

Design Resource

Macrame Art - Bardez, Goa

Vintage Knotting Technique

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://www.dsource.in/resource/macrame-art-bardez-go>



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Introduction

Macrame, a Spanish word which is derived from the Arabic migramah, believed to mean “striped towel”, “ornamental fringe” or “embroidered veil.” It is believed to have originated with 13th-century Arab weavers. The weavers knotted the excess thread and yarn along the edges of hand-loomed fabrics into decorative fringes on shawls, coverings, and bath towels. Macrame was most popular in the Victorian era. Most Victorian homes were adorned by this craft. The art was taken to Spain, then to Italy, and then spread through Europe after the Moorish conquest. During the late 17th century it was introduced into England at the court of Mary II. Queen Mary taught this art to her court ladies. Sailors were responsible for spreading this art to the New World. They made macramé artifacts in off-hours while at sea and sold them when they were landed. Nineteenth-century British and American sailors made hammocks, bell fringes, and belts from macrame. During the 1970s, it was used to make household items such as wall hangings, articles of clothing, bedspreads, tablecloths, plant hangers, and other furnishings. Meanwhile, this art faded as a decoration trend, but by the early 1980s, it has become popular in the form of jewelry, such as necklaces, anklets, and bracelets. These jewellerys are often made with a combination of knots and various beads such as stone, wood or glass, pendants, and shells.

Macrame is a form of textile-making using knotting rather than weaving or knitting. The square knot and forms of “hitching”: various combinations of half hitches are the primary knots. For geometric and free form patterns like weaving, Cavandoli macrame is used. Accessories like fabric belts, leather, and friendship bracelets are created using macrame techniques. Apart from artifacts, home decoration and interior design became the new field for this unique craft. It is being used to decorate businesses and private homes, boutique hotels, and display apparel, used for modeling clothing and stage wear performance. For macrame work, a knotting board is often used to mount the cords. Sometimes a C-clamp, straight pins, T-pins, U-pins, or upholstery pins used for holding cords in place. Beginners’ kits, work boards, beads, and materials are available in craft stores for the hobbyist. One such hobbyist who became a professional artist is named Mrs. Sujal Vinod Parab from Bardez. She makes a variety of artifacts. Bardez is a region situated in the northern portion of the state of Goa, India (remove hyperlink). Goa is a state on the southwestern coast of India. It is visited by large numbers of international and domestic tourists each year. The place is known for its white-sand beaches, nightlife, places of worship, World Heritage-listed architecture, and handicrafts.

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Macrame lantern made of Polypropylene Cord.

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Artist displaying macrame Keyholder.



Lord Ganesh in macrame art.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The tools and raw materials that are used for Macrame Art are as follows:

- **Nylon Macrame Cord:** It is used to plait a design in a different pattern.
- **Metal Ring:** It is used as a holder and supports the macrame art design in different shapes.
- **Lighter:** It is used to join the ends of the nylon macrame chord.
- **Decorative Beads:** Beads are used to ornate macrame art.
- **Key Holder Hook:** It is used to hold the keys.



Polypropylene Cord is used in macrame art.

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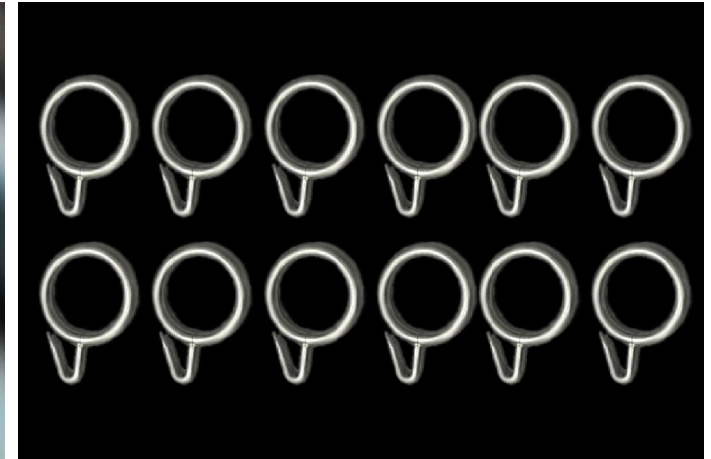
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Beads used for making the hangings to make the macrame look attractive.



Hook rings are used to make the key holder.



A gas lighter is used to join cords and make the cords smooth.



Scissor used for cutting extra ropes and finishing.

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Making Process

As a basic procedure artist pick up a metal ring to keep it as a holder. A nylon macrame cord is used and four chords are being used in making the macramé key chine holder with 3 meters in length. In four chords two chords are divided with different colours and the other two chords with a contrast colour. This gives a magnificent look for the macrame wall decor. The metal ring has a major part in making the macrame wall decor. The shape and size of the metal ring differ according to the pattern as per the artist's creativity. The decorative beads are used to fix in between while plaiting the chord when it is required in the design. Many kinds of beads are used to highlight the beauty of macrame art. The types of knots artist use to make the macramé wall decor are:

Lark's Head Knot:

It is the first knot, sometimes referred to as a Cow Hitch Knot. Macrame cords are attached to an object by this knot. The cord is folded in half and placed over the rod or stick. The loop is brought around the back and two cord ends are pulled through the loop to tighten.

Reverse Lark's Head Knot:

It is done exactly in the reverse of Lark's head knot, so the bump is hidden in the back of the knot. It is a popular choice for attaching the macrame cords to a ring at the top as a holder.

Half Knot:

The Half Knot works with four cords. The two outer cords are the knotting cords and the two middle cords are the knot-bearing cords. The left knotting cord is brought to the right over the two knot-bearing cords and underneath the right knotting cord. The right knotting cord is brought to the left under the two knot-bearing cords and over the left knotting cord by pulling to secure the half-knot. It is one of the most widely used macramé knots.

Square Knot:

The Square Knot is a continuation of the Half Knot. (The "half" refers to "half of the square") The first part of the knot is just like a half-knot then to finish the square by working on another half knot using the opposite cords. The first four sets are the exact same steps as the half-knot. Next is the reverse step: the right knotting cord is brought to the left over the two knot-bearing cords and underneath the left knotting cord. The left knotting cord is brought to the right under the two knot-bearing cords and over the right knotting cord. The chord is pulled to secure the square knot.

Diagonal Half Hitch:

This knot is used to create lines. A series of knots that go across is created using a diagonal half hitch. It can be worked vertically, horizontally, and diagonally. The left cord is taken and held it horizontally across the other cords. Then the next cord is used and brought it forward, up and around the left cord towards the left to form a

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counter-clockwise loop. Using the same working cord and to the right of the first knot, it is taken up, over, and through the loop. There are now two knots sitting next to each other. This is a diagonal half hitch knot. The same process can be repeated by using the next working cord around the same left cord until you have the desired look. To join the ends of the nylon macrame cord, a lighter is being used. These are the steps used to complete the macramé wall decor. The decorative beads are fixed in between while knotting the chords. Once the procedure of making macrame is completed, the key chain holder hook will be inserted on the wall decor in a suitable place. A macrame keychain holder wall decor is completed and looks aesthetic, which attracts the eyes of the buyers.

Flowchart:



The reverse Lark's head knot, a half knot, square knot, and diagonal half hitch knots complete an aesthetic macrame key holder.

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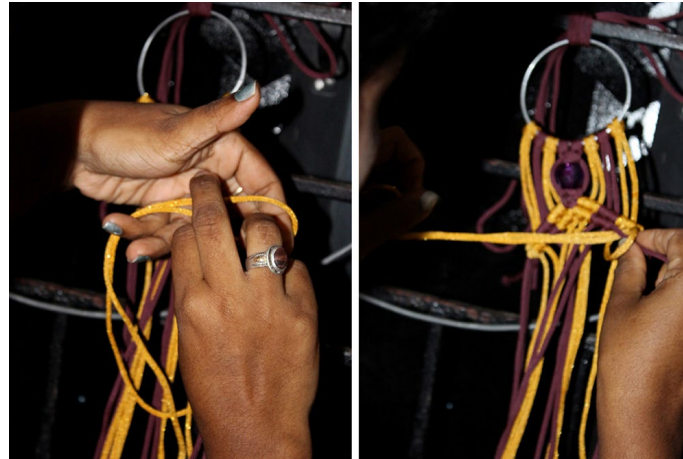
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Artist initiates to make a macrame key holder by knotting the threads.



The set of cords are knotted and wrapped around.



The knotting cord and knot - bearing cord can change from step to step in a macrame pattern.

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An artist using the technique of Alternating Square Knots.

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Tying an overhand knot to secure under the bead.



Artist knotting cord in a design pattern for covering the metal ring.

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Lighter is used to burn the cord to close the knot.



Artist adding the ring hooks through beads for holding purposes.



Beautiful macrame key holder after completion.

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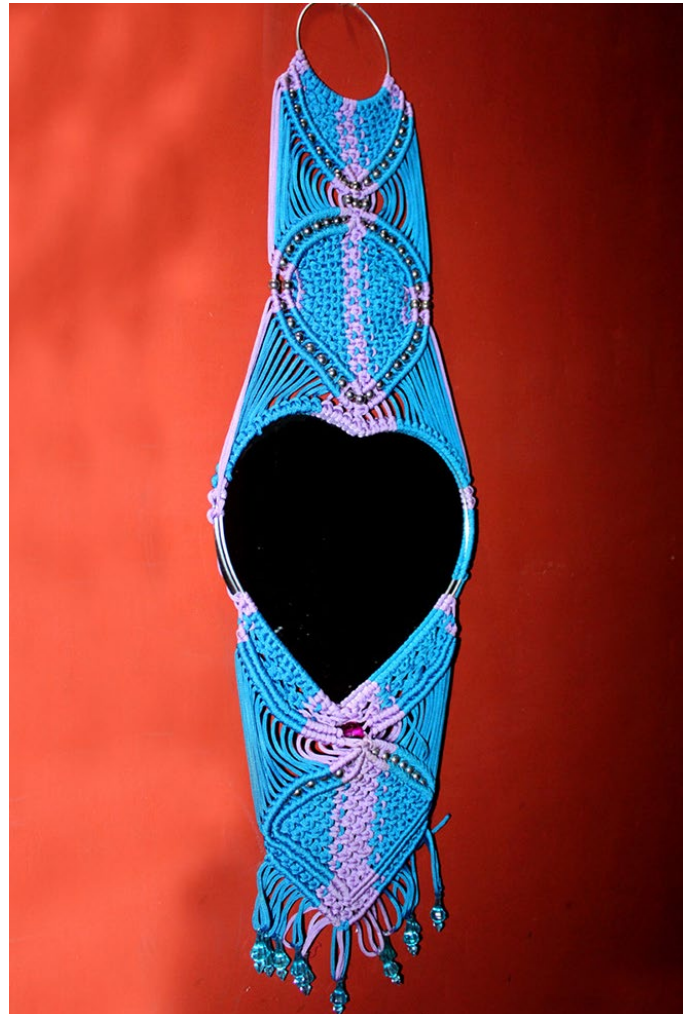
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Products

The products made by the artist Mrs. Sujal Vinod Parab are handbags, wall decors, lanterns, and key holders. The approximate size of the macrame keychain holder is 10x4inches & 9x3inches. The cost of a macrame key chain holder is around 250 INR to 300 INR.



Attractive macrame mirror holder.



Colourful macrame key holder.

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The beautifully knotted face of Lord Ganesh.



Macrame handbag made of Polypropylene Cord.

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Video



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You can get in touch with Prof. Bibhudutta Baral at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

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