Macrame Feathers with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Macrame Feathers
(upbeat music) - Hey everybody, welcome to Creativebug. We're coming at you live like we always do now on Thursday. Welcome to the studio. Today we're going to try something that I have been seeing all over Pinterest which is a macrame feather. Looks like this. Actually this is my favorite example of it. Terrance is gonna show it to you. So it's called macrame because we're actually just doing some knots and that's the technique that creates the spine of the feather and I gave this a try with a lot of different materials. Let me show you the technique first and then we'll go over all the different variations. So what I'm working with is sugar and cream, this is 100% cotton yarn. I think the cotton works best. It's more like a string and it's also important that you have a single twist. So if you can see that close up, you don't want anything that's woven, twisted in different directions because we need a single twist so that we can unravel it later to create our really pretty feather texture. So we need to be able to untwist like that. And of course this is a brand new ball, so the guts are all tangled. Let's just go from the outside. Alright. This is my version of it. So what I like to start with is about almost a yard. Just in half. And then this is gonna be the top of my feather. So I like a place for it to hang naturally. I've got a kid's play mat foamy square here. Faith uses these for blocking and we're gonna use it just to hold down everything. You can also just tape this directly to your table, but you are gonna tug on it a bit. So the tape might come up, so this is nice and handy and then I didn't want to have to measure anything. I like it when things are just easy to work with. So my favorite way to do my measurement is just wrap around my arm. So we're gonna do this maybe 10 times. Makes it easier. I'm not counting, so. I think this is about 10. Alright, and then for sort of an average five to six inch feather what you're gonna do is then cut this in half there. Cut it again. So you wind up with 14 inch lengths, and then we're gonna cut all that in half again. So now you have, depending on how good your cutting is, anywhere from four to seven inches and this is fine. We're gonna trim it again. You can of course scale this up or down. So each individual piece, you're gonna fold roughly in half and you're gonna bring this loop underneath and these two tails through the loop and knot it on. Okay, now we're gonna alternate because when you do it this way, the loop kind of stays on top. I always thing of these as a pearl bump. So now fold in half. With our loop on the right side, whichever side you start with the loop is where it's gonna land at the end. Take your two tails and pull it through. Everything's gonna twist around, so you can just readjust it, it's not a problem. So now what you see is your center, one bump, one bump and we're just gonna alternate all the way down and this does take some time. Of course if you work with a thicker rope, it goes more quickly, but I'll show you why I think this is kind of the perfect size. It's like a balance between creating the spine, the center part of your feather, and the delicacy of all the little bits that come off at the end. You can also just pull up like that. So you can see the pattern emerging. Let's say I forget. Let's say I do two on the same side like this. It's not a problem. You could just move it up or down your center length and then do it on the correct side in between. So it's very foolproof, just like anything that has a lot of repetition, it does feel meditative. It is not precise, so that's cool. I really like working with yarn and such as a non-knitter, non-crocheter, I like using it in different ways. So macrame is easy 'cause you're just making knots. Macrame for those are even easier because it's just the same thing over and over and over. Comes together pretty quickly, and if you've tried this, let us know. Feel free to comment. So alternating loop on the left side, two tails

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through, pull taut, no loop on the right side. Two tails through. Knot, come on Phil, let me know if you've made one of these. And I know that Christmas already happened, but I think this would be a super cute package topper or ornaments. But you could also do a bunch of them, create a wall hanging. We'll talk about that again when I show you all the different types. Alright so you're just gonna plug along like this until you have the length that you want your feather to be, so maybe four, five, six inches and it's gonna look like this. - [Camerawoman] First question. - [Courtney] (gasps) Question! - [Camerawoman] It comes from Beth. - [Courtney] Hi Beth. - [Camerawoman] And Beth wants to know how do you use these macrame feathers? After you make them, what do you do with them? - So Beth is asking how do you use this and that's kind of just where I was headed. Like I said, I think this would be a really cute package topper. So it could be on a birthday gift, you could use it as an ornament. Christmas just passed, so maybe a while before you break out the holiday tree again, but you can also just use it like you would any macrame, make a wall hanging. If you've seen the yarn banner class on Creativebug, those make really great wall decor. You could start adding and layering in some macrame feathers with your yarn banner. And maybe as I show you the rest of the styles, you might have new ideas for how you might use them and if you're watching, you guys, you can write in the comments what you think you might use it for. So let us know. Alright so here's one where I've already done it, right? It's about five or six inches long. In this case, I was using a very agated yarn. It's not exactly color changing in the way it was meant because when I go to cut all my little pieces like this, then they get all randomized, but you can see that there are various colors. So now we're at the point where I would not off the bottom. So I would just take my two tails. This is why I designed it this way to have two tails at the bottom instead of just one, and I'll just make a double knot here and that kind of helps everything stay in place. If you were to yank on this really hard, it could jump over this loop, but we're not gonna be yanking anything too hard. Alright I like to do a little pass first. Let me take it off the foam. I like to just do a little cut pass first just because if I know the general shape, why not? Sharp pair of scissors is the key, but you can always recut it and we will recut it once we do our fluffing. Alright, so the secret to making this look awesome is getting a cat brush. I don't have a cat, so I had to order this or get it at my local pet store, but if you already have a cat, maybe you can just use the one you have. Something fine like this works really well, and this is where the cotton is important, so we're just gonna brush this and also the single twist until it comes undone and I like to just kind of hold the center. (brushing) Comb, comb, comb, let's comb this side. (brushing) You can comb for a few minutes. I might flip it over, comb it from the back side. (combing) The idea is that I wanna get all the twists out or as many as I can. God, I'm having flashbacks to when my mom used to comb my hair when I was a little girl. Anytime I hear a knot, I'm like ugh, that hurts. To sit on the edge of the bathtub. She would comb out my hair. Okay. It's looking pretty cool. Alright and now you can give it a second trim if you'd like, if you want some sharper edges here oh and let's comb down a little for these ends here. Just to lay them flat. Alright, oh, I love this stripe-y effect. This is super rad. I always cut kind of into the right side, so I'm just turning and you can leave it more organic looking. It doesn't have to be sharp edges and because you're working with the yarn, it's not gonna be perfectly sharp anyway. Alright, look how pretty that is. You guys, love that. So here is the same, we'll just call it sweet cream, sugar and cream, 100% cotton yarn. So here it is in just a solid coral-y color. These look really pretty together, obviously. This is my preferred, but if you go online to look at other tutorials, a lot of people like the three milometer single twist cotton rope. This is used a lot in macrame, you can get it in different colors, you could use an unbleached version and dye this yourself, you could try dip dying it, but this is where we get into the point is how chunky do you like the spine versus how fine

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you like the edges. You get really nice, fine edges with this, but you get a really chunky spine whereas with the yarn, the spine becomes a little bit more subdued and in proportion to the feather-y bits which I like. This is a five milometer cotton rope, also really cool, but gives you definitely more separation between each of those feather-y bits and of course you can comb it down, see if you can get a flatter lay and then re-trim it. And I think this is cool too. I mean, it depends on your scale. If you're working on a massive wall decor piece, this might be the way you wanna go and this might be too detailed and fine, but if I was just gonna do my average home decor, I would probably go with this plus it's really, really affordable and really readily available. You can pick this up at your local craft store and I think it was 2.99 for a little ball of it. Cotton rope is gonna be a little bit harder to source and definitely a little bit more expensive. So go with what you got and what you know. This is a tiny one for just kitchen twine. This is made with kitchen twine, very small, but the rope does give you a chunkier center and you can trim this to your heart's content, could be cool on a necklace or an earring. Of course Alli, who's our jewelry guru here, just went straight to the earrings. You can see that, it's cute. I like it in the natural color too. And then I was experimenting with these synthetic, chunky single twists. Remember you do have to do the single twists, and it creates some real funky, really fluffy macrame feathers here which I think is interesting too. It felt like combing out an afghan dog, and I wanted to show you how much comes off when you comb this versus when we combed our cotton. So you are gonna shed a lot, but you're gonna get a lot of fluff. So it might be fun if you're working on some kind of wall hanging to maybe do the majority 70% in your cotton yarn and then maybe 30% or less in your fluffy yarn because I think those textures are worth exploring and it gives you some variety and interest, if you are doing some kind of wall hanging. So that is the macrame feather that is all over Pinterest, all over Instagram, not that hard, okay? Just the same knot over and over and it's really about the materials that you choose which is so true for so many crafts, right? The better your materials for the kind of endgame that you want, the easier and the more successful the look is. Do we have any other questions? It was pretty easy, right? I hope you'll make at least a dozen of these by the next time I see you on the next live shoot. I know Phil, you're gonna have to try this at least twice and I will be asking and checking up on you next week, Thursday, and we'll see you guys then.

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