

# Raffia Danish Medallions Ornament

By Gabi van Tassell  
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*Danish Medallions is a traditional “hand-manipulated” weaving method. That means, you pause the regular weaving process and use the weaving yarn in unusual ways to make pretty patterns.*

*Christina Garton beautifully explains this method in her article [“A Trio of Techniques”](#), a feature on Handwoven’s online treasure trove of fiber arts knowledge. I chose the Danish Medallions pattern since it shows nicely on both sides of the ornaments.*

*The project uses raffia, because it creates a stiff fabric, perfect for instant ornaments or gift tags. You can also use other yarns and apply a stiffener to achieve similar results.*

*The ornaments are designed in a way that when you follow the instructions, the baubles are complete with little finishing effort, once you take them off the loom.*

*Make one, make many, and enjoy!*

Skills: Basic pin loom weaving skills. Basic sewing skills.

Size: About 4” in diameter.

## Materials

Use any colors of the raffia, or use any worsted weight yarns. The contrasting color could also be novelty yarn or thin ribbon.

### Loom:

[Original TURTLE Loom™ “R”](#) – regular, for worsted weight yarn.

Find instructional videos for TURTLE looms at <http://bit.ly/TurtleLoom>



### Yarn:

[Yashi by Universal Yarn](#), 100% Raffia, approx. 6 yards in 109 Poppy (red, MC main color) and 2 yards in 103 Natural (natural, CC contrasting color).

### Tools:

It is highly recommended to use a [locker hook](#) for weaving, to avoid splitting the raffia.

Use a crochet hook, 2.5mm, for working the Danish Medallions loops.

Weaving or tapestry needle for packing the raffia.

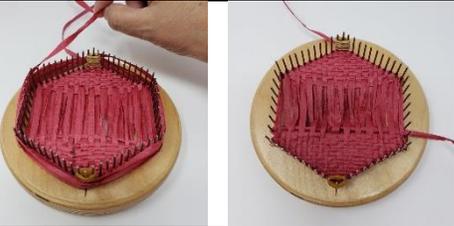
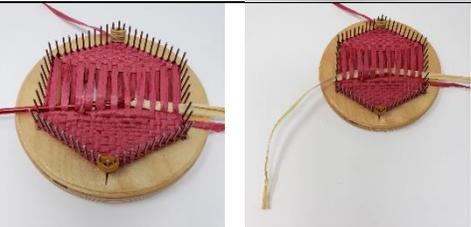
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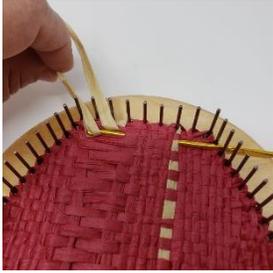
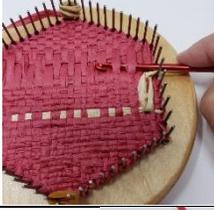
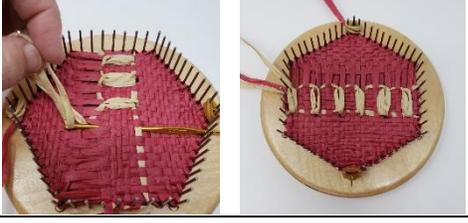
## Making the Ornament

Raffia is a little bit more challenging to work with than regular yarns. Special tips are given throughout the instructions.

I highly recommend that you practice a few ornaments using regular yarns, which will give you an opportunity to try the Danish Medallions pattern without the extra care for the raffia.

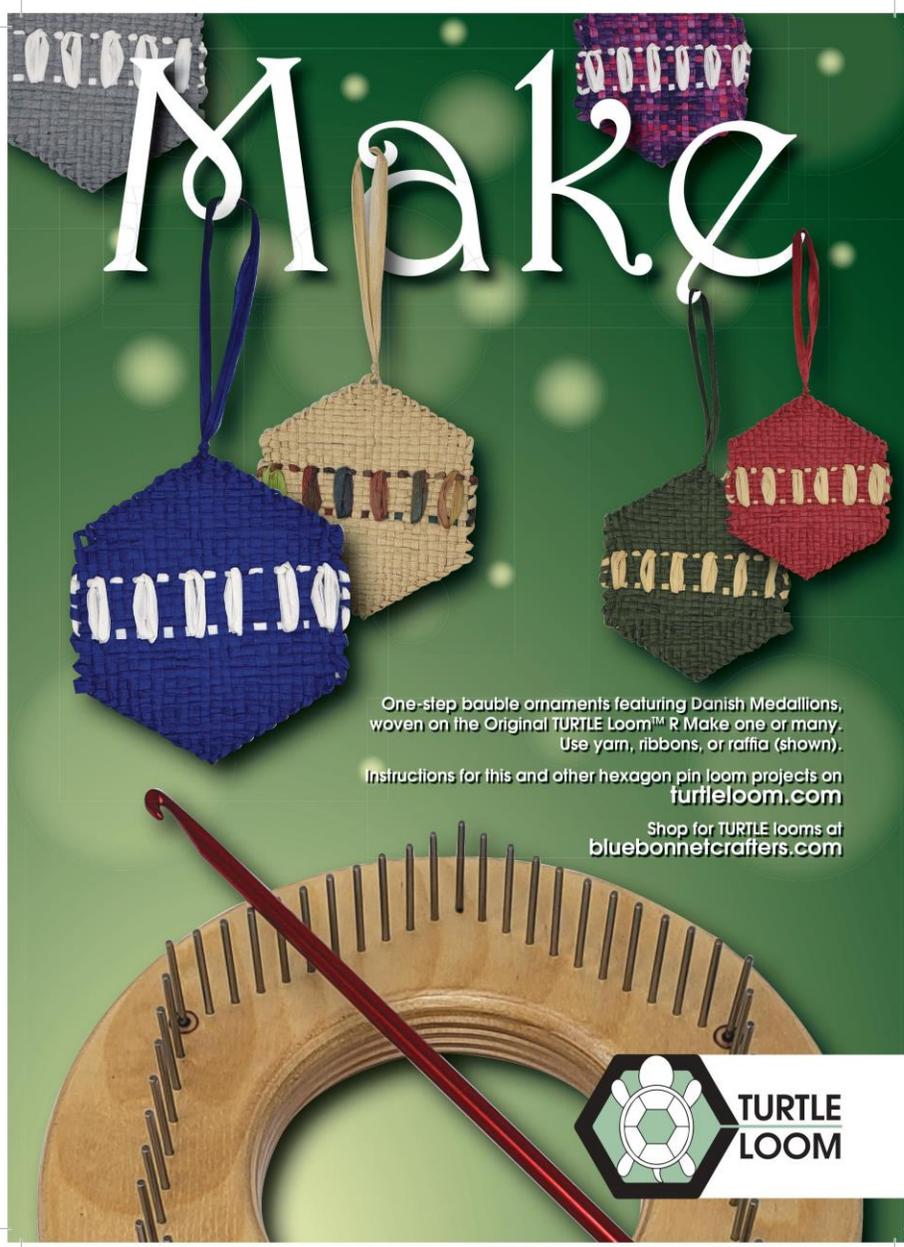
	<p>Using the MC (main color), generously measure two times the width of the loom. This will become the hanger of your ornament.</p>
	<p>Weave the first, bias part of weaving the hexagon.</p> <p>Weave extremely loosely, the photo is only slightly exaggerating. The “warps” will tighten while you weave more.</p> <p><i>If desired, wrap small rubber bands around the top and bottom three pins to hold the beginnings of the weaving in place.</i></p>

	<p>Start packing the weaving early.</p> <p>I recommend to use of the back of a weaving or tapestry needle. A fork or packing comb might split the raffia.</p>
	<p>After completing the bias-style weaving of this step, wrap the raffia 4.5 times around all pins, then cut. This will be sufficient MC raffia for the center area of the hexagon.</p> <p>Your hexagon will look as shown on the right, the working yarn points to the right.</p>
	<p>Thread the CC (contrasting color) and weave the next row from the right to the left as shown.</p> <p>Remove the locker hook and leave a tail of about 6" on the left side.</p>
	<p>Wrap the working yarn (on the right side of the loom) 2.5 times around all pins and cut. This will be enough CC to work the Danish Medallions pattern.</p> <p>Unwind the yarn, then loosely knot the ends near the top pin. <i>This will keep the ends out of the way while you are weaving the MC, but it also makes it easy to weave around the CC warps for the next few rows, which will keep the edges neatly.</i></p>
	<p>Using the MC, weave five rows, ending with the working yarn on the left.</p> <p>Include the CC threads into your weaving. <i>Just weave around them as if they were part of the regular weaving.</i></p> <p>Remove the locker hook.</p>
	<p>Thread the CC. You will now work the Danish Medallions pattern.</p> <p>Weave O (1 over), U (1 under) like in the left picture.</p> <p>Turn the loom to have the weaving direction point towards you. This will make the working of the Danish Medallions loops easier.</p>

	<p>Use the diagrams and instructions in “A Trio of Techniques” (<a href="https://handwovenmagazine.com/a-trio-of-techniques/">https://handwovenmagazine.com/a-trio-of-techniques/</a>) as additional guidance while working the Danish Medallion loops.</p> <p>Insert the crochet hook as shown. To work straight in such a small space, guide the hook between the pins on the right, the crochet hook is thin enough to fit in between.</p>
	<p>Form a generously sized loop that you can pull through completely.</p> <p>Working with a loop like that will make it easier to pull the stiff raffia through. You can always easily adjust the size of the loop later.</p>
	<p>Guide the locker hook with the CC working thread through the loop, then tighten the loop until it lies flat on both sides (you may need to wiggle it, to help the raffia get into place).</p>
	<p>Weave O, U, O, U.</p> <p>Work the next Danish Medallion loop.</p>
	<p>Repeat the last task until the end of the row, for a total of 6 loops.</p> <p>There will be one thread/warp at the end.</p> <p>Remove the locker hook.</p>
	<p>Thread the MC and weave three more rows to finish the hexagon weaving.</p> <p>Weave the yarn end in half way as shown, between the last row that you wove and the row prior to that (so you are weaving in backwards direction, which will secure the thread).</p> <p>Trim the tail to about an inch. You will clip all ends short after blocking.</p>

	<p>While the hexagon is still on the loom, tie the two CC ends with a double knot. Trim the tails to about an inch.</p>
	<p>Take the hexagon off the loom. Secure the starting tail by pulling it with the locker hook through the tip. Fold the tail to form a loop and tie a tight double knot near the tip to make the hanger.</p>
	<p>Soak the ornament in cold water for about 20 minutes. Pat dry, then lay flat on a paper towel to dry completely. Clip all tail ends.</p>
	<p>Congratulations! Your ornament is now complete.  (Front and back view.)</p>





If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to help you.  
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