

## RUSSIAN NEEDLE PUNCH

Russian Needle Punch works best on Weaver's Cloth which is 50% cotton and 50% polyester. You can punch on many other fabrics. If working on 100% cotton, it is recommended that you use a lightweight, cotton/polyester interfacing. The needle is very sharp and cuts through the cotton fibers.

Thread the needle by inserting the threading wire from the needle tip to the handle end. Insert your floss into the threader and pull through the entire length of the needle. Then thread the "eye" of the punch needle. Think like threading a sewing machine. Use an embroidery hoop and keep your fabric tightly hooped when punching. Readjust as necessary. You can use embroidery floss, pearl cotton, sports weight or baby weight yarns, 12 weight thread or crewel yarn changing the size of the tip for each.

Projects are always worked from the back and in reverse. The loops (fluffy) side is on the bottom when working. If you are using characters or letters, copy them on the reverse side and then copy onto your cloth.

Hold the needle perpendicular to the hoop. Always turn the hoop and not the needle. Punch so your stitches are about a needle width apart. When you are stopping your work, hold the needle in the cloth and cut with embroidery scissors near the fabric. Always discharge your needle when you are through. In other words, turn the pen so the needle is inside the case. And those are the basics, so start punching and have fun.

My favorite needle punch patterns come from "With Thy Needle & Thread", Threads that Bind, County Threads, P3 and Annie's. Camp Wool has the best selection of patterns I have seen. Quilted Crow also carries patterns.

### Trouble Shooting

If your threads are grabbing as you work, try tightening the fabric in the hoop.

If your stitches aren't staying, check how you are holding the pen. You always work away from the tail. If you are having trouble, mark your needle in the direction you usually work.

You can find an abundance of Needle Punch directions, samples and techniques on the internet. I have bookmarked several on my pinterest to get you started.

***Be very careful not to get knots in your floss. If it passes into the needle, you may not be able to remove it and will need to get another needle!!!!***

Feel free to call me if you have any questions or want suggestions.

Kim Hulette

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