

MACRAMÉ CLOUD WEAVE

So soft, this adorable little woven cloud is perfect for the wall of a child's bedroom. This project uses two complementary techniques: macramé and weaving. Sweet dreams!

TOOLS

- 1 support rod
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 roll of masking tape

FIBRES

- 1 ball of natural string
- 1 skein of ecru merino roving

STITCHES USED

- basic stitch
- lark's head knot
- soumak
- macramé



1 Attach the wooden support rod to a table using masking tape. Allow a little space so you can pass the string around it.





2 Fold the string in two and slide the folded end under the support rod to make a loop. Pass the ends of the string over the wooden support rod and through the loop. Pull the ends tight so the lark's head knot is secure on the rod and cannot move.

3 Repeat this process across the whole width of the wooden rod. You have made the base for the macramé.



Worth knowing

To ensure that your macramé is a success, tie an even number of threads to the support rod. I worked sixteen lark's head knots along the rod, making thirty-two warp threads in total.



4 To make the first knot, pull out the first string on the left and the fourth on the right. This leaves you with two in the centre.



5 Pass the first string over the two threads in the centre and then under the fourth. This makes a '4' shape.



8 Tighten the knot and repeat the process but in reverse. Your first string is now in the fourth position. Bring it over the two strings in the middle, then under the fourth string which is now in the first position.



9 Pass the fourth strand, which is now in the first position, under the two middle strands and through the loop, from back to front.



6 Now pass the fourth string over the first string and then under the two in the middle, towards the left.



7 Take the end of the fourth string and pass it through the loop to the left of the centre threads, from back to front. It should finish up over the top of the first string. You have just created a half knot.



10 Pull the second knot tight over the first. You have just completed your first square knot.



11 Repeat these steps with the remaining threads, so you end up with square knots across the full width of the weave.



12 For the next row of flat knots, separate four strands once again, but this time ignore the two strands at either end (see top left image). Perform each stage of the flat knot with these strands, pull tight and repeat with the next four strands.



13 Form flat knots across the whole width of the weave. They will be offset from those on the previous row.



14 Weave the third row of square knots in line with the knots on the first row, simply by going back to knotting the first four strands together as in Step 12.



15 Cut a new length of string and position it across the macramé. Attach one end to the table with masking tape to secure.

16 Wind the first strand on the far-left side of the weave (weaving strand) around the new length of string (attached strand) from back to front. The weaving strand should come out on the left.

17 Take the end of the weaving strand and pass it over the attached string.



18 With the weaving strand, make another loop around the attached string, over and around, bringing the end out to the left.

19 Tighten the two loops around the attached string.



22 Make a second row of knots with another length of string. Note the angle of this second line veers down to the left side. These two lines will mark the beginning and end of your soumak weave later.

23 Below your last row of knots, create a spiral of threads with your first four warp threads. To do this, tie a continuous line of knots, approximately 10–12.75cm (4–5in) long. These are made simply by working multiple half knots (see page 120).



20 Perform these steps with each of the hanging strings across the whole width of the macramé. Note the deliberate angle of the knots.

21 To finish, tie a double knot at each end and then snip off the excess so the ends are flush with the weave.



24 Create spirals across the full width of the macramé.

25 Now link the first two spirals. Separate the strands and bring together the four middle ones, setting aside the first two to the left and the last two to the right.



26 Tie a square knot following the instructions in Steps 4–10 (see pages 120 and 121).

27 Link the strands in the second spiral to those in the third by bringing together the two strands you had set aside to the right earlier and knotting them with the first two strands of the third spiral (see also Step 12 on page 122 for further guidance). Continue in the same way across the full width of the weave.



28 The space where you are going to weave your soumak is between the two lines of macramé knots. Take a length of ecru merino roving and take it under the first warp thread to secure the end.

29 Weave the roving around the fourth warp thread and up between the third and fourth warp threads. Start to weave a soumak braid (see also page 73), spacing out twists of wool randomly.



30 Continue to weave the soumak between the macramé row in a circular pattern, weaving from the outside inwards. As you go over and under around the centre, the wool will be bulkier and create a cloud-like effect. Work extra twists of soumak randomly to emphasize this, if necessary.