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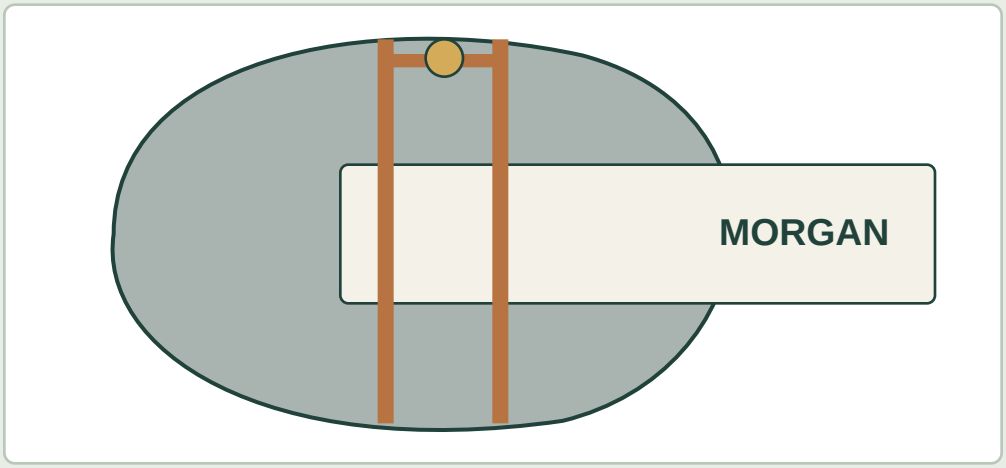
MAKE / BOTANICAL & NATURAL-MATERIAL CRAFTS

Make Twine-Wrapped Pebble Place Markers



TWO TURNS / REMOVABLE NAME CARD

14 practical steps · Measure · wrap · label

Original diagrams and two printable maker records

Illustrative plans — not physical test results

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Before you start

A small pebble can hold a handwritten name card with no drilling, permanent glue or metal hardware. This project makes three low tabletop place markers using flat rounded craft pebbles and two parallel turns of twine. The paper name card slides beneath both turns and can be removed later. The stone rests on a separate protective paper mat, away from food and the edge of the table. The marker is a decorative resting object, not a handle, a hanging weight, a toy or an attachment for cutlery or dishes.

Materials: three small, clean, smooth, flat rounded pebbles already lawfully owned or purchased for craft use, nonelastic labelled decorative twine suited to the chosen knot, spare twine, firm paper or cardstock, ruler, pencil, adult scissors and a lined tray. A separate dry card mat protects the display surface. Avoid unknown minerals, sharp edges, contaminated, fractured or very round stones. No drilling, sanding, heat, coating or adhesive on the stone is required. Keep small stones, cords and scissors away from children and pets.

Plan the project

Choose an illustrative pebble approximately 65 mm long, 45 mm wide and 18 mm thick, with a stable underside and rounded edges. The numbers are a planning example, not a required size or safe weight. Define the long axis left to right. Wrap the twine twice around the shorter transverse circumference (around the width and thickness), shifting the second turn along the long axis by about 15 mm. Both turns cross the top of the pebble and the underside, so the underside must still rest without rocking. Tie the two free ends on the upper face beside the card, using a maker-supported square knot where appropriate.

Measure the actual route using a spare flexible strip or twine, including the shift between turns. If the measured two-turn route is about 200 mm and a further 150 mm is allowed for joining and working ends, a 350 mm cut is a starting example, not a guaranteed length. Choose a 75 by 30 mm name card. Slide it lengthwise under both top turns so the readable text sits beyond the bands on one side. The card may extend past the stone but must remain on the broad protective mat. Adjust the card position so it does not lift the stone or interfere with stability.

Steps 01–02

1. Choose three legal and suitable pebbles

Start with purchased craft pebbles or known stones already lawfully in your possession. Verify local collection permission before gathering; Parks Canada prohibits removing natural objects in protected places. Leave historic, culturally significant, fragile, contaminated or unidentified specimens in place. Select three small stones with broad stable undersides, rounded edges and no visible cracks. A flat form suits this resting marker better than a sphere that can roll. Record the source and permission where applicable.

2. Inspect and prepare each stone

Use a padded tray and good light. Turn each stone while supporting it and check the edges and resting face. Reject flakes, rough burrs or damage that could cut twine or scratch furniture. Clean only known ordinary craft stone with a method appropriate to it and let it dry fully before wrapping. Do not abrade, drill or apply solvents to an unknown mineral. Place each stone on a separate dry mat to check that it rests without rocking before any cord is added.

Steps 03–04

3. Mark the orientation on a paper sketch

Measure accessible length, width and thickness without scraping. Draw the top outline and mark its long axis. Choose two transverse wrap positions about 15 mm apart in the example, adjusting them so the turns remain on broad regions rather than sloping tips. Note the intended knot near one upper edge and the label insertion direction. Keep the sketch with the stone ID. The route must go around the underside as well as the visible top.

4. Plan the removable name card

Cut or use a 75 by 30 mm piece of firm cardstock, adapting it to the actual pebble and display mat. Mark a blank insertion zone where both twine turns will cross the card; reserve the exposed region for the handwritten name. For the example, allow the left 30 mm for insertion and the right 45 mm for lettering. Round paper corners with scissors if desired. Do not make a pointed card or use wet paint that could stain the twine.

Steps 05–06

5. Measure the actual two-turn cord route

Use spare twine to trace one transverse turn around the pebble, then shift along the long axis and trace a second parallel turn. Keep the stone supported and do not squeeze it. Measure the length of this unknotted route, including the small connecting shift, and add generous working allowance for the approved joining knot and retained tails. For the example 200 mm plus 150 mm gives 350 mm. Different stone shapes and twine diameters require different lengths; record the actual plan rather than copying the example blindly.

6. Practise the chosen joining knot on scrap

Read the actual twine’s intended use and finishing guidance. If it supports a square knot for a decorative wrap, practise with two free ends: make a half-knot right over left and through, then left over right and through using their current positions. Seat the two half-knots evenly. The diagram distinguishes the opposite crosses from repeated same-direction crossings. If the twine slips or its finish is unknown, choose a documented compatible material or hold the project. A square knot is not a load-bearing attachment.

Steps 07–08

7. Make the first transverse turn

Cut the measured working twine on a stable surface. Leave a generous starting tail on the upper face near the intended joining edge. Carry the working end around the width and thickness of the supported pebble, returning to the top at the first position. Keep the strand flat against the smooth surface without tightening hard. Do not wind around the narrow end of a rounded stone where it can slide off. Adjust the starting point before making the second turn.

8. Shift and make the second parallel turn

Guide the working end along the upper edge to the second marked position, then wrap around the stone’s width and underside again. Return the working end to the upper edge near the starting tail. The two top strands should be approximately parallel, not twisted over each other; the short connecting segment stays near the knot edge. Check the underside for crossed or bunched twine. If the two turns drift toward a narrow end, reposition them or choose a flatter stone.

Steps 09–10

9. Seat the knot where the card will remain clear

With the stone resting in the tray, join the working and starting tails using the approved knot. For a permitted square knot, use the opposite half-knot directions practised earlier. Seat the knot only enough to hold the relaxed turns in position without compressing the stone or creating a bulky underside. Keep the knot on the upper or upper-side face, clear of the name card route. Leave the maker’s required tail allowance and do not trim flush, melt or glue the tails.

10. Insert the card beneath both top turns

Slide the blank insertion portion of the card lengthwise under the two parallel strands. Move it gently with the stone supported; do not force a stiff card through a tight wrap. Keep the printed or handwritten area outside the strands and the paper clear of the knot. If the card is loose, adjust the wrap and card thickness within the supported method. If the twine is too tight, remake rather than wedging the card underneath. The marker should hold its appearance at rest, not support a pulling force.

Steps 11–12

11. Check the underside and resting alignment

Place the completed marker on its protective mat on a level surface. Observe the two bottom turns, the card and the stone: there should be no rocking, rolling or raised hard edge that can scratch the table. If the cord thickness causes rocking, choose a flatter pebble or a suitable thinner compatible twine and remake. Keep the card within the mat area. Do not tilt, shake, drop or lift the stone by the wrap or card. The visual check is not a retention or weight test.

12. Make the other two markers with their own measurements

Repeat the individual measurements, route and approved finish for each pebble. Do not assume all stones with similar outside length have identical transverse circumference. Use the same card width and lettering style to unify the set, but record each actual wrap spacing and cut length. Confirm that every marker rests independently. If one requires a different support or a shorter card, adapt it rather than forcing visual symmetry at the expense of stability.

Steps 13–14

13. Write and place the cards as non-food decorations

Write the names on dry cards before inserting them. Use the markers on a dry tabletop zone separate from plates, food, drinks and utensils, with enough room that they are not knocked by normal movement. Keep away from table edges, children and pets. Move the stone by supporting it directly, never by pulling the card or twine. Do not put a stone on napkins or food-serving items or use the wrap as a suspension point.

14. Record the set and preserve the parts

Enter the stone IDs, actual dimensions, route lengths, twine product, knot and retained tails, card sizes and resting observations. Mark DISPLAY READY, CHANGE/REMAKE or HOLD for each marker. Remove cards for flat storage and store dry pebbles separately if the twine loosens or becomes dirty. Recheck the wrap before reuse; retire frayed cord or damaged stones. No physical strength, retention, food-contact or safety certification is implied. The paper names may be replaced without permanently altering the stones.

Fix, care and preserve

Card will not pass. Do not force it; remake with appropriate clearance or thinner compatible card.

Turns slide toward one end. Choose a flatter broad pebble and reposition both turns.

Knot sits under stone. Remake with joining point on upper face, clear of the card.

Marker rocks. Use a flatter stone or thinner compatible twine; keep a stable mat.

Cord frays or stone chips. Remove and replace the damaged part; never lift by the wrap.

Source & evidence boundary

Original Steadleaf English prose, calculations, vector artwork, diagrams and maker records. The following sources provide factual context, not certification of this design. Follow actual component instructions and local collection, disposal and plant-movement rules.

Parks Canada, Visitor guidelines
https://parks.canada.ca/voyage-travel/regles-rules

Canadian Conservation Institute, Caring for paper objects
https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/preventive-conservation/guidelines-collections/paper-objects.html

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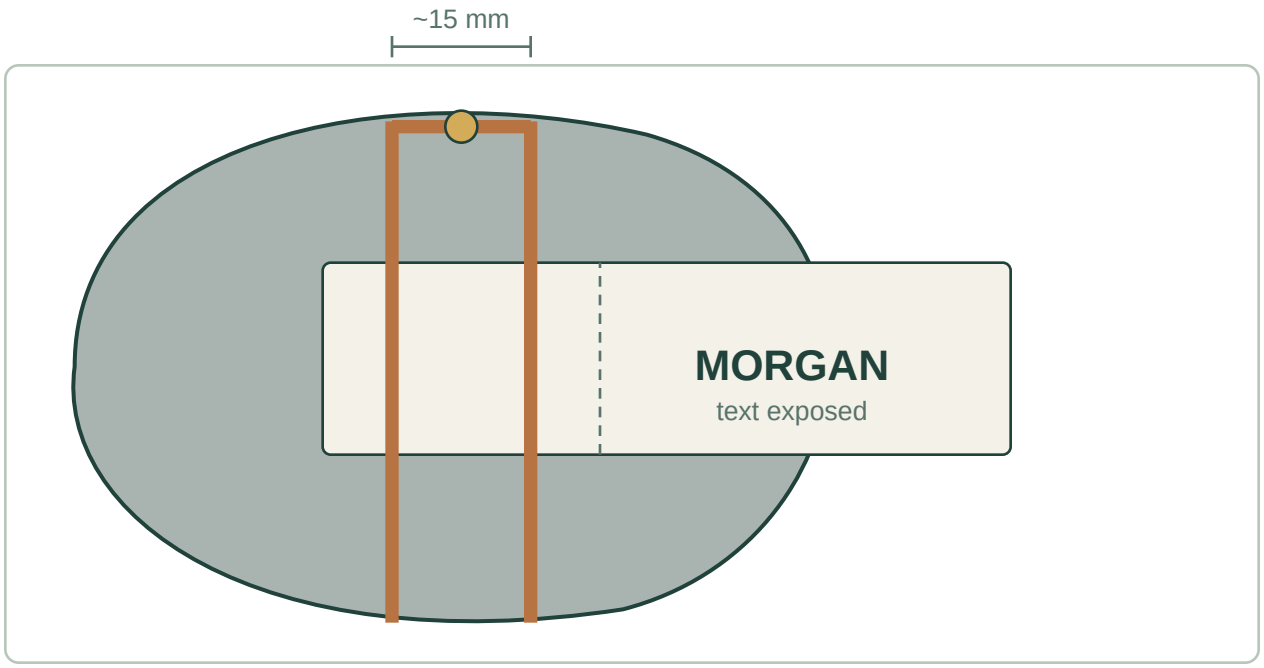
Pebble wrap and name-card layout

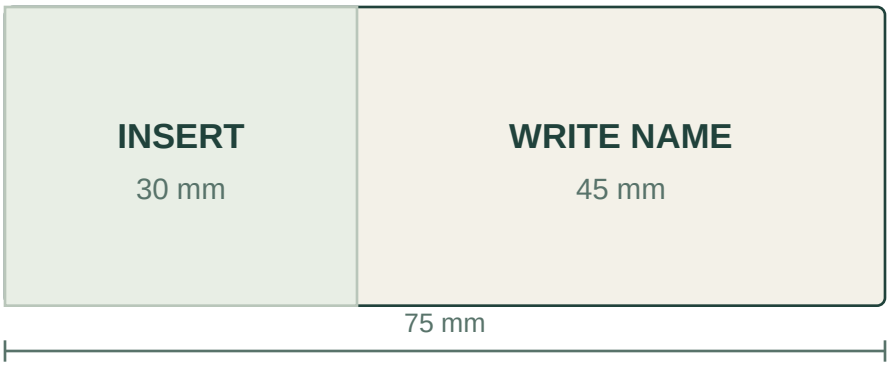
Top and side views show two transverse turns about 15 mm apart on the illustrative 65 x 45 x 18 mm stone, a 75 x 30 mm card with 30 mm insertion and 45 mm text area. Adapt to actual dimensions.

A / TOP VIEW: TWO TRANSVERSE TURNS



Illustrative stone 65 x 45 x 18 mm; actual outline governs.

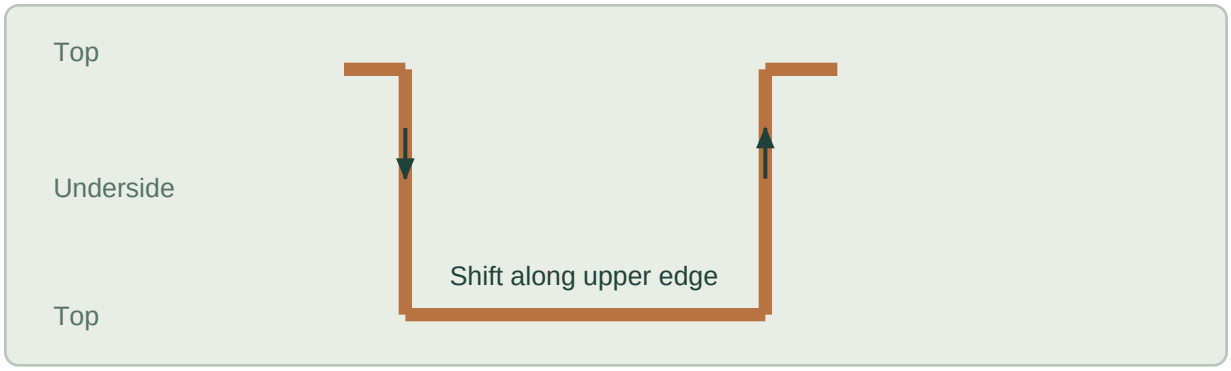
B / NAME CARD: 75 x 30 mm



Two-turn route and square knot

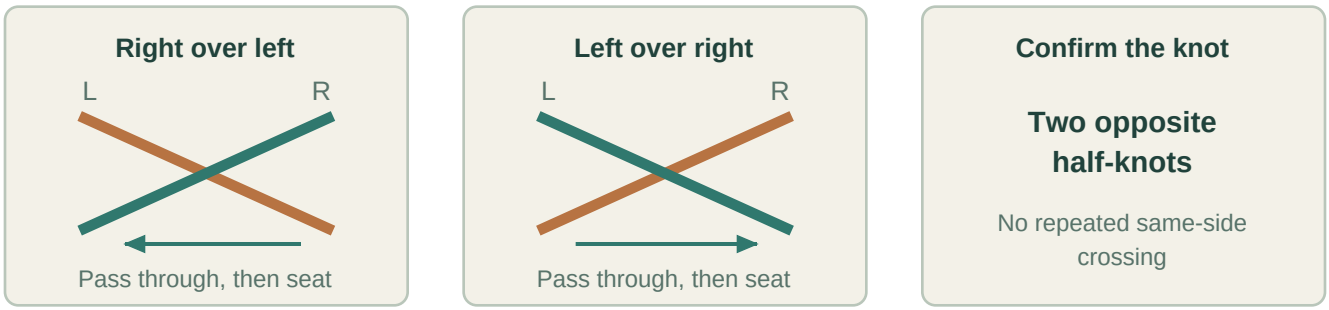
Follow the complete route around the underside twice with a short shift at the top edge. Join the tails on the upper face with opposite half-knots if the twine maker supports the finish. Show stable resting and rocking stop examples.

A / TWO-TURN ROUTE, UNROLLED

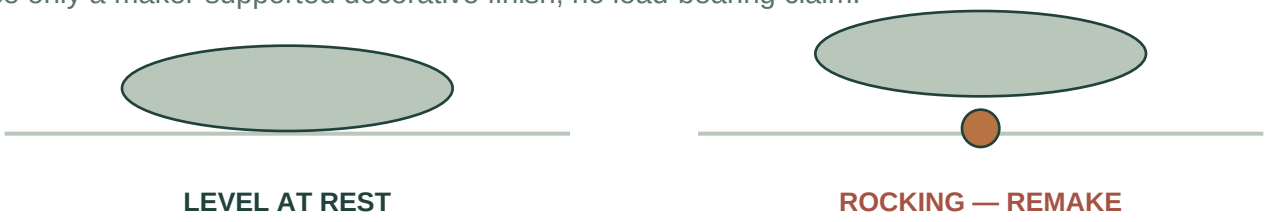


Top edges of drawing meet on the actual pebble. Two tails join on top.

B / OPPOSITE HALF-KNOT DIRECTIONS



Use only a maker-supported decorative finish; no load-bearing claim.



LEVEL AT REST **ROCKING — REMAKE**

Stone and name-card plan

Enter actual observations only. Mark missing information UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED. This is a craft record, not a safety or preservation certificate.

Stone ID / permitted source / condition

Actual length / width / thickness

Wrap positions / spacing / route length

Working allowance / total cut length

Twine product / maker-supported knot / tails

Card size / insertion zone / lettering area

Dry resting surface / protective mat

Decision: PROCEED / CHANGE / HOLD

Completed marker set

Enter actual observations only. Mark missing information UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED. This is a craft record, not a safety or preservation certificate.

Stone IDs A / B / C / card names

Actual wrap lengths and spacing for each

Knot position / tail allowance / cord condition

Card slides in and out without force?

Each stone rests level? / visible movement

Disposition for each: DISPLAY READY / CHANGE-REMAKE / HOLD

Non-food display location / storage

Date / reason / review trigger