

MACRAMÉ HANGER

Macramé, the art of decoratively knotting cords and rope, can be used to create a simple hanger in which to display your favourite house plants. Use wooden beads and cotton cord to create the simple, modern look shown here, or try a different materials, such as metallic beads or unbleached rope, to design a unique macramé hanger of your own.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

PLANT

- Suitable plant in a 15cm (6in) pot, such as a delta maidenhair fern

OTHER MATERIALS

- 10m (32ft) strong, non-stretch cord or string, such as cotton cord
- Wooden ring
- S-hook
- 8 wooden beads (4 small and 4 large)
- Decorative pot sleeve suitable for a 15cm (6in) plant

TOOLS

- Ruler or tape measure
- Scissors





1 Cut 4 lengths of cotton cord measuring 220cm (7¼ft), and 2 lengths measuring 50cm (20in). Thread the 4 long cords through the wooden ring, folding them in half over the edge. Hold the cords together in one hand just below the ring, leaving the lengths trailing below.



2 Take one of the shorter cords and make a loop at one end. Pinch the loop in place on top of the trailing cords in your right hand, leaving both the long and short tails of the loop above the wooden ring.



3 Tightly wrap the long tail around the loop and trailing cords 5 times, moving further away from the wooden ring. After 5 turns, thread the remainder of the long tail through the loop hole.



4 Pull the short tail so that the loop slides inside the 5 turns. Cut off both ends close to the binding and tuck inside to complete the knot. This technique is known as a "wrapping knot".



5 Using the S-hook, hang the ring up and check that you have 8 equal lengths of cord hanging down. Separate the cords into 4 pairs. Thread 1 small and 1 large wooden bead onto each pair of cords, approximately 30cm (12in) down from the ring.



6 Take 1 cord from 2 adjacent pairs and tie them together in a knot about 8cm (3in) down from the beads. Repeat this 3 times until all the cords are tied together. Repeat this process about 6cm (2in) below these knots (again taking 2 cords from adjacent pairs) to make another set of knots. The cords should now resemble a net.



7 Gather all the cords about 6cm (2in) below these knots. Using the second short length of cord, tie them together in another wrapping knot (see steps 2-4). Ensure this knot is as tight as possible, then trim any excess cord to the desired length.



8 Finally, fit your decorative pot sleeve securely into the hanger, then gently place your choice of plant inside the pot.

HOW TO MAINTAIN

WATERING When the plant needs watering, carefully remove it (and the pot) from the macramé hanger to prevent the cord from staining and rotting.

MAINTENANCE AND CARE Before displaying your plant, test its weight in the macramé hanger by gently lifting it up by the S-hook. The wrapping knots should hold firm; if the pot feels insecure within the hanger, remove it and retie the knots until you are confident that they will hold.

As the plant grows, it will cascade beautifully over the sides of the hanger. If it becomes too large and needs repotting, replace it with another 15cm (6in) plant rather than squeezing it back into the hanger in its larger pot.

