
Make a Classic Macramé Plant Hanger with Emily Katz

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(upbeat music) - My name is Emily Katz. I'm an artist and designer from Portland, Oregon. I travel around the country teaching macrame workshops and my work has been featured in Japanese design magazines and on design blogs. The macrame plant hanger is the classic macrame project. My mom used to make these when she was 16 to sell in a salon that her mom frequented. She taught me a few years ago, but I'm going to show you to do it with a modern twist. Working with cotton rope, I'm going to show you how to make a square knot and also a half square knot, which creates the classic spiral knot. I'm going to teach you a little bit about proportion so you can put your favorite vessel or plant inside. And then we're going to finish off the basket. Once you understand these basic knots, you can change the pattern and really make it your own. ^ (upbeat music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- The materials you'll need for this are super easy and almost all can be found at the hardware store. I like to use a 3/16 inch diameter cotton rope. I have six lengths that are cut to 16 feet each. I have a very simple brass ring, some scissors. I use a C clamp and an extra bit of rope to create tension while I'm beginning the plant hanger. About halfway through the project you're going to have to hang it up so that you can get the proportions right and put your plant pot in it to do the final touches. I really like hanging it up in the closet or you can put it on a curtain rod or something like that. Once you gather your materials, you're all set to begin.

Chapter 3 - Make Plant Hanger

Getting started

- I've set-up the C-clamp at the edge of my table. Attached a rope and then put the brass ring on the end to create nice tension. I'm gonna take my lengths of rope which I have folded in half. Holding the center point in my right hand, I'm going to take the ends of the rope and place them through the brass ring. I'm gonna pull them through until I get to that center point where my six ropes have turned into 12. This'll become the top of our piece. A lot of people take another length of rope and wrap it around the top. But for a more modern and elegant look, I'm gonna show you one of my secrets. First, make sure that your ropes are even and take two from the outside that are also on the bottom. So one on the left that's underneath and one on the right that's underneath. You don't wanna pull on them because they're not attached to anything yet. This is where you're going to make your very first knot. To make the first square knot which is going to be the top of the plant hanger, you're going to take the left side rope and place it over all of the ropes in the center. And the right side rope and place it over the left side rope. And then that one goes underneath everything and then back up and through that first loop you made with the left side. You're then going to make a nice tight knot there. And then do the exact same thing on the right. So you'll take the right side rope, put it over all of the ropes in the middle. The left side rope over that. And then underneath and up and through. And then pull that nice and taught. So this is just a much cleaner, simpler, more elegant way to make the top of your plant hanger. And it's already the knot that you're gonna be learning to do the rest of the piece. Next, we'll divide all 12 ropes into three sections

of four. Working on each section of four individually. I'm gonna get started on the top. It's really important to make sure that the ropes that you choose are right next to each other. It'll make the cleanest lines. You'll take these four and you can move the other ones to the side if you'd like to keep it separate. You're going to do the same knot that I just taught you. This is the first square knot. And that happens again by left side over the two center. Right side over the left. And under and through. I'm going to do just two knots all the way up at the top. Right side over. Left side under and through. So you're repeating the pattern by going left side and right side. So left side over, under. And then the same on the right. Right side over and under. So once I've done that, I'm gonna move on to the next four. And I'm gonna make sure that I've grabbed four that are right next to each other. And I'm gonna do the same thing. Left side over, right side under and through. And right side over, left side under and through. So for the square knot, you wanna just really make sure that you're always alternating. And I'll show you in a minute why. An important thing to remember with any macrame project that you're working on, especially the plant hanger, is to make sure that you work on each individual section from the top down. You really don't want to get too far working on one grouping of four before you've completed the same stitches on the others. And then you can start spiraling down. I'm going to do the same two square knots on this last grouping of four before I move on to teach you the next stitch. For the next knot, I'm going to show you how to do the half square which it turns into a classic spiral. It's actually quite simple. I'm going to take the first group that I was working on where you can already see the two square knots. And I'm gonna move down about a hands length so that I have nice amount of space for when the plant goes in there. And to make the half square knot, you do the left over the middle, the right over the left. Pull that through just like you were doing before. But instead of switching over to the right hand side, you're going to do exactly what you just did and take the left-hand rope, go over the middle, the right underneath and through. And then pull that taught there. And as you can see, it's sort of starting to spiral. So just continue working from the left hand side and make a handful of knots. So you're going to work until you have about two inches of spiral. Now do this on the other two groupings. So again, left over right and then just continue on the left hand side. And kind of eyeball where those two are so you can line them up. As the ropes twist around, you can also twist with them. As long as you're always using it on the left. That looks about even. Now do your last grouping of knots. To make the basket portion of the plant hanger, you're going to need to join the ropes. And to do that, you're gonna want to hang it somewhere. So go find the place to hang it and then we'll get started on that part.

Hang and join to create basket

- About eight inches down from the spirals that we've made, I'm going to do three square knots. And then I'm gonna want to do that on each of the groupings. This is the last couple of knots I'm gonna do before we join the groupings to create the basket. So that's three square knots. Now moving to the next grouping. As I'm going around in a circle here, I'm eyeballing where to put the knot. But you just want to make sure that they're even so that there's nice balance. The next step is to take two from each grouping. You want to make sure that they're the ones that are next to each other, to make a new grouping of four. This will be the first step in making the basket that's gonna hold the plant. So I'm just going to do one simple square knot here. About eight inches down. And then once you've done that one knot, then you're gonna move on and you're going to join the next two. So here I'm making the next square knot. So now I've combined two of the sections. And I'm gonna move on to the final section and make sure that those two pieces that are knotted are lined

up and straight and that the ropes are even. And then I'm gonna do one more square knot to complete that section. Now that I have all three of those, you can see why it's important to hang. If you need to make an adjustment it's really simple. You pull on the two sides and it loosens the knot. And you can slide it up or down and then you just want to make sure that you tie it nice and tight again. The next step in making the basket is going to do just what we did but we're gonna do it again and combine another group of four and do another single square knot. It's going to create a diamond shape. And that's going to help hold the plant in. So I'm going to start that right about here. And you can see that it's a bit shorter than before. So here I have about eight inches. This is more about four inches. Then I'm gonna move on to the next one. Again, sort of going around the world, making those single square knots until you've gone all the way around and completed all three of them. All right, you're gonna do it one more time. This time, it's going to be even closer. So here you have an eight, and then we have four, and here I'm gonna do more like two and a half inches. Combine the rope with another square knot. And then again, just go around until you've completed all of the knots. And once you finish this it's another good time to adjust them to make sure that we're even and straight. And again, that's just by pulling on those, or pulling on the center ropes. Now you're ready to test whether that pot is gonna fit into your plant hanger so you can make any final adjustments. I have a plant over here that we're gonna use. I like this one, it has a lot of interesting shape to it and it's gonna look really nice in the plant hanger. So I'm going to put it in, into the center. Kind of ease it down. And as you can see, we've got a pretty good shape here. The proportions of the plant hangers are really important. This is why I've started with about eight inches here and then halved it to around four. And then for the smaller one is about two or two and a half. That way it really cradles the pot and makes a nice place for the plant to sit. At this point, you can adjust the knots, you can make it tighter, or you can make it looser, depending on what size pot you're going to put into it. It all can be adjusted. To finish the bottom of the plant hanger, we're going to make a square knot just like we did at the top where we take two of the longest ropes and we combine all of the ropes together to make the knot. So here I'm combining all of the center ropes together with one square knot. If you want you can do more than one or you can play around with it and do a spiral. Maybe I'll do a few more just to see. I think that looks pretty nice. You can make these tails as long as you want. You can leave them long and dangly or you can cut them nice and short which is what I'm gonna do about eight inches from the bottom of these two square knots. I'm just gonna cut right across. And I think I'm just gonna leave them as is. They're totally going to fringe as they go. Eventually they'll fray a little bit but I'm just gonna leave 'em. I think it looks really nice like that. Once you know the basic knots, the full square knot and the half square knot, which makes a spiral, you can make any different kind of plant hanger. And you can also use those techniques to do other projects. For the plant hangers, you can use colored rope. You could dip dye your rope. You could add beads in the center here or you can also use them for events and fill them with bouquets of flowers. There's really so many ways that you can make these.