



Tassels

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Whether you use them on pillow corners, as drapery tiebacks, or simply hang them for all to admire, tassels are terrific!

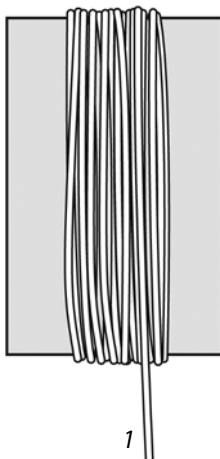
You can make them in all shapes and sizes, using everything from ordinary sewing thread to exquisite cords, yarns and fringes. Some tassels are combined with beads or formed wooden shapes for added pizzazz—these are called hard tassels. Those made with only yarns and fibers are called soft tassels and they're easy to make following some simple steps.



No-Hassle Tassel Making

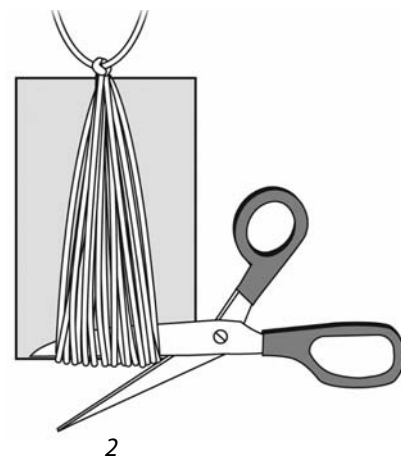
Simple tassels require only some wonderful strands, scissors and cardboard to create.

- Determine the desired finished length of the tassel and cut a piece of cardboard that length by 4" wide.
- Wrap the yarn snugly around the cardboard rectangle until you create the desired fullness (1).



- Slip a 6" strand of yarn under the loops at the upper edge and tie. If you want to add a bead to the top of the tassel, make this loop longer to thread it through the bead hole.

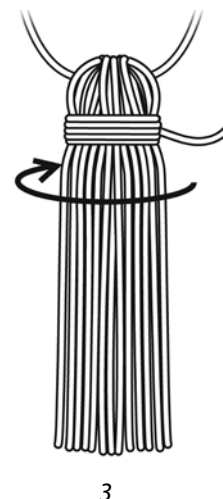
- Cut the lower loops and remove the cardboard (2). If you prefer a looped tassel instead of cut ends, simply slide the tied tassel off the cardboard.



Use a tassel as:

- A decorative zipper pull
- A finished end on a drawstring or belt to create a necklace combined with beads
- A great shade pull
- A standout luggage identifier

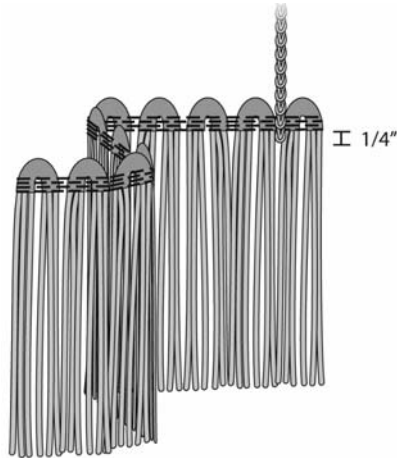
- Determine how big of a "head" you want on the tassel and wrap yarns around snugly at that point; tie off (3).



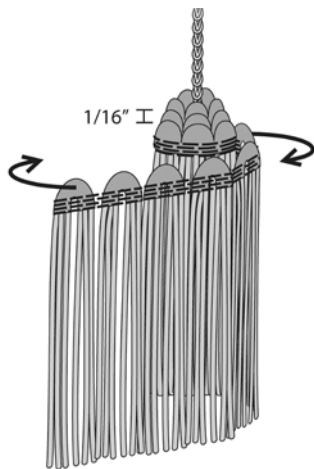
Fringe Tassels

If you've got some great home decorating fringe, use it to make a tassel.

- Lay fringe wrong side up on a flat surface and glue a hanging cord end about 1/2" from the cut end. Extend the cord at least 1/4" into the fringe header (4).
- Apply glue to the fringe header and roll the fringe tightly to form the tassel, offsetting it 1/16" as you roll to create a tapered top (5).
- Wrap and glue until the tassel looks as full as you'd like, then tuck under the cut end and glue in place. Thread the hanging loop into the tassel center and knot.



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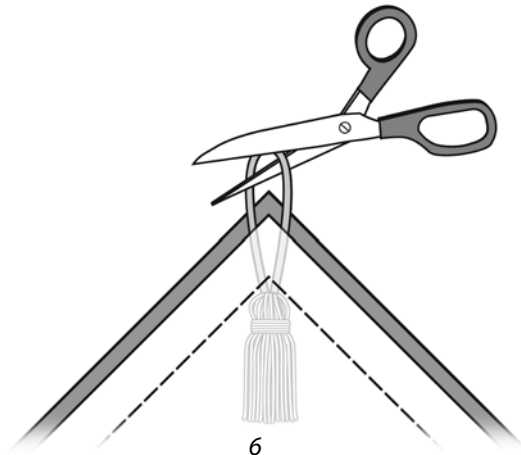
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Tassel Tuck-ins

If you're using tassels in the corners of pillows, the points of a table runner, or at the corners of a shawl, insert them into the seam as you sew for a professional finish.

To do this, place the tassel with its lower ends pointing toward the project and the hanger loop extended into the project seam allowance. Use a zipper foot to stitch close to the tassel to hold it in place with the head abutting the seam corner.

Place the lining, facing or backing right side down and stitch the seam close to the tassel head, just inside the previous stitching line (6).



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To prevent the tassel pulling out, cut the hanger loop and tie it in a knot. Add some glue for security.

Tassels can also be stitched in place after a project is done—simply thread the loop into a large-eye needle and pull it into the project; secure with hand stitches. 🧵