
Make Tassel Party Decorations with 100LayerCake

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

[MUSIC PLAYING] -Hi. I'm Kristina. -And I'm Jillian. -And together with our friend Amanda, we're the founders of 100 Layer Cake. And 100 Layer Cake is an online resource for wedding planning, party ideas, and DIY projects. -There's a really great trend out there right now, and it's tassels. Tassels are everywhere. You can make a small tassel or a large tassel. And they also can come in many different materials, from leather to yarns to paper. It's really great project for anybody to DIY and make it your own. [MUSIC PLAYING]

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

We're going to show you how to make several different types of tassels using a few different materials. And you probably have a lot of these materials at home. But if not, they're available at your local craft store. To begin any craft project, you wouldn't go wrong without starting with a hot glue gun. For the boutonniere, you're going to need some hardware-- brooch backings, a large safety pin. And for the boutonniere, I'm going to show you a really unique technique to use a belt buckle for the boutonniere. We'll also need baker's twine, some different color embroidery thread-- and gold is a nice way to finish-- some paper spool, scissors. I'm going to show you some alternative materials to use for the boutonnieres, from suede, to gold leather, to wood bead. I'm also going to share with you some cake topper ideas. You're going to use some of the same materials in addition to bamboo skewers. And then, I'm going to show how to adapt the same tassels we make for the cake topper onto napkins. I'm going to use some vintage napkins that we picked up at the flea market, which is, surprisingly, a very affordable option. You can buy them in bulk. But you can also use new napkins. Or, if you're super duper crafty, you can definitely make your own. For the wall hanging, we're going to use first a dowel to hang the tassels, lots of yarn. Right now, I'm showing just two colors for a two-color wall hanging, but you're probably going to need somewhere in the range of 10 skeins depending on how big and how many tassels you want to make. We're going to paint the dowel, so you'll need a great color of pink paint, a paint brush. You can see ours as well use and we're going to use pink thread to hang the tassels from the doll most importantly, we're going to show you a little tip to make the perfect topple every time using a small stuff or.

Chapter 3 - How to Make Tassels

Tassels 101

We're going to show you a really easy technique to make a basic tassel. And using this, you can make small and large in different materials. Julian's going to show you how to make a tiny tassel, and I'm going to show you how to make the really big one. For the small tassel, you're going to start with a piece of foam core. This really determines the size of your tassel. This is about an inch and a half wide. From there, we're going to take our embroidery floss. This is a nice pearl cotton. You're going to take your embroidery floss, and it's going to open up into a nice loop. With your super sharp scissors, you're going to cut the top, and then you're going to start to unwind. I like to have a paper spool with me to help organize my embroidery thread. Your embroidery thread can get very tangled. So it's great to have a piece of paper-- a spool-- to wrap your embroidery floss to keep

organized. As you can see, my spool is getting a bit tangled down here, so this is coming in handy. So from this point I'm going to work from my paper spool onto the foam core. Begin by taking your foam core and wrapping the embroidery thread exactly like you did, wrapping it on the paper spool. A good tip is to start taking count. To make the tassel pretty thick, but not too thick, I like to wrap about 30 to 35 times. The reason I like to count, is because this will really help with making all the tassels the exact same size, which is very important for making your boutineers and your cake topper. So I'm probably at 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30. You want to also end right where you started. So your tassel or your embroidery floss will end right at the top of your foam core. From there, you're going to cut your embroidery floss. And then you're going to cut a nice line at the tip here. You can really dig in. That's why foam core is a bit forgiving in that way. You're going to find the center of your stack and place the embroidery thread underneath. You're just going to tie a nice loop. This will help to tighten and to keep your tassel in form. I like to tie a double knot. So you can pick up your thread and fold it in half, and make a nice head to your tassel. And this is where you're going to take the other piece of thread and loop it around. You can loop it around once or several times to make it thicker band around your embroidery thread. I like to wrap it around maybe three times. Make a nice knot. Again, you might want to do this two times. And that'll straighten out your tassel. This is where you're going to trim off the ends, give it a little haircut, to make it really nice and finished. And voila! Here's your tassel. You can make your tassel shorter or longer, depending on the cardboard size and how you want to trim it. This tassel is going to be applied to the napkins that we're doing. But I'm also going to share an adaptation of this tassel for our hardware for the boutineer as well as the cake topper. And I'm going to show you how to make the really big tassel. So we chose a nice chunky wool. And we like sort of the natural texture of the wool, but certainly you could use any kind of yarn you like. For this tassel you're not going to use the foam core. You're actually going to use your arm, because it's just easier and it's such a big tassel. Find the end of your yarn. With these kinds of skeins usually it just pulls right out the center. So you shouldn't have any tangling. It's handy to just pull a little bit out to start. You're going to take the end. Where are you, end? Here you are. And you're going to put it right between your thumb and your forefinger, and then you're going to use your elbow as the end of essentially your foam core. It looks like for the larger tassel, we're going to need 35 to 40 wraps. And like Jillian mentioned, it's a good idea to count just so all of your tassels are at the same size for your wall hanging. And it's not uncommon for your tassels to get smaller and smaller as you continue wrapping. That's really part of the process. OK. So about 40 wraps there. So using your super sharp scissors, trim the end, and then just like the small tassel, choose one side and snip right through the center. Snip. Snip. Snip. You open it up. Oops. We forgot one. That happens. OK. Pull another piece of yarn. Cut it right through the center just like the small. You're going to do a double knot on the top. And this just kind of gives a nice form to the top of your tassel. Just definitely a good idea to make sure it's right in the center so it's even. So a double knot. And then these just fall into the long parts of the tassel. One more length. This is going to wrap around the center. Fold your tassel in half with the tie at the top. And then you're going to make your tassel head. And again, wrapping around just a few times just gives it kind of a nice, thicker band. And this yarn is so soft that if you wrap really tight, it's going to be kind of a super deep tie. So that's just depends on what you like, but probably right in the middle is nice. And one piece tends to fall nicely in line with the tassel, and the other one generally pokes up. So I usually just snip those right off. And there you have it. You can also, if it gets a little straggly, you can certainly trim the ends. But you can also address that once you hang them on the dowel in the wall hanging process. This is a basic tassel technique that you could certainly use to just make a

quick tassel to wrap a present, but we're going to show you how to adapt this for four projects.

Chapter 4 - Tassel Projects

Make a tassel cake topper

This tassel cake topper is quick and easy to whip up. It's perfect for the modern wedding, and can bring a lot of whimsy to your wedding cake. We're going to add one more tassel here, and we're going to do it similar to the way I did before, but we're actually going to add this onto the string itself. And we're going to add the gold accent around. It just gives it a nice finish. So similar to the way we made our tassel before, we're going to be counting the number of times we wrap it around the string. As we did, it was about 30 times, so I think I'm going to add about 12, 13, 14. Again, this really just helps make your tassel really the thickness that you want. I think I'm at 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30. Perfect. So all of this is very similar technique to making the beginning tassel. Snipping off the ends and laying it out flat. This tassel is a little bit longer than the one you see here. What's great is we'll trim it at the end. So we literally put the tassel over our string. We're going to take this gold thread, and we're going to wrap it around the tassel. And it's going to act as a nice accent to our baker's twine. I roll-- take off about a couple of strands-- you know, a couple of loops. It really just needs to be about maybe six inches long. This is where it can get a little tricky at the very end of your tassel. The first ones are always the easiest to make. So you're going to start by pinching your embroidery thread around the baker's twine. I like to smooth it out. And then just pull it really tight. That'll help create a nice tie with your gold thread. And now just take the gold thread and loop it around the embroidery floss. And just pull really tight, and do a couple of loops here. I like to do kind of a bunch of loops-- six to seven loops or even more just to make it really thick. And instead of going on top of each loop, kind of spread it out so you can really get a nice, thick, gold band. And when you feel like you're at the place where it looks really nice-- which I think this looks pretty good-- then you're going to tie it off. So again, just doing a loop, tying it in a knot. It looks great. And now, let's pull it out. And you can see that that one is obviously a little bit larger. So we can shorten that at the end. That's where we'll take our scissors, trim off the gold, and then we'll come in and trim the actual embroidery floss. Let's see. I think it's about here. And I like to cut it maybe a little longer at first and spread it out and just see where I'm at. And what's great is that you can kind of play with this and move it in a little closer or further out and tighten it up. So I think I'm going to trim it just a little bit more. This will be our finishing touch, trimming it off, holding it together. And now you can see we have a nice hombre cake topper. To finish off the cake topper, you're going to need two bamboo skewers, which I have right here. With these bamboo skewers, I actually cut off the ends about an inch and a half. This is going to be perfect for my cake. This is a one tier white cake. So now I'll take my bamboo skewers and just kind of eyeball it to see how tall I want them. You can make your cake topper a little taller or a little shorter, just depending on the aesthetic of your cake or how fancy and festive you want to get with it. Now I'm going to take my bamboo sticks and tie them on to the baker's twine. Because my cake is not very wide, I'm going to make sure that I'm staying really close to the tassel. Just make a loop and tie. We'll trim the baker's twine at the end. So I'm going to make one more loop. Then tie, again trying to stay as close to the tassels as I can since my cake is not very wide. Now that I have them tied on, I can really see how the tassels are placed. And it looks like it's a bit uneven. This is a very easy fix. I'm just going to take the tassels and kind of move them over a bit. Or actually the string will come with me. So it's fine. You can just kind of play with it and move your tassels over and make it all even. Now let's trim off the ends of the baker's twine. You can make this as long or short as you like. This is the fun part--

topping our cake. I like to set it in at a little bit of an angle so that it's spread apart really nice. Just dip it into your cake and voila! You have your cake topper. I also have a variation of this cake topper. We used a different color palette with shades of creams and browns and slightly peach tones. We also used a similar gold accent, but now with a leather strap. This would be great for a Bohemian wedding.

Make tassel napkins

Adding tassels to a vintage napkin is a great way to infuse a modern design element onto an existing piece of cloth. These are actually vintage handkerchiefs, but they work great for napkins, as well. Using our small tassels that Jillian showed you how to make earlier, we're going to attach, in the same ombre color palette, one to each corner of our napkin. What's great about this particular project is that you can make your tassels ahead, months in advance if you want, and then attach them to the napkin as you have time. Attaching the tassels to the vintage handkerchief is super easy. I'm certainly not a seamstress, but as long as you have general command of a needle and thread, you'll be totally fine. I have a needle and thread ready here. I've doubled over the thread, so it's just a little bit stronger, as you can see there's two. I've tied a knot at the end. So we're already to go. So we're going to add to one color to each corner-- this is enough tassels for two-- starting with any color you like, it doesn't really matter. Find a corner, pass the needle through the very corner of the napkin, from the bottom side up. So you're set. You can see there's a little knot on top of the tassel, and I like to generally thread the needle underneath that knot, so it has a nice secure footing on the tassel. So we're just going to follow this same procedure a few times, until the tassel is securely attached to the thread. So we've gone through once, now we're just going to loop back around. And you make a little circle, I guess, for lack of better description, with your thread. So up through the bottom of the napkin corner. And if you're nice and slow it tends to not get tangled. And down through and under the knot of the tassel. There's lots of moving parts here. And then one more time, we'll do one last pass through the napkin. And then back through the tassel. You can always trim this extra thread first, so it doesn't get in the way. Though, I tend to wait till the end. I actually like to finish with one final pass just back through the napkin, so you tie in the back in the same place the first knot is. It kind of goes out of order of the whole circle you've been making, but for the purposes of this project, it works out totally fine. Make sure the tail doesn't get stuck. Pull it through, and then we're going to tie a double knot. So this is just a quick little double. Two, and trim. You can trim pretty close, you just want to try to hide those little ends. And there you have-- one tassel attached. You're going to repeat this step with your remaining three tassels. You can vary your color choice. I'm going to continue with the ombre palette we used in the cake topper, but you're-- plenty of options. If you prefer to do all of one color on one napkin and then change to another color for the other napkins, that works, too. You sew the next three tassels on in exactly the same way. You can choose your color palette. We're going to stick with the ombre palette we used for the cake topper, but of course the option is yours. So for the next tassel, we're going to go the same way. Again up through the bottom corner of the napkin, grab the little topknot of the tassel-- sometimes they're a little stiffer than others. There we go. And this is, you can see, you can actually, if you're very handy, pass it through both at once, if you get the right angle. One, two-- two-- and three. And then just cheat and pass the thread down through the napkin, the opposite direction, to tie it off. So I'm going to lay this guy down, because it's just easier. Two knots-- and it helps if you just hold your thumb right on top of where you're forming the knot, so it stays nice and tight. Quick clip. Attach two more tassels, one of each of your remaining colors, and this napkin is done. As you

can see, they're super duper cute once they're folded. They would make even an awesome hostess gift, if you don't have it in you to make enough for a large wedding or a party. And, you know, this is just one example of attaching tassels to fabric. We've seen beautiful inspiration of a whole table runner with tassels running down the sides. Also a pillow could be great. I mean there's truly endless variations, once you learn to attach a simple tassel to fabric using a needle and thread.

Make tassel boutonnières

I love this boutonniere, it is great for the nontraditional bride and groom. It's also a really great alternative to using a floral boutonniere. It has a more masculine feel with a modern pop. We're creating this tassel similar to the way we did the cake topper. It is actually going to go around the hardware, and then you're going to finish it with gold thread. Here I have already created three piles of the color palette that I've chosen, a nice ombre, similar to the cake topper. So these tassels have also been created by using the 1 and 1/2 inch foam core. This is very simple. This is such an easy, easy project. I have about 30 strands of each of the colors. I'm going to take my hardware, and one by one, I'm going to feed them through the center of the hardware. So the pink, the light pink, and the red. Oops. And if you get a little guy who likes to run away, just bring him back in there. So now just pinch your embroidery thread together to create your tassel. The next step is you're going to take your gold thread and then create a loop around it to finish it off. This gives a nice effect, kind of a medallion effect for your groom. Let me grab my scissors. And then I like to loop around probably about 10 times, to really get a nice thick band around your tassel. And I can come from behind as well as from the front to make a nice thick tassel. So then you want to turn your tassel over to finish it off by creating two loops, and tie it in a knot. There you go. Your nice tassel. Obviously, cleaning it up, trimming off the gold. Now we're going to finish off the tassel by trimming the ends. This will make it nice and even. You can make this tassel as long or as short as you like. To complete the boutonniere, you're going to add a pin backing. We're going to turn the boutonniere over and grab a pin back. Now we're going to bring out hot glue gun in and adhere the pin back to the back of our boutonniere. It doesn't really matter which way you do the pin back. So then you just be very careful to apply your hot glue. And then quickly apply it to your hardware. You can set it down and let it cool. You can make multiples of this style of boutonniere. Instead of using the hardware that I used here, you can also use a safety pin. The safety pin is a material that you can find anywhere at your local craft store. The hardware that I've chosen, that is more like a belt buckle, is a little bit harder to find. But it obviously, as you can see, give it a more finished look. I've also chosen to share with you a few other boutonniere ideas. This is very similar to last one I showed you, but a different color variation. And I also chose to use a suede in the center of this one, which really is a nice elevated feel. Perfect for a black tuxedo or dark gray. This one we used with a safety pin. Obviously, I've mentioned, you can find this hardware anywhere at your local craft store. These two tassels are very different. I chose to use leather versus the embroidery floss. I also chose to use just a pin back for this one instead of the hardware. It really has a nice feel, and you can apply it to your lapel up or down. This one we chose to use a wood embellishment, and also do a two-toned tassel with gold leather and then a gray suede. These boutonnières are quick and easy to make and are a great alternative to the floral boutonniere.

Make a tassel wall hanging

A really fun variation on the small tassel that we've been talking about for the last three projects is the big tassel. These large tassels are really quick to make. I made all 15 of these in less than an hour,

just sitting on the couch watching TV. And they make a really cool impact when you string them up on a dowel for an installation piece for your next event. So to start, we need to paint the dowel. You can certainly leave this natural, if that's your vibe. But why not paint something pink when you can? So we're going to paint it pink to match the pallet that we've been working with. You could also paint it gold. That could be really fun, if you wanted to kind of up the sophistication a little bit. We chose just a basic craft paint. Any acrylic would probably work too. There's nothing fancy here. Using your best elementary school painting skills, you're just going to paint the entire dowel. One coat is fine, but you can also do two, if you want super saturated color. This also works well if you hold it upright, so you don't have to worry about the dowel touching the table. But we've laid down a piece of paper to catch the errant bits of paint. Then you can see it's just like a quick pass all the way around. And it doesn't take much paint at all. This part gets tricky, there's no place left to grab. And you can also finish off the ends with a quick dab on either side. You're going to need to let your dowel dry completely before you can begin assembling your wall hanging. I have 15 to 20 tassels here. And you're going to want to have this complete and ready to go, so we can begin assembling our wall hanging. Our dowel is dry and ready to go. And to assemble the wall hanging, you definitely want to hang it, generally on a wall is easier, if you're at home. For the purposes of this class, we actually have it suspended here above the table. We also have all of our tassels lined up and strung with the thread that we're going to use to hang it on the dowel. I'm going to show you how to thread one. You want your thread to be the length of the longest tassel where it's going to hang. So for this, it's about three to four feet. You can always trim your thread after you have your tassels hung, so no big deal if there's some extra. You're going to thread it on the needle, just a single thread this time, not a double like the napkins. Pick up your tassel, find the top knot. This is much easier than the napkins, because the tassels are much bigger. Pass it through, release your needle. And now you're all set. So we've got all our tassels ready to go. And to start, if you have some tassels that you're not super happy with, maybe they were the first couple that you made until you kind of got the rhythm down, that's totally fine. Don't get rid of them. You can hang them in the back, and they're just going to provide shape to the wall hanging and some extra texture and depth. To start, it's good to have your shape in mind. You can use the shape that we're going to ultimately create. So you can kind of structure it. And then you're going to lay more in the front, to give it some nice depth and color. To hang the tassel, you're going to separate your two pieces of thread. Find out the length. Figure out the length you're happy with. And then just tie a simple double knot. This class is all about double knots. So working with your overall design in mind, I'm just going to continue adding tassels. Again, these are pretty flexible. You can always untie-- well, you can always rethread if it comes down to it. Not a whole lot of pressure here. think it's nice to have some height variation throughout the wall hanging, instead of all one size or following a diagonal line or a V. But that's totally a design option that's available to you, if that's your style. We're mostly using this nice cream color. But throughout the wall hanging we're going to add a few of this more flax linen color. And that's again, up to you. If you prefer to have just one color, or you want to use four colors. There's lots of options here. And periodically while you're working, it's a good idea to step back from the wall hanging and check out the design and make sure it's looking right from far away. Because this will be a piece that people will appreciate from across the room. You can see I just added one in front, so now we're going to start adding some texture and depth. So this one looks like it's hanging a little low for my liking. So I just came around to the front. And I'm actually just going to tie-- you could cut this off and restring it, but you totally don't have to. Instead you can just come around to the front and retie a knot here. And then you can snip it at the end. When

you're placing the gray, you don't want to space them out evenly throughout the wall hanging. Especially because we're only using a few here and there. A better idea is to clump a few gray on one side and then maybe show a reference point on the other. So the wall hanging itself has kind of a natural flow of color. The other thing I'm going to try to avoid is creating one straight line across the top. So right now, I haven't filled in here. But some of them will be higher. And that way, the whole thing feels very organic. So it looks like we need one more high one, and we need one more low one to get the balance right. So I'm going to tie just those last few on. And then we can step back and see how it's looking on the wall. So now we're going to trim the extra threads on the top. And just be super, super careful not to trim the threads that are actually connected to your tassel. Give it one last look. You can adjust things a little. If you need to, give it a fluff, maybe a trim. And it's ready to hang.

Chapter 5 - Styling Tips

How to style a tassel-themed dessert table

Our wall hanging looks super cute hung on the wall, and there's no better place to hang a wall hanging than above a dessert table. So to complete our projects, we're going to show you how to style one of our favorite parts of a wedding or event, which is the dessert table. To start off with the dessert table, you want a really nice linen. We chose the linen from a local rental house. It's a really beautiful, peachy tone. It really complements the colors we chose in our projects. The first thing that you want to lay down on your dessert table are your cakes. I'm going to go ahead and choose actually the tallest cake that we have here and lay that on the table. I like to lay down the tallest cake not necessarily in the center, maybe just slightly off center, so that way, some of these other cakes are going to complement it. They're all in varying heights. So we have a lower cake stand and then a medium-sized cake stand. And now that they're all on the table, I kind of like to just move them around slightly, give them a little space. So you can see, we also chose a very different tassel here. It's an inverted tassel, and you simply hot glue gold fringe to the top of a barbecue skewer. It's super cute. The next layer is to add flowers. And flowers are definitely my favorite part of event decor. I love the natural element that they add. Here, we have just a few bunches, just to add an organic texture to the table. We have lisianthus, Blushing Bride-- this is a super special, beautiful wedding flower-- and scabiosa. We chose these flowers because they add just a soft complementary color palette. We didn't use anything super bright or vibrant, because we didn't want to detract from the cakes themselves. We're also going to add a smaller vase. This one still needs a little bit of work, but we can add those in to the other side of the table, just to balance out the height on this side. We have a few more flowers left. We're going to trim these down to fit into the bud vase. And the second one is just a little more wily, and that's OK. We might need to grab a few flowers from the larger arrangement, but there's plenty in the back we can poach. Here's some really pretty pink ones back here. Pop it into the back of our smaller vase. And we can always adjust our flowers after the rest of that elements are on the table. To complete the look, we're going to add our tassel napkins and the vintage plates, as well as some vintage silverware. These vintage plates and the vintage silverware come from a local vintage rental company, as well as the cake stands. And lots of cities have vintage rental companies. But if you're planning a small event, you can also check out thrift stores, antique stores, Etsy, even eBay. There's plenty of resources online to find and build your own collection. To add a little drama to your table, you want to add votives. These are some great mercury glass votives that we've chosen that complement the gold accents on our table. Just grab a couple more and just pop those into different holes that you see on your

table. And they're going to glow really nicely once you light the candles. You can also use your dessert table to display your favors. You know your guests are going to head to your dessert table, so if you want to make sure they don't miss out on favors, perfect place to put them. And they just add another little design element to your set-up. Every dessert table needs signage. We've chosen the signage here that really mimics the tassel projects that we've created for you. These tassels are made out of gold Mylar, and it's just a nice modern and graphic touch to complete your table. Even though your guests know it's a sweets table, it is nice. It's a friendly reminder. And we're going to adhere it with these little pins. The simple tassel we showed you how to make was used to make all of these projects, and creates an awesome cohesive thread through your next event. And believe me, once you start making tassels, you're going to be making tassels for days. Tassels on everything! [LAUGHS]