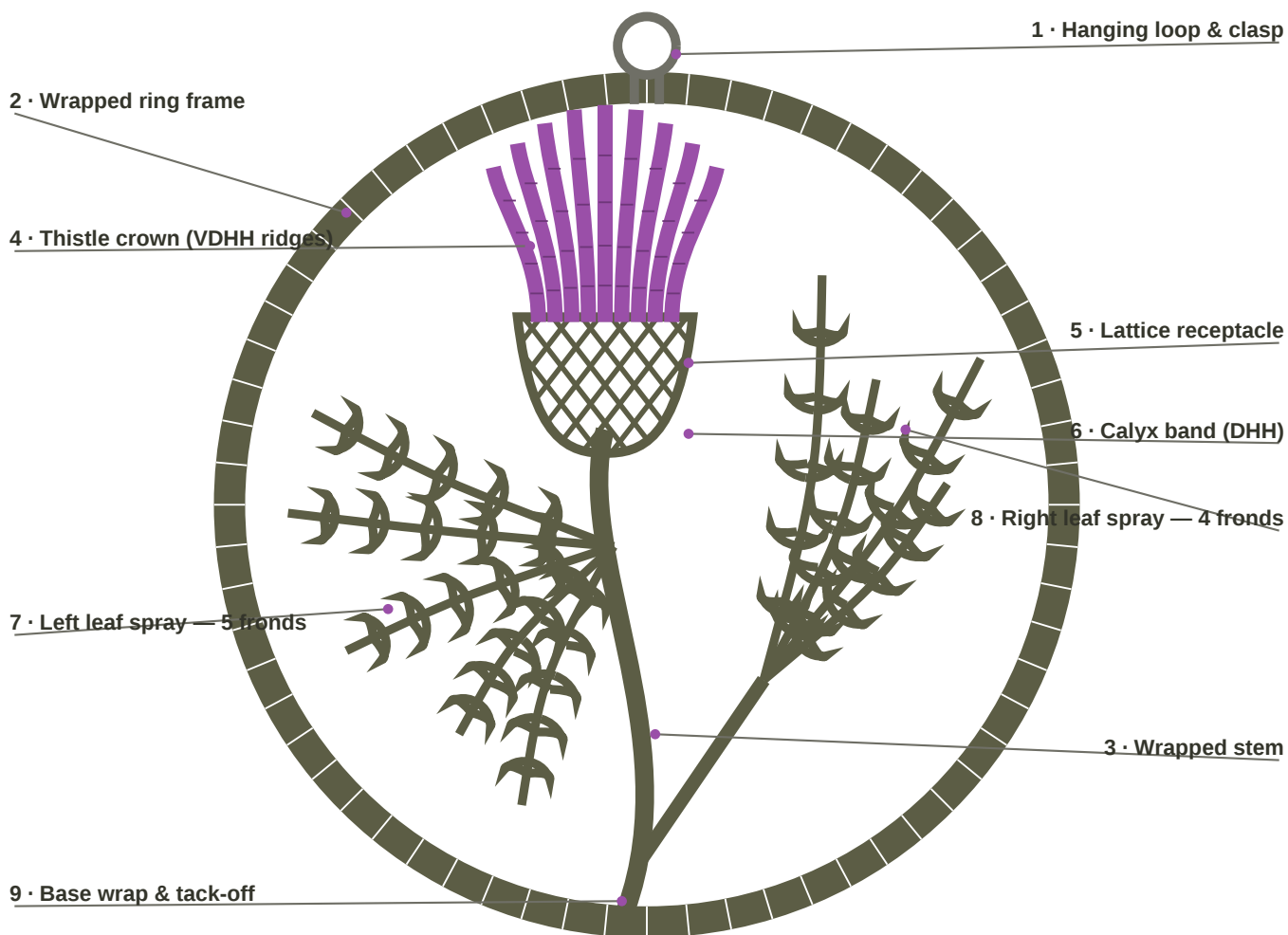
There is no dowel here — the wrapped 60 mm ring is your mounting bar, bent into a circle. Wrap it first with cord A, then anchor every later cord group to the positions below (clock positions, ring viewed from the front).



Leaf-spray tips are tacked to the ring only after each frond is knotted — see deep-dive pages.

5. Full-Piece Assembly Map

Your map of the whole build. Numbers match the build order and construction sections below.



6. Build Order Overview

1. Wrap the ring with cord A and form the hanging loop.
2. Mount crown cords B and stem cords F.
3. Wrap the stem.
4. Knot the thistle crown (VDHH ridges).
5. Weave the lattice receptacle (C).
6. Work the DHH calyx band.
7. Knot the left leaf spray (D).
8. Knot the right leaf spray (E).
9. Tack all leaf tips to the ring, wrap the base join, trim, seal, add hardware.

7. Construction

Section 1 — Wrapped ring frame (cord A · 45 min)

- 1.1 Tape 4" of cord A flat along the ring; begin coiling over both ring and tail, coils touching.
- 1.2 Every 15–20 coils, push the wraps back with a thumbnail to close gaps. Tension stays firm and even.
- 1.3 Wrap the full circle. At 12:00, thread the tail under the last 5 coils with a needle, pull snug — do not trim yet.
- 1.4 Form the hanging loop: fold a 3" bight of the tail, whip it to the ring top with 6 tight coils, dot with glue.

Section 2 — Mounting (cords B + F · 15 min)

- 2.1 LHK the 8 purple B cords onto the ring's upper arc, centered slightly left of 12:00 (see mounting map).
- 2.2 They will hang down to become the crown; pin them out of the way for now.
- 2.3 Fold both F cords and LHK them at 6:00 — these run upward as the stem core.

Section 3 — Wrapped stem (cords F · 20 min)

- 3.1 Bundle the four F ends and curve them gently up-left toward where the cup will sit (about center, a touch left).
- 3.2 With one F end as the wrapper, coil tightly up the bundle for 1 3/4" (4.5 cm) — a smooth, slightly arced stem.
- 3.3 Pin the top of the stem in place; leave the remaining ends free — they join the receptacle next.

Section 4 — Thistle crown (cords B · 1 hr)

- 4.1 Working flat on the board, treat each purple pair as one ridge: VDHH down each cord for 3/4" (2 cm).
- 4.2 Keep the 8–9 ridges parallel and touching; the ribbed texture is the thistle's signature. See deep-dive page.
- 4.3 Taper: stop each outer ridge 2–3 hitches earlier than its neighbor so the crown fans and rounds at the top edge.
- 4.4 Splay the outermost ridges 10–15° left and right before locking them into the cup row below.

Section 5 — Lattice receptacle & calyx (cords C + B ends · 1 hr)

- 5.1 Pin the 6 C cords in a fan below the crown; cross them with the 8 B ends in an open over-under grid.
- 5.2 Tack each intersection with a single HH so the diamond lattice holds its shape — cup is 3/4" wide, 5/8" deep.
- 5.3 Shape: the cup narrows toward its base — pull outer cords inward 15° as you tack each lower row.
- 5.4 Close the base with a DHH calyx band across all cords, then feed the ends into the stem wrap and re-wrap 3 coils.

Section 6 — Left leaf spray (cords D · 2–2.5 hrs)

- 6.1 Five fronds, worked one at a time: 2 cords per frond (1 holding + 1 working per side after folding).
- 6.2 Lay the holding cord in the frond's curve (see assembly map), then DCH lobes down one side — 5 lobes, each a short scallop with a picot turn at the tip. Full sequence on the leaf deep-dive page.
- 6.3 Return up the second side, mirroring the lobes; the midrib ridge stays crisp between them.
- 6.4 Fronds 1–3 arc left and down to the ring; fronds 4–5 curl toward the stem. Pin each before starting the next.

Section 7 — Right leaf spray (cords E · 1.5–2 hrs)

- 7.1 Four fronds, same lobe technique, but this spray stands upright — its branch leaves the stem at 5:00 and climbs toward 1:00 inside the ring.
- 7.2 Keep lobes slightly smaller than the left spray (drops the visual weight to the left, as in the photo).

Section 8 — Tack-off & hardware (30 min)

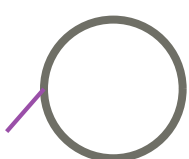
- 8.1 Tack every frond tip touching the ring with 2 HH in matching olive; hide passes under the ring wrap.
- 8.2 Trim all tails to 2 mm, melt-seal, and press flat with the side of the pliers while warm.
- 8.3 Dot glue at the stem base join and the hanging loop. Open the jump ring, attach the clasp hardware, close.

8. Technique Deep-Dive — Wrapping & Anchoring the Ring

The whole pendant hangs off this wrap: gaps or loose coils here will telegraph through every later tack-off.

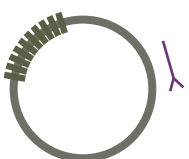
1

bare ring + tail



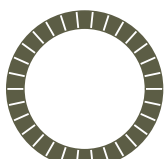
Tape a 4" tail of cord A flat along the bare ring.

2



Coil over ring + tail, coils touching, firm tension.

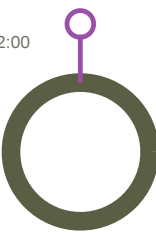
3



Pack coils back every 15–20 wraps until the circle is solid.

4

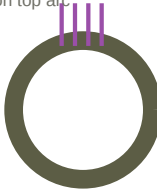
hitch loop at 12:00



Needle the tail under 5 coils at 12:00; form the hanging loop.

5

B cords LHK on top arc



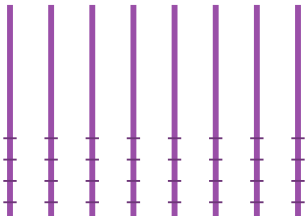
LHK the purple B cords onto the packed top arc.

9. Technique Deep-Dive — Crown Ridges & Lattice Receptacle

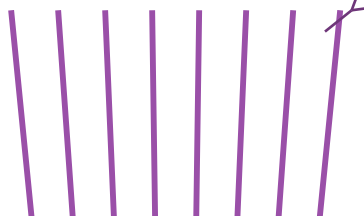
The crown is ribbed vertical texture; the cup below is an open grid. Both are shape-first — pin constantly.

1

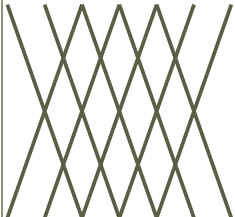

Mount 8 purple cords; they hang as parallel pairs.

2


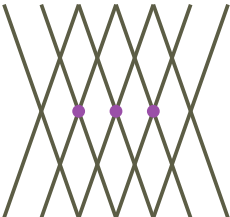
VDHH down each pair — ribbed vertical ridges, touching.

3


Taper & splay: outer ridges stop short and lean outward.

4


Cross C cords with B ends in an open over-under grid.

5


Tack each intersection with one HH — diamonds stay open.

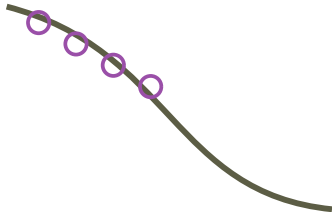
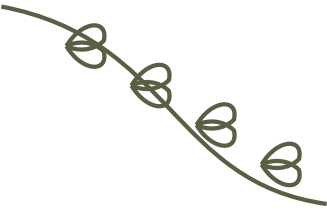
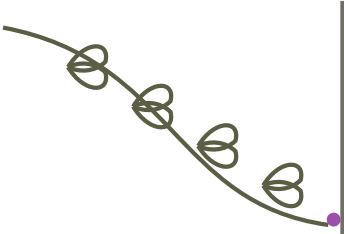
6


DHH calyx band under cup

Close the cup with a DHH calyx band; feed ends to stem.

10. Technique Deep-Dive — Knotted Leaf Fronds

Each frond is a DCH ridge with picot-turn lobes on both sides of a midrib — the signature move of this piece.

1 lay midrib holding cord  Pin the holding cord in the frond's final curve.	2 lay midrib holding cord  DCH down the first side — one hitch per 2 mm.	3 picot turn at lobe tip  At each lobe tip, turn with a 3 mm picot loop.
4  Ridge back toward the midrib to close the lobe.	5  Repeat: 5 lobes per side, shrinking toward the tip.	6 tack tip to ring, HH x2  Tack finished tips to the ring with 2 HH each.

11. Troubleshooting

Problem	Likely cause	Fix
Ring wrap slides or gapes	Coils too loose / no tail underneath	Re-tension; pack coils tight, dot glue underneath
Crown ridges look uneven	Inconsistent VDHH tension	Pull each hitch to the same click; recount hitches per ridge
Lattice cup collapses	Intersections not tacked	HH-tack every crossing; pin the cup outline first
Leaf lobes curl or cup	Picot loops too small	Use a full 3 mm picot; block flat under damp cloth
Fronds won't hold their curve	Skipped pinning	Pin the holding cord shape before knotting, not after
Piece twists on the clasp	Loop whipping too narrow	Re-whip the loop wider (6+ coils) so it sits flat
Melted ends show shiny blobs	Overheated seal	Zap for a half second only; press flat while warm

12. General Tips, Finishing & Care

- Block the finished pendant: lay flat under a barely-damp cloth with a book on top overnight — leaves flatten beautifully.
- Brush nothing — waxed polyester has no fringe to brush; instead, roll ridges gently between fingers to even them.
- A drop of matte fabric sealant on the back of each frond tip keeps zipper-pull wear from lifting the tacks.
- Waxed poly is water-resistant: wipe clean with a damp cloth; never machine wash, never iron directly.
- For a fan pull, swap the lobster clasp for a bead chain coupling; for a necklace, use an 18" snake chain as photographed.