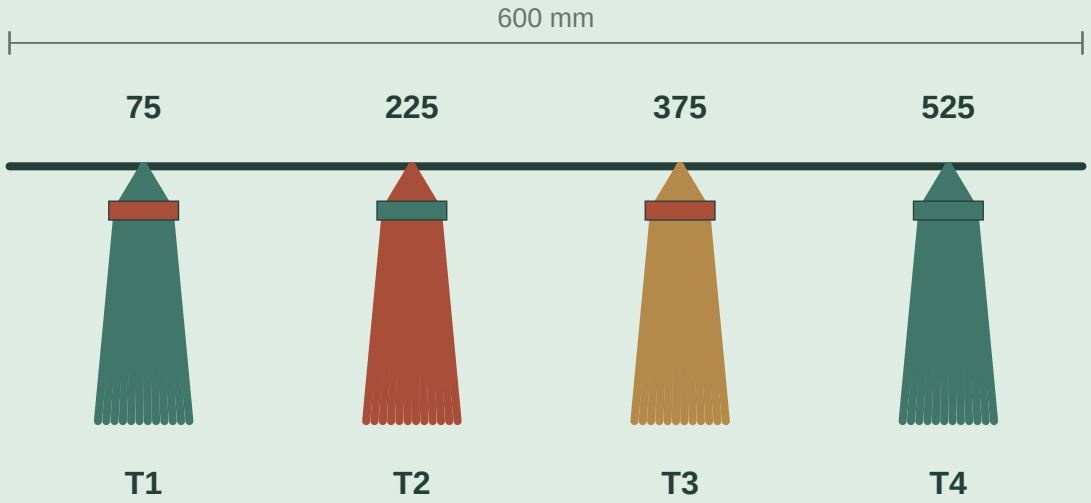
STEADLEAF PRESS
MAKE / OFFCUTS & CREATIVE REUSE

Turn Fabric Ends into a Soft Tassel Garland

600 mm CARRIER / FOUR CENTRES



150 mm pitch • 75 mm at both ends

SHELF DISPLAY ONLY

All cord and tassels fully supported; no dangling ends.

FOUR TASSELS / ONE SOFT GARLAND

14 practical steps · Cut · fold · space

Original diagrams and two printable maker records

Illustrative plans — not physical test results

FREE GUIDE + PRINTABLES | STP-MAKE-F140

Before you start

A box of narrow fabric ends can become four soft tassels. Instead of cutting large new pieces, use clean sound scraps with similar weight. This guide folds six strips around a short decorative carrier and binds each neck; it makes a loose shelf decoration, not a toy, wearable necklace, curtain tie, crib ornament or load-bearing cord. Long strings and loose strips can entangle children or animals, so keep the finished work completely inaccessible to them.

Materials: twenty-four clean stable cotton or other known compatible fabric strips, each 20 x 240 mm; four lengths of suitable soft craft thread or thin fabric tie for the necks (around 200 mm each as a starting estimate, adjusted to actual bundle); one sound non-load-bearing carrier cord 600 mm long; needle and thread to tack the tassels in place, scissors, ruler, clips, and a protected table. Avoid contaminated, fraying weak, coated or unknown material. Keep sharp tools and loose lengths contained.

Plan the project

Cut six strips per tassel, for four tassels: 4 x 6 = 24 strips. Fold each strip at its 120 mm midpoint over the carrier cord. Align the six folds and gather the twelve hanging tails into a bundle. Place a neck tie about 20 mm below the fold, measured on the relaxed bundle; wrap twice if the actual length permits, tie a firm square knot (right over left, then left over right using the current positions), and secure the ends with suitable stitches. The nominal hanging length from fold to tip is 120 mm, with about 100 mm below the neck before trimming. The cloth and tie thickness determine the actual dimensions.

Lay the 600 mm carrier flat. Mark tassel centres at 75, 225, 375 and 525 mm from its left end: 150 mm pitch and 75 mm nominal free ends. These ends are not hanging loops; keep the garland on a dry adult display shelf, with all ends supported and away from doors, heaters, flames, children and pets. Stitch each folded bundle to the carrier with suitable thread to limit sliding, not to establish holding strength. If a needle cannot pass safely around or through the chosen materials, select a softer suitable carrier and remake on scrap.

Steps 01–02

1. Set the display boundary

Choose a dry, cool shelf or flat display surface accessible only to adults. The full garland must be supported with no dangling loops or ties. Do not install it above a bed, in a child’s room or where an animal can reach it. If no suitable location exists, make four individual tassels for a closed adult craft display instead.

2. Select the twenty-four strips

Choose compatible sound fabric ends with known care requirements. Look for areas without weak seams, holes, fraying damage, coatings or unknown contamination. Decide on four groups of six strips and a colour rhythm, such as alternating light and dark groups. Keep the cloth weight similar enough that each tassel has a comparable profile.

Steps 03–04

3. Measure and prepare a guide

Draw a 20 x 240 mm strip on paper. Mark its midpoint at 120 mm. Plan six strips for each tassel and label the groups T1–T4. If the remnants are shorter, reduce the lengths equally and recalculate the fold and neck positions. Do not sew a weak join merely to gain length. Use the ruler on relaxed cloth.

4. Cut and sort all strips

Prepare cloth as its care permits and dry it fully. Cut with suitable fabric scissors on a protected table and keep hands clear of the cutting path. Check the actual width and length of each strip, then arrange the four six-strip groups. Retain usable leftover ends separately; contain tiny pieces and discard damaged material appropriately.

Steps 05–06

5. Prepare the neck ties

Choose soft ties of compatible material with enough length to encircle each actual folded bundle twice and form a knot. About 200 mm is an example, not a fixed requirement. Trial the route on a loose scrap bundle, including enough ends to handle and stitch. Avoid wire, elastic, adhesive or tight thin material that cuts into the fabric.

6. Mark the carrier positions

Lay the 600 mm carrier on the table without pulling it. Measure 75, 225, 375 and 525 mm from the left end and identify the four centres with temporary paper tags or a compatible removable mark. Confirm the three 150 mm intervals. The nominal 75 mm ends are for visual balance; do not form hanging loops or use them as mounting hardware.

Steps 07–08

7. Fold the first six-strip bundle

At the first centre lay six aligned strips across the carrier and fold them around it at their midpoints, one layer at a time. Align the two ends of each strip and gather the twelve tails below the carrier. Keep the visible faces in the chosen arrangement. Clip the folded bundle temporarily without compressing or tearing the cloth.

8. Form the first tassel neck

About 20 mm below the fold, place the neck tie around all twelve tails. Wrap it twice if the length and thickness allow and tie a square knot: current right over left for the first half, then current left over right for the second. Keep it snug enough for the decorative shape without cutting the fabric. Secure the tie ends with suitable thread and avoid long dangling tie ends.

Steps 09–10

9. Tack the fold to the carrier

Use suitable hand stitches through the folded bundle, catching around or through the compatible carrier as appropriate to its construction. Secure thread ends without piercing your supporting hand. The tack limits ordinary sliding on the supported shelf; it is not a suspension or strength rating. If the carrier is too hard or thick to stitch safely, use a different soft compatible cord.

10. Repeat for the other three tassels

At the remaining marks repeat the six-strip fold, neck tie and tack. Work with the carrier resting on the table. Keep each neck near its chosen 20 mm point and the six strips aligned, without forcing identical thickness. Count four bundles, twenty-four folded strips and forty-eight tails. Note substitutions and actual spacing in the record.

Steps 11–12

11. Trim and compare the lengths

Lay the garland flat and arrange the tassels naturally. Measure fold-to-tip lengths at rest. Trim only uneven tips with suitable scissors, leaving the neck ties and attachment stitches untouched. A nominal 120 mm folded tail may finish slightly shorter. If a tail is loose from its bundle, hold and remake it rather than cutting away the evidence of a failed join.

12. Inspect all ties and tacks

Account for needles, clips and remaining thread. Inspect the neck knots, stitched tie ends, carrier tacks and loose fibres. Move the entire garland only while supported on the table; do not tug, suspend weights or test it by pulling against a fixed object. If a bundle slides or separates in ordinary handling, secure or remake before display.

Steps 13–14

13. Arrange the garland on the shelf

Keep the carrier and all tassels fully supported on a cool, dry surface, away from fire, heat, doors, fans and any access by children or pets. No hanging across a room or over furniture edges. If the shelf cannot support the entire design, select a wider safe surface or store the piece. Use no electrical lights or candles with the textile.

14. Record and store the finished decoration

Record the actual strip and tie sizes, four centres, tassel lengths, tacks, neck condition and intended display. Mark SHELF DISPLAY ONLY, CHANGE/REMAKE or HOLD. Store the dry garland loosely in a labelled container out of reach of children and pets. Follow the most restrictive known fabric care guidance and retire frayed or weak pieces. No load, entanglement-prevention or fire-safety certification is implied.

Fix, care and preserve

Tails differ greatly.
Check midpoint folds before trimming; remake a short bundle if needed.

Neck tie loosens.
Hold the decoration and redo the knot and secure the tie ends with stitches.

Tassel slides.
Check the carrier tack and remake using a compatible soft carrier.

A strip frays badly.
Replace the strip with sound cloth; contain loose fibres.

Carrier extends beyond the shelf.
Choose a larger protected shelf or store it; do not leave ends hanging.

Source & evidence boundary

Original Steadleaf English prose, calculations, vector artwork, diagrams and maker records. The following sources give general craft-safety or paper-care context, not certification of this design. Follow actual product instructions and local disposal guidance.

Health Canada, Arts and crafts safety

https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/home-garden-safety/use-arts-crafts-materials-safely.html

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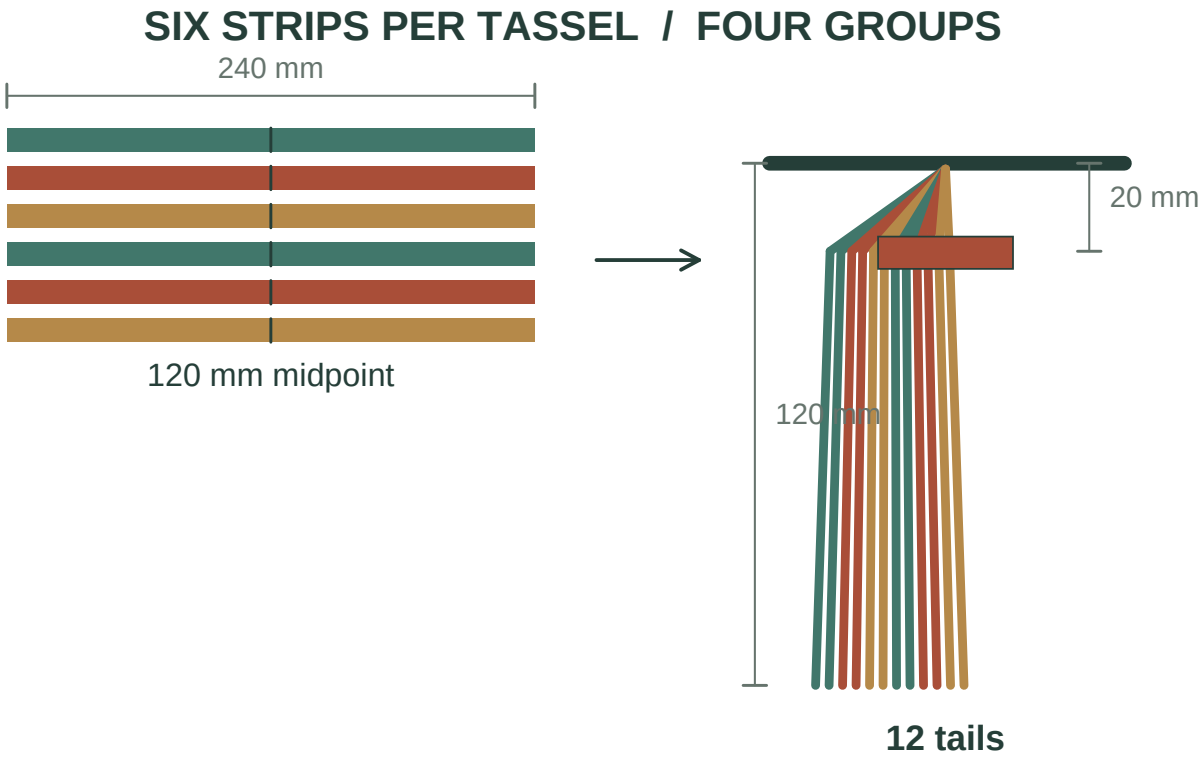
Twenty-four-strip cut and fold plan

Four groups of six 20 x 240 mm strips. Fold each at 120 mm over the carrier. Twelve tails per tassel; neck about 20 mm below fold.

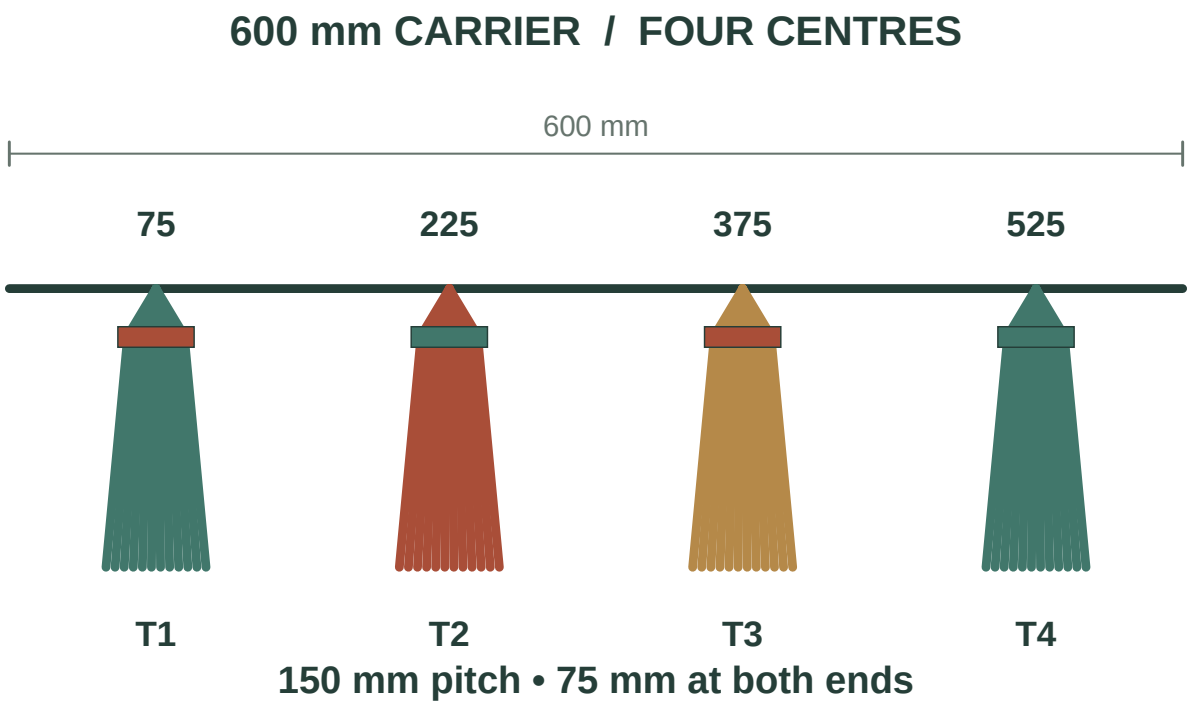


Fold over the carrier; tie the neck and secure the tie ends.

Use actual bundle thickness and safe stitching.

Four-centre garland layout

600 mm carrier; centres 75, 225, 375, 525 mm; 150 mm pitch. Ties and tacks are decorative only. Keep entire garland supported.



SHELF DISPLAY ONLY

All cord and tassels fully supported; no dangling ends.

Fabric and tassel plan

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

Material source / care / condition

T1 and T2 strip sizes / six each

T3 and T4 strip sizes / six each

Carrier / actual resting length

Actual four centre marks

Neck tie route / actual length

Scrap knot and stitch observation

Decision: PROCEED / CHANGE / HOLD

Garland finish and display

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

T1 / T2 actual lengths

T3 / T4 actual lengths

Four neck ties / secured ends

Four carrier tacks / condition

Needles and clips accounted for

Disposition: SHELF ONLY / CHANGE-REMAKE / HOLD

Safe supported location / storage

Date / unresolved issue