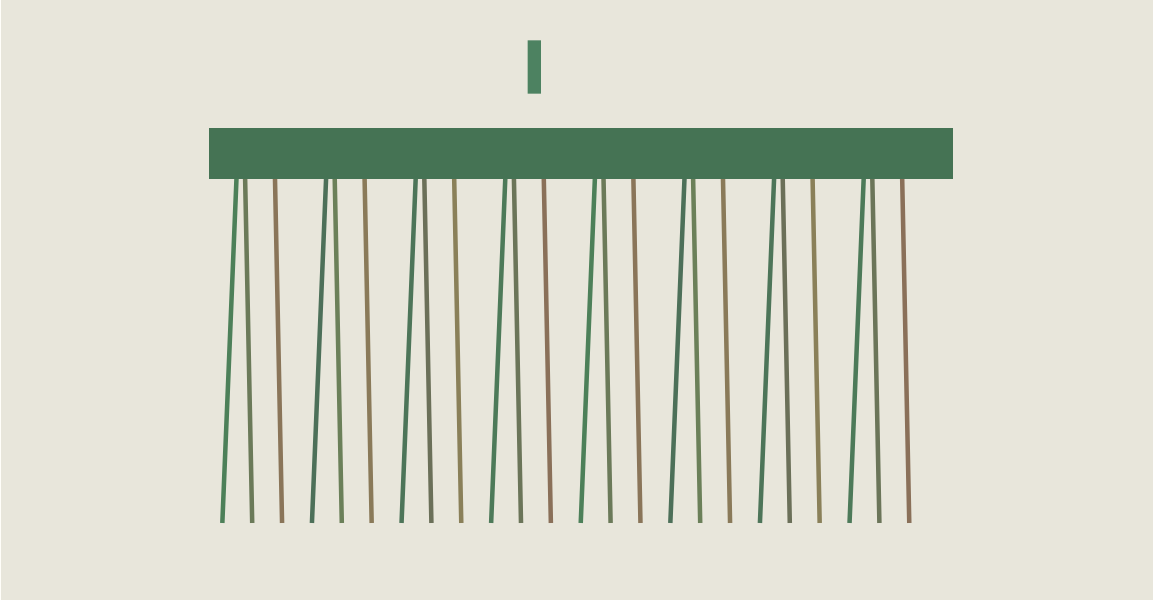
STEADLEAF PRESS

MAKE / FREE ORIGINAL DIGITAL GUIDE / F091

BUILD A SMALL TASSEL
WITH MATCHING LENGTHS

Twelve measured strands, a folded head and an even fringe.



12 BODY CUTS / 24 FRINGE TIPS

Original cut/fold diagrams + printable maker records.

Digital instruction only. No strength or physical prototype testing.

Edition: Steadleaf Press original FREE MAKE adult digital guide. Independent technical/editorial manuscript review PASS; physical production and material testing have not been performed. This is a digitally designed craft lesson, not a physically fabricated or tested product. No real cord cutting, knot security, material suitability, colorfastness, dimensional tolerance, child/pet safety, or load-bearing tests have been performed.

A small project with a repeatable count

This lesson replaces uneven winding guesses with twelve individually measured, equal-length body strands. Each begins at a proposed 24 cm. Fold the twelve pieces in half over a separate short hanger cord to make twenty-four free fringe ends. A separate binding cord wraps the folded bundle near its top. After the strands are evenly settled, trim the fringe lightly against a paper cutting guide to establish a visually consistent lower edge.

The design counts are deliberately simple and distinct:

Material | Cut number | Suggested cut length | Purpose

Body yarn, colour A | 8 separate pieces | 24 cm each | Main fringe

Body yarn, colour B | 4 separate pieces | 24 cm each | Optional accent fringe

Hanger cord | 1 separate piece | 30 cm | Short decorative loop above fold

Collar binding cord | 1 separate piece | 50 cm | Hold the folded bundle below its top

Total | 14 distinct cut pieces | 368 cm combined | 12 body pieces + 2 separate finishing cords

The material total is (12 x 24) + 30 + 50 = 288 + 30 + 50 = 368 cm of nominal yarn before trimming. The body requires twelve cuts, not twenty-four. Once folded in half, the twelve body pieces produce twenty-four ends. The hanger and collar cords are not counted as fringe. Lengths are suggested starting measures, not verified finished dimensions: a thick yarn needs a different collar length, a folded bundle consumes some material, and small hand-cut differences are inevitable. The illustrated tassel is an adult decorative sample, not a keychain rated for force, a child’s toy, a pet toy, a curtain pull, a wearable closure, or a safe hanging device.

Materials and a realistic work surface

Choose smooth medium-weight yarn in two visibly contrasting colours, preferably with a yarn label that identifies fibre and care. Avoid stiff or very slippery cord on a first attempt. Prepare a ruler with clear millimetre markings, paper or lightweight card, an ordinary pencil, small sharp scissors appropriate for yarn, a flat tabletop, removable tape or a low-tack clip, and a wide-tooth comb or your fingertips. Use scissors only on a protected work surface with hands out of the cutting path. Check that any repurposed yarn contains no staples, pins, sharp particles, or strongly shedding fibres.

A 24 cm cut line drawn with a real ruler on a scrap card is the primary length reference. Make it once, and then confirm every body strand against that same physical reference. The printable teaching diagram is a conceptual guide, not a calibrated full-size cutting ruler: PDF or printer scaling can distort its apparent size. An adult may assist anyone unable to cut safely. Keep the long cords, cut ends, small loops and completed tassel away from infants, children and pets because of entanglement and ingestion risks.

You can use only one colour; the numerical exercise still requires twelve body pieces, fourteen total cut pieces, and twenty-four fringe ends. For the pictured two-colour example, set eight A strands and four B strands together in a repeating sequence A, A, B | A, A, B | A, A, B | A, A, B. This sequence contains exactly eight A plus four B, but colour order is decorative and may be changed without changing the cut count.

Measure, fold and secure without overstating strength

The cut reference, not a promised outcome

Draw two marks exactly 24 cm apart using a physical ruler on a paper/cardboard strip. Lay a yarn piece relaxed along the strip from mark to mark and cut without stretching it. Compare each cut to the original drawn marks rather than to a previous yarn piece. Successive copies of an already-short strand can compound cutting errors. A maker may allow a small extra margin and perform a final cut to the master line if the yarn is difficult to handle. Record actual differences; no industrial length tolerance is claimed.

The fold and hanger are separate pieces

Lay the twelve body strands in one flat, parallel group with all ends aligned. Place the 30 cm hanger cord crosswise beneath their common centre, perpendicular to the body strands. Fold the twelve body pieces together downward over that hanger cord so both free ends of every piece point in the same direction. The fold is above, and the hanger cord passes under the fold. Bring the two free ends of the hanger cord upward beside the fold, hold the two ends parallel as a single doubled bundle, and tie one overhand knot through both ends simultaneously near their tips, leaving a modest closed decorative loop. Do not simply wrap one end around the other as a half hitch. Leave sufficient tail beyond the knot for visible inspection; if too little remains, use a longer cord rather than assuming it cannot slip. This hanger is for a lightweight display only; it has not been pull-tested. If the ends are too short to form a clear simple knot and loop, replace the hanger with a longer piece rather than shortening body yarn or pretending the loop is secure.

The collar is a gently wrapped neck

About 2 cm below the top folded curve, lay the midpoint of the 50 cm binding cord behind the hanging body bundle. Bring both collar ends around the sides to the front of the bundle. Cross the right end over the left once at the front centre, then carry each end back around its own side so both free ends meet on the reverse. Carefully snug this first round so it groups rather than damages the fibres. Tie the two working ends together on the back with two successive overhand knots while holding the body strands down gently; this

simple beginner fastening is not guaranteed against slipping on every fibre. Do not place a knot under the sharp edge of a clamp. Tuck the collar ends into the back of the fringe only after checking that the collar has not loosened. Do not cut the collar ends flush: keep enough tail for visual rechecking. This is decoration, not a tested structural binding.

The finish should be measured twice, cut once

Let all 24 body tails hang freely below the collar. Gently slide a hand down the bundle to align them, without pulling one short strand longer. Place the tassel on flat card, and mark a horizontal target fringe cut line about 8 cm below the collar as an illustration, not a guaranteed finished dimension. Confirm that every body tail reaches the planned line. If one does not, move the line upward slightly to the shortest tail. Hold the strands on a protected surface and trim just beyond the shared line in modest snips. Count the 24 body ends after trimming; avoid accidentally cutting the hanger, binding collar or your fingers.

Step-by-step instructions

1. Choose the sample and set up safely

Plan one light decorative tassel for an adult craft display or gift wrapping. Work at a stable, clean table with a real ruler, card strip, two yarn colours, yarn scissors and removable tape. Put pets and small children away from the loose fibre and cut pieces. Nothing in this project is designed to carry weight or hold an object in place.

2. Draw a master 24 cm cutting reference

Place a physical ruler on flat card. Draw a clear start mark and a stop mark 24 cm apart and label them START / END. Verify both against the ruler, not the pixel or printed length of a PDF figure. If the reference bends or tears, redraw it instead of relying on an inaccurate strip.

3. Select eight A and four B body pieces

Prepare yarn of similar thickness. Set aside eight A lengths and four B lengths, all to be cut against the one master length. Keep the two extra cords for the hanger and collar separate so they are never accidentally included in the body count.

4. Measure and cut twelve identical targets

Lay each body yarn gently between the master marks without pulling tight. Cut 12 separate pieces approximately 24 cm long (eight A and four B). After cutting, lay them back on the master card for a second comparison. If a piece is obviously short, replace it rather than stretching it or shortening the other eleven

to match without recording the change.

5. Check the count and colour rhythm

Line up the twelve pieces, start ends at the same horizontal mark. Count 12 pieces: 8 A + 4 B. For the sample shown, arrange them left to right as A, A, B repeated four times. Put the opposite ends in the same direction. A bundle of twelve unbent pieces will produce twenty-four tips after folding; it is not twenty-four separate cut strands.

6. Cut the two independent finishing cords

Use the same physical ruler to cut one 30 cm hanger cord and one 50 cm binding cord. Lay them away from the twelve 24 cm body strands. You have now cut 14 pieces total: twelve body, one hanger and one binder. Do not expect the two longer pieces to form part of the finished even fringe.

7. Lay out the bundle and locate its midpoint

Smooth all twelve body strands into a parallel flat bundle. Bring their starting tips into alignment and their far tips together without stretching. Measure 12 cm from one aligned end as the working midpoint of each nominal 24 cm body strand. Since hand cuts may vary slightly, check and adjust any visibly offset fold instead of claiming a guaranteed geometric midpoint. Place a temporary paper marker across that common centre; the fold will occur there.

8. Cross the hanger beneath the fold

Run the 30 cm hanger cord crosswise underneath the twelve-body-strand bundle at its shared midpoint. Hold it flat, then fold all twelve body pieces downward over it, giving 24 free body ends below one top curve. The hanger is a distinct cord passing through the top fold, not one of the twenty-four tails. Make sure no strand has folded at a noticeably different midpoint.

9. Tie a short display loop above the bundle

Bring both free hanger ends upward beside the fold. Hold both ends parallel as one doubled strand, then tie one overhand knot through both ends together above the folded body to close a modest loop. Do not tie just one end around the other. Leave at least roughly 1 cm of visible tail beyond the overhand on each end (more for slippery yarn), and if this is impossible replace the hanger with a longer cord instead of trusting a short tail. Inspect whether the knot stays visibly closed under gentle finger handling only; if doubtful, retie or omit the hanging feature and use the tassel flat. Never use the loop as a rated fastener.

10. Place the collar at a consistent neck line

Measure approximately 2 cm below the top curve along the folded bundle while it is lying flat. Position the midpoint of the 50 cm binder behind that level. The target neck position is a teaching starting point only. Keep the twelve folds above the collar, with twenty-four body tips below it.

11. Wrap and tie the separate binding cord

Bring both collar ends around their respective sides to the front. Cross the right end over the left once at the front centre, then take each end back along its own side so both free ends meet behind the bundle; tie two consecutive overhand knots between those two ends on the back. Keep the wrap comfortably firm without cutting into fibres or dragging the 24 body tails unevenly. Recheck for sliding; a short, very slick or frayed cord may not be suitable for this beginner fastening. Keep short accessible binder tails for rechecking rather than cutting them flush.

12. Align all twenty-four body tails

Lay the tassel gently on flat card with the top curve fixed. Use your fingertips or an appropriate wide-tooth comb to guide all 24 body ends straight below the collar. Count twenty-four body tips, excluding any collar or hanger ends. Compare lengths visually; some natural differences may remain, and no exact dimensional tolerance is claimed.

13. Choose the common trim line and cut carefully

Using a ruler, mark a crosswise line approximately 8 cm below the collar on the card, then confirm that every body tail extends at least to that line. Move it slightly closer to the collar if any tail falls short. Lay the yarn flat and trim in short, controlled snips along the chosen reference, keeping the scissors out of the hand path. Never trim through the collar, hanger or the folded head. Do not assert that scissors alone produce mathematically equal final ends.

14. Record and store the result

Complete both maker records: count the original 12 body cuts, resulting 24 fringe tips, independent finishing cords, neck position, measured final fringe length and visible irregularities. Gently assess whether the collar or hanger knots look secure for non-load-bearing decoration; if uncertain, keep the tassel flat. Follow the fibre label for storage or cleaning and avoid heat, aggressive brushing or water until the actual yarn care is known. Keep it out of reach of children and pets.

Fix, care and preserve

One body strand is much shorter before folding

Replace that strand with a new length cut against the marked 24 cm master strip. Do not stretch the short strand or rely on repeated visual copying from a neighbouring piece. Record any variation rather than claiming exact tolerances.

The loop looks uneven or slips sideways

Set the tassel flat. Check that the hanger cord crosses beneath the common midpoint of all twelve body strands and that its two free ends were tied together above the fold. First untie the hanger’s overhand knot, reposition the hanger beneath the common midpoint of all twelve strands, then refold and retie the doubled-end overhand as in Step 9. Do not try to slide a tight, knotted hanger into place. If the loop is unreliable, remove it or keep the tassel flat; do not suspend the decoration above anyone or use it to carry weight.

The binding collar creeps down or opens

Untie and rewrap while the work lies supported on a table. Use a compatible yarn or cord and keep the fastening visible for inspection. Some synthetic fibres can be slippery: no knot security or pull-strength test was conducted. Never hard-glue or heat-seal fibres as a substitute for understanding their care and material limits.

Several ends look too long after cutting

Place the piece on flat card, measure a new line against the shortest suitable fringe end, and remove only a small amount in controlled cuts. Do not shorten body strands so far that they pull free of the collar. An irregular edge is better than a damaged tassel.

The yarn pills, sheds or bleeds colour

Do not attach it to clothing, leather, upholstery, fragile book paper, or a gift without assessing that risk. Follow the yarn’s own fibre and dye instructions, and keep the tassel away from moisture and heat if suitability is unknown. No washing or colourfastness test was carried out for the publisher.

Display and storage

Use only as a lightweight decorative craft sample and keep it away from cribs, beds, pets, occupied seating, food, flames and anything where dropped fibres or loose loops pose a risk. Store flat, completely dry, in a paper sleeve where appropriate. The loop and binding have not been load-tested.

Pattern 1 - Twelve equal cuts, one fold, twenty-four tips

Start with a physical 24 cm reference line. Cut 12 separate equal-target lengths: eight colour A and four colour B. Arrange them as A,A,B repeated four times if using the two-colour sample. Place a separate 30 cm hanger under the midpoint, fold the body yarn down around it, and count the 24 ends below the curve. A separate 50 cm collar binds at an illustrative 2 cm below the fold. The hanger and collar ends are not part of the 24-strand fringe. These are nominal teaching values, not guaranteed finished dimensions or calibrated printed-scale instructions.

Pattern 2 - Neck and even-fringe trimming reference

The folded head forms the top of the tassel. The collar belongs about 2 cm below the fold, with the entire bundle supported flat on the table. Arrange the 24 body tails straight, measure a preferred common trim line about 8 cm below the collar, and shorten the planned line to match the shortest usable body tail if necessary. Use a physical ruler; the downloadable diagram is NOT to print scale. On a yarn that behaves differently, record the actual final lengths rather than promising an 8 cm finish.

Record 1 - Cut list and count check

Material | Target number | Target length | Actual number | Measured variation

Body A | 8 | 24 cm | ____ | ____

Body B | 4 | 24 cm | ____ | ____

Hanger cord | 1 | 30 cm | ____ | ____

Binding cord | 1 | 50 cm | ____ | ____

TOTAL CUT PIECES | 14 | Mixed | ____ | ____

Body strands at start: ____ (target 12). Fringe tips after fold: ____ (target 24).

Colour sequence used: _____. Material/fibre: _____.

Record 2 - Trim and care observations

[ ] Measured reference with a physical ruler, not PDF image size.

[ ] All twelve body pieces checked against the same 24 cm line.

[ ] Fold made at the shared nominal 12 cm midpoint of all twelve body pieces.

[ ] Hanger cord and collar cord kept separate from fringe count.

[ ] Collar checked for visible looseness and not relied upon for load.

[ ] All twenty-four body tips reached the selected trim line.

[ ] Cutting done on protected flat surface away from fingers.

[ ] Loose loops/ends kept away from children and pets.

[ ] Fibre care checked before moisture, heat or washing.

Approximate neck position: ____ cm below fold.

Planned trim distance below collar: ____ cm; actual trimmed length: ____ cm.

Short or irregular tails noticed: _____.

Any slipping, shedding or colour concerns: _____.

Next sample adjustment: _____.

Technical originality, source context and limits

This Steadleaf Press guide’s choice of twelve separately cut 24 cm body strands, simple two-colour 8A+4B arrangement, separately measured 30 cm hanger + 50 cm binding cords, counted 24 fringe tips, two vector teaching diagrams and two maker records is an original instructional design for this sample. Foundational folding, securing and trimming techniques can also be studied from these independent background references. No reference graphics or prose was copied into this guide.

- Craft Yarn Council, How to Make a Tassel in Crochet Trellis Afghan: https://www.craftyarncouncil.com/sep_pom.html

- Craft Yarn Council, Knit Swedish Embroidery Afghan (folded yarn strands, top tying and even trimming): https://www.craftyarncouncil.com/march_knitproj.html

- We Are Knitters, What to do with leftover cotton yarn: wall hangings (equal-length strand preparation and fringe trimming): https://blog.weareknitters.com/knitters-life/leftover-cotton-yarn-wall-hangings/

Claims boundary: An original digitally produced adult craft lesson, not a manufactured or certified finished article. No physical cutting, fold, hanging, pull/knot strength, care, real printing, finish-size or child/pet safety test has been conducted. Exact piece counts are a design specification; actual lengths, yarn condition and finished appearance vary.

Twelve equal cuts / two extra cords

Use a real ruler: this is a diagram, NOT a calibrated print ruler.

MATERIAL	CUTS	LENGTH	ROLE
Body A	8	24 cm	Fringe
Body B	4	24 cm	Accent
Hanger	1	30 cm	Loop
Binding	1	50 cm	Collar

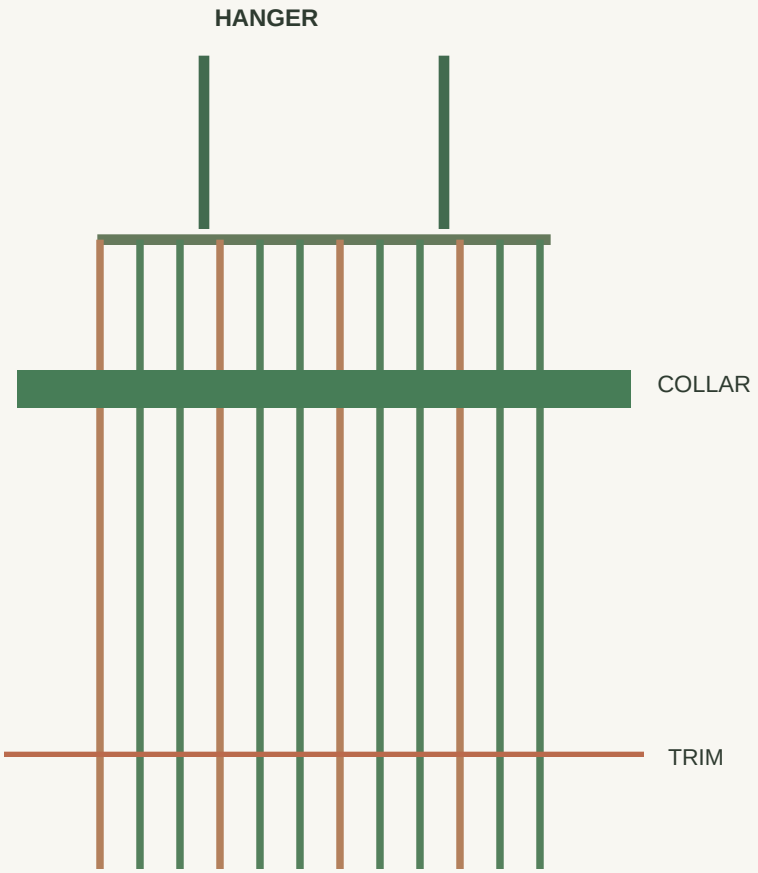
Total = (12 x 24) + 30 + 50 = 368 cm nominal.

Twelve 24-cm pieces -> fold at 12 cm -> 24 fringe ends.

8 A + 4 B: A A B / A A B / A A B / A A B

Measure actual lengths on the physical card before cutting.

Fold, collar and trimming alignment



Fold twelve nominal 24-cm lengths to get twenty-four tails.

Collar approximately 2 cm below fold; trim line about 8 cm lower.

Hanger and binder ends are independent of the 24 body tails.

All diagrams are original, schematic and NOT to physical print scale.

Cut list and count record

Body yarn and fibre: _____ Date: _____

MATERIAL	TARGET	LENGTH	ACTUAL
Body A	8	24 cm	_____
Body B	4	24 cm	_____
Hanger	1	30 cm	_____
Binder	1	50 cm	_____
TOTAL	14	Mixed	_____

Before folding body pieces: ___ (target 12).

After folding body fringe tips: ___ (target 24).

Cutting variation / corrections: _____

Fold, trim, care and safety notes

- [ ] Used a physical ruler rather than the PDF diagram scale
- [ ] Compared all twelve body cuts to the same master line
- [ ] Folded all body strands at their shared midpoint
- [ ] Kept hanger and binder outside the fringe count
- [ ] Inspected the doubled-end hanger loop overhand
- [ ] Checked the binding collar for visible slippage
- [ ] Aligned 24 body tips before trimming the fringe
- [ ] Worked on a protected surface away from fingers
- [ ] Kept loops and loose fibres away from children and pets

Collar below fold: ____ cm Trim below collar: ____ cm

Slips / fibre concerns: _____

Lightweight decoration only; never use this sample to carry a load.