

Serenity Stone

Try your hand at wrapping a stone with string to make an earthy decoration.

You will need:

- Smooth river rock (about 3")
- 60" strand of string, twine, or leather cord
- Thin twig (about 4" long)
- Glue Dots
- Mod Podge and paintbrush
- Scissors

Display a picture of some completed [Serenity Stones](#). Crafters and rockhounds will enjoy trying this project.



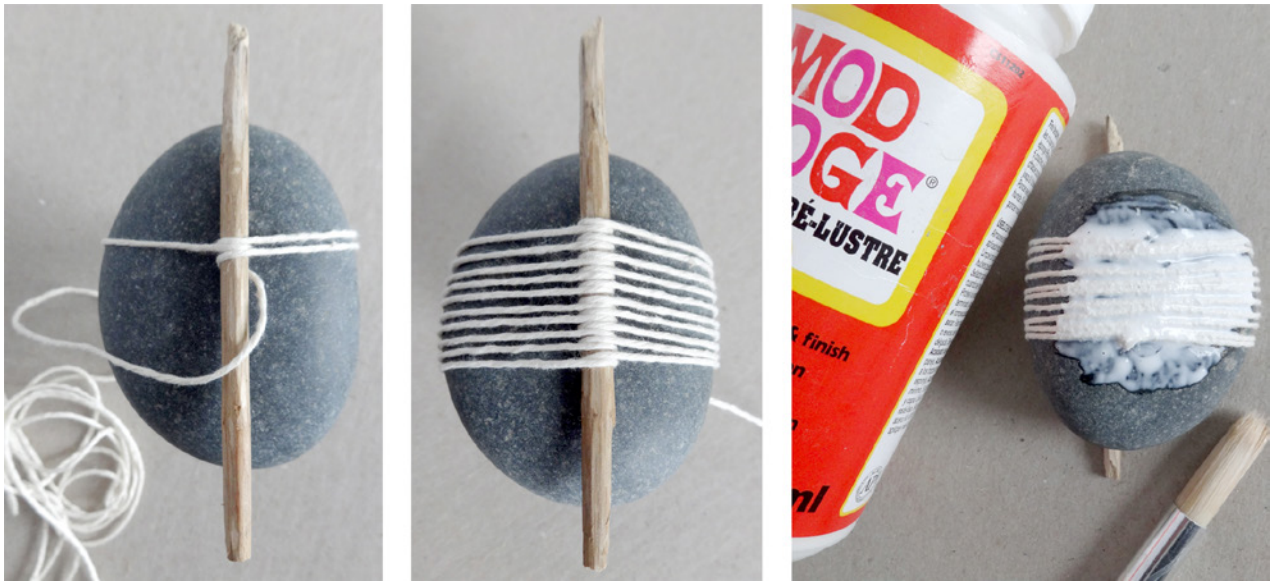
Directions:

1. Cluster 4 Glue Dots in a row on the center of what will be the “back” of the stone. Attach the end of the string to the top Glue Dot as shown below.



2. Center the twig on the opposite or “front” side of the stone and loop the string around the twig once. Tighten the string as you bring it to the back of the rock and press it onto a Glue Dot.

3. Moving in the same direction, continue to wrap the string around the front of the rock and then loop it around the twig as shown in the first photo below.



4. As you continue wrapping the string to the back of the rock, press it onto a Glue Dot. Repeat this pattern of wrapping the string and looping it around the twig until about 1" of the stone is wrapped as shown.
5. End the last wrap by pressing the string onto a Glue Dot and cutting off the excess string.
6. To help keep the string in place (especially if your serenity stone will be outdoors) apply a generous amount of Mod Podge to the back using the paintbrush. Allow it to dry for about 30 minutes.
7. Place your creation in a garden or houseplant. Wrap several stones and group them in a basket for a lovely display.

Japanese Rope Knotting

This project is inspired by *shibari*, which is the term for an ancient Japanese technique of wrapping rope and tying knots. Shibari was originally used for restraining criminals. The practice has evolved to various art forms, including wrapping, weaving, and knotting rope or other fibers around rocks. The appeal of shibari is multi-sensory. It's aesthetically pleasing and stimulates the nerves of the hands and fingers. Finding rocks to use requires paying attention to your surroundings, and tying a small, sometimes slippery rock requires attention to detail. In this way, shibari has meditative aspects, which adds to its appeal.



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