
DIY Yarn Banners with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Courtney from Creativebug and I'm the set designer here. I'm gonna show you how to take inexpensive yarn and a wooden dowel and create a really dramatic, eye catching piece that's easy to put together. I'm gonna show you two different ways to do it, one with glue and one without. We'll talk about how to compose with color and about proportions. And then I'll show you how to give it a little haircut to have a really nice, clean finish at the end. These yarn banners are so easy to make and they're a great way to add color and texture to your space.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- The materials you'll need for this are pretty straight forward and they're things that you can pick up at Michaels, or your local craft store. You'll need a dowel, to hang your yarn on. You could also use a copper rod, if you want something a little more industrial. And the thickness doesn't really matter. I would say nothing less than maybe a quarter of an inch. Because you want it to be fairly sturdy, especially if you're doing a really large one. But you could do a tiny little 12 inch one too, which would be super cute. You'll need a variety of yarn and here the type of yarn doesn't really matter. You're going purely on look. So you can pick the color and the texture that you like. You can mix thick weights with thin weights. You can even go out for some roving, which has a really soft, cotton-y feel and doesn't have a lot of twist to it. Remember that the thinner the yarn is, the more quantity you're going to need because it's gonna be really tiny laying on the top of your rods. So you'll have to have more and more of it to take up a nice chunk of color. So just keep that in mind when you're selecting your yarns. I like to just get a full skein of every color that I want to work with. And you might use some of it, depending on how small it is, or you might use all of it and then need more in addition, if you're doing something really long, like you might do over a bed. In addition, I like to have tacky glue on hand. I'm gonna show you two different ways to attach your yarn to your dowel. One with glue and one without. And then a pair of really sharp scissors is nice to have, as well.

Chapter 3 - Make Yarn Banners

Cutting yarn and creating banners

- These are really simple to make, but the most time consuming part of it is actually just cutting your yarn to get prepared to set up to create your banner. So there are a couple ways to do it, I'm gonna walk you through the ones that I like to use. The smallest amount of yarn that you're ever gonna use for a traditional yarn banner on a dowel is around your arm. This is like how you'd wrap an extension cord, for example. And you really need a lot of wraps. This is a chunkier yarn so it's gonna take up more space, which is great. Once you've got a good, chunky amount, you can snip it from your skein. And then we're gonna snip this in half, just on one edge. If you lay this out so it's nice and clean, we're just gonna snip one edge so that we have all these lengths. This is where the sharp scissors comes into play. And you're gonna set that big chunk aside. What's a little more helpful, but potentially a little more awkward to do, is actually from your hand to your foot. That gives you the nice long length. You can always trim it later, but it's a real bummer to start on your yarn banner

and have only six inches to work with and not get those nice, long strings so that you can create that design at the bottom. You're gonna start with the loose end of the yarn in your hand, the ball's on the floor. And you're gonna go from just below sort of hip height, where your hands naturally rest, down to your toe. So you're gonna be bent over for most of this and it can be a little uncomfortable, just do it in batches. You'll notice that you want to keep it taut as you're working, but you might find yourself scrunching closer and closer to the ground. It's probably a good time to then cut your yarn and start a new batch. And then you can see how long these lengths are, and we're gonna set them aside. A couple other things you can do to help you get really long lengths is you could wrap between a door knob and the back of a chair. You could even put two nails in the side of an old work table, and really get going. That goes really, really fast to just wind it between the two nails. You have to get a little creative with this part depending on how long the lengths are, but once you've decided what you're working with, go ahead and cut a bunch of chunks of yarn in the colors and textures you want, and in a variety of lengths. I've got mine here. You can even use something like a roving, which has a really nice, really lofty texture. So I've got some white, soft cotton yarn that looks like roving. I've got a thinner yarn in an ochre color. Got some shorter lengths of that skinny gray yarn we had earlier, and then I love this really chunky, textural aqua yarn in sort of a medium length. It never hurts to cut more than you think you need because it actually goes pretty quickly. And you're gonna wish that you had more prepared so that you can just keep making those yarn banners. I'm gonna show you two different ways to attach your yarn to the dowels, the first with glue. I'm using just a tacky glue that you can pick up at the craft store. Put a generous little roll of glue there at the top of your dowel. Right now there is no top orientation, but that will become clear as we start working. And then you're gonna take a little pile of yarn. Loosely find the halfway point. And I like to flatten it out just a little bit with my thumbs here. You can take this entire chunk and stick it right onto the dowel, and then you gently nestle each little yarn piece into place, which is pretty quick. You can see how nice and flat it lays. And any glue that you can see right now will be entirely hidden when it dries. This glue dries clear. And you would continue just adding glue in maybe one or two inch sections. And then I would just continue working, adding another little chunk of yarn. In this case I'm gonna add another band of gray. Flattening, just kind of nestling these into place. So they have a really clean line at the top. Now I want to add some ochre to this one. Right on top. And just kinda nestle those strings into place. And I wouldn't do more ochre unless I was doing a really large band here, because I wanna make sure that my proportions are different. And I have about a two inch swath of gray and a one inch swath of ochre, and I like that proportion. I don't want exact chunks, like stripes, all the way across, unless that's what you're going for. So I would probably add a third color here. I could maybe do a nice three inches of the aqua and make that the center focal part of my yarn banner. I could then switch back to gray. I like to have some asymmetry when I'm designing, but what's nice about this gluing method is you can really do these in chunks. And don't worry about the edges, I'm gonna show you how to get a really nice, clean angle later when we give it a little haircut. And you can just set this aside and let it dry flat. Or if you know where it's gonna go, you can have a couple of little nails in the wall and just let it rest on those nails as you would when you're hanging it, and it could dry that way as well. This sets up really quickly. I wanna show you another way to attach yarn, which is more in keeping with that sort of macrame style that's really popular right now. So I'm gonna show you how to actually tie yarn onto the dowel itself. Take one strand of yarn at a time, roughly in the center. And where that loop is, come underneath the dowel, pull the two strands through the loop and just tighten. And one side will give you the strands and the other side will give you a little bump. Almost like a purl ridge when

you're knitting. Grab a strand of yarn. Take the loop at the center and pull your yarn through. You can just adjust and tighten. And you do this one strand at a time. If you wanted to, you could add a little bit of glue just for this one at the end if you're afraid it might fall off. It's okay if the dowel rolls around. Just every once in a while check in and pull those yarn tails tight, so that all of your ends are lining up. So you can see all those little purl ridges on one side. I keep saying that, but they're just little ridges here. Although this tying method takes a little longer, what is nice is that you can slide this band of color around if you're not really sure where you want things to live, where you can't do that with the glue. You would continue adding color just as you would with the glued option. Really, there's no difference there as far as designing the different bands of color. I might do a little section of ochre, and then a really nice, wide, chunky section of the white roving, and then continue from there. Again, I'll show you how to give it a little haircut to really finish off the design.

Trimming and hanging

- Here are two small yarn banners. One using the tie method that we started earlier and one just using the glue method. And you can see both have their own merits depending on if you want that bump side or the side that has little V's where the tails came out versus a more seamless construction with just the glue. We're gonna hang these on the wall in their final space and then we're gonna give them a little trim. You can put a simple nail on the wall to just hang some of the smaller ones. If you're using a larger yarn bearing you may want to put in two nails. And it's just resting here and it's a good place to actually cut it is on the wall. So you can look at this and kind of decide how you want to trim it. You could do something that's a little more angular or you could do something straight across in chunks. I think I'm gonna go for something asymmetrical and even though that these are really long I might cut them pretty short. It's kind of like giving you bangs a trim here. So come up, just follow that line. Get all of that triple color yarn. So that's nice and then I could go back down with this blue or I could go at a real steep angle or I could just kind of continue this across which is what I think I'm gonna do. Just give it a once over and make sure it looks good. That looks awesome. We can do something different to this one and actually the word for bangs in French is fringe and so I think about that every time I'm cutting these because they're like bangs. Okay, I think this one I'm gonna do in little chunks straight across. It's a really different look. You may not be into that but I kind of want to show you the difference. So this going straight across for this band for the oatmeal here. Come down a little further for the charcoal, straight across. And then I actually like to leave one that has its natural weird irregular length and then come back and then do another straight across. So I'm come back up. Gather up all the ochre strands and I want this to be higher than that one. So cut straight across there. And then for the neon, you wanna go short, like that. You can come back and then trim a little if anything kind of move once it's been smooth out. I like the contrast between this really sharp edges and that soft kind of organic shape that's happening just naturally at the bottom of the orange band of color. These yarn banners are so easy and fun to make and once you get one under your belt you're gonna want to make a whole set of them and probably you have to make a couple for your friends as well. They're really fast to come together once you get the hang of it. And it's a good way to add some color and texture to any space. They look really cool over a couch. You can make a really large one to hang over your bed. This make an excellent photo booth backdrop for a birthday or for a wedding and if you're not an editor it's a really fun way to play with yarn.