

The CraftWeb Free Pattern

Punch Needle Sheep

Designed by Madeleine Findley

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Punch Needle

Punch needle is often described as thread painting and is created with a hollow pencil shaped needle working through the fabric and leaving tufted loops of yarn on the top of the fabric.

It is a great fun technique worked from the back of the design and you can quickly create tufted embroideries in a funky country style.

IT IS WORTH READING THE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY AND FOLLOWING THEM STEP-BY-STEP

Once you master the basics there will be no stopping you.

You can work on any firmly woven fabric. For this sheep we used 18ct Aida with 3 strands of DMC Stranded Cotton. For an evenweave fabric try Zweigart Jazlyn.

Design size for each sheep approximately 6x10cm.

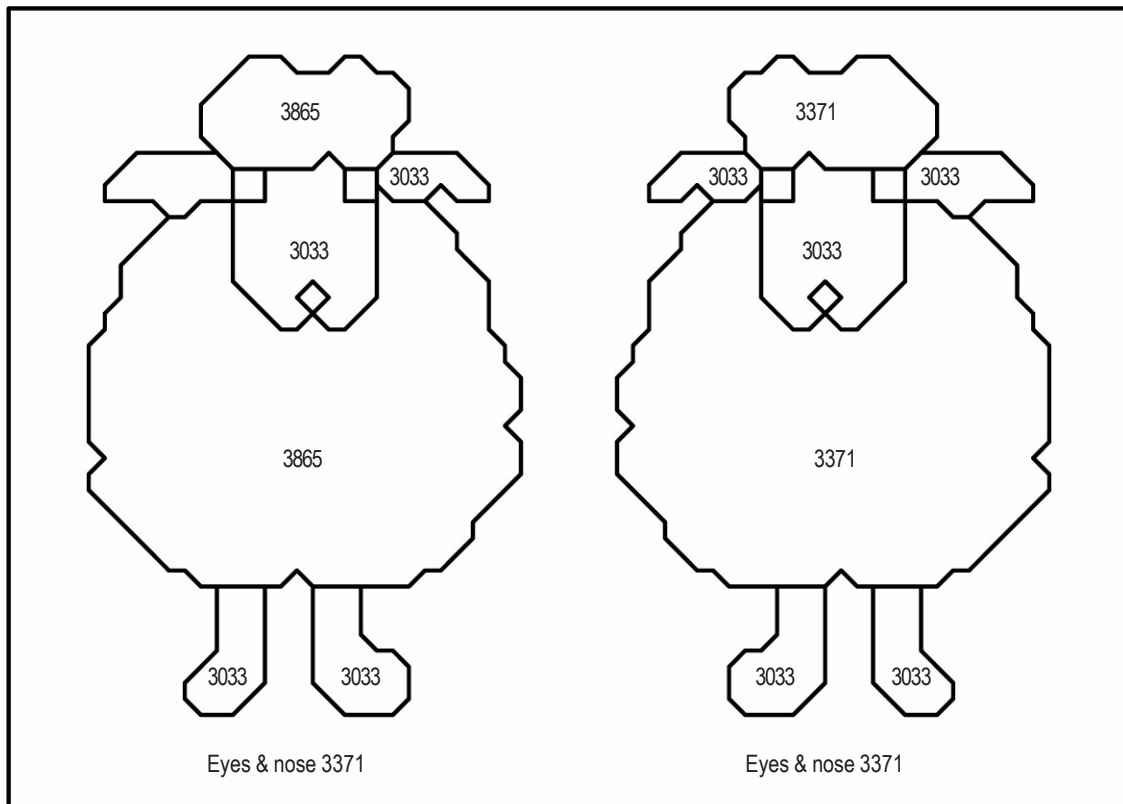
Fabric required 25x25cm.

CH6 15cm **Super grip Plastic Embroidery Hoop**

D11 73100 Punch Needle

DMC Stranded Cotton 3371, 3033, 3865.

Instructions on the next page.



White Sheep

Black Sheep

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Threading Your Punch Needle

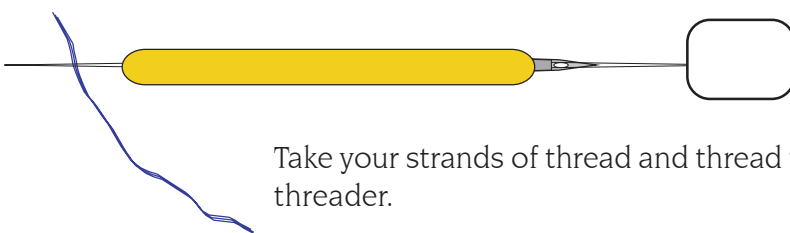
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Insert the needle threader through the hollow steel end and push it all the way in.



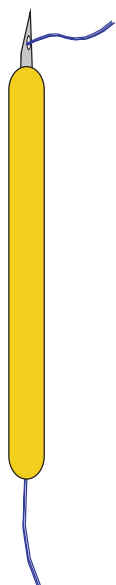
Take your strands of thread and thread through the end loop of the needle threader.



Pull the threader back through the hollow of the needle bringing the strands of thread with it.



Insert threader through the back of the eye of the needle. Catch the thread ends and pull back through the eye.



Threads

- Cut threads into 1 metre lengths.
- Separate all six strands of thread.
- Put three strands back together.
- If you need to pull out stitches - for best results do not re-use the thread as it may be too kinked to use again. Start with a new piece of thread.

Transferring the Design

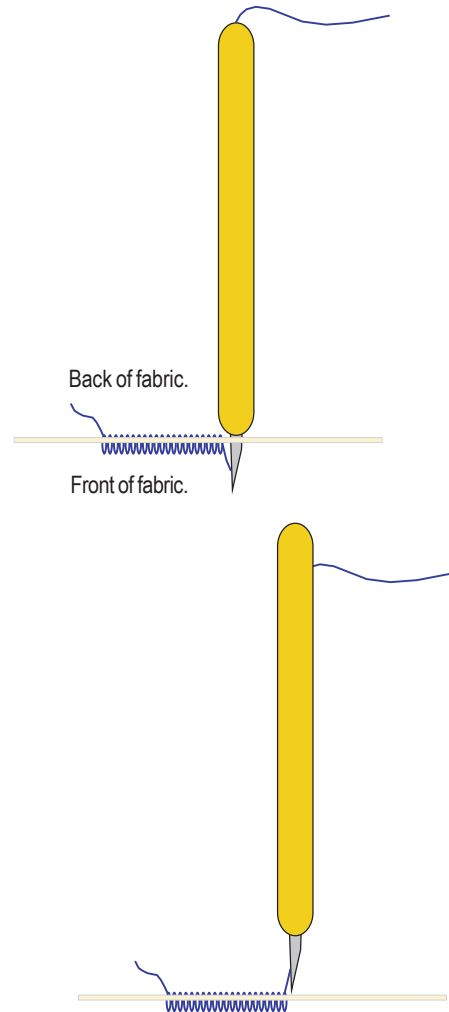
Use a light box or you can use carbon paper.

To transfer using carbon paper:

- Trace design onto tracing paper, centre the tracing on the fabric and pin in place.
- Place carbon paper (carbon side up) on a firm work surface.
- Lay the fabric and tracing on top of the carbon paper and redraw over the design. This will create an outline on the other side of the material.

Punch Needle Embroidery

- Stretch fabric tightly over inner hoop and secure firmly in place. (You may like to practice on a scrap of fabric before starting work on your design).
- Hold needle like a pencil in a vertical position.
- Make sure that the feeder thread (*that's the one coming out of the top of the tube*) can run freely.
- With the other hand, hold the short tail of thread (*coming from the needle*) against the fabric, and punch the needle all the way down into the fabric until the handle of the needle touches the fabric.
- Lift the needle out of the fabric just enough to move to the next stitch. Keep the needle facing in the right direction and keep it in a vertical position. You must keep the needle as close to the fabric as possible or you will pull the thread back out of the loops. As you work, loops form on the front of your fabric while a short running-type stitch appears on the back. Keep stitches close together and work in rows. When you need to change direction, keep your needle in the down position and rotate the fabric rather than the needle.
- To end stitching, hold last stitch with finger and gently lift the needle out of the fabric. Cut thread close to the material. Trim starting tail thread at the same time. You can add a small dab of fabric glue to secure your stitching. Trim uneven loops and loose ends on the front of the design so that the pile is level.



Filling in a Design

- Start with large areas then fill in small or narrow areas last. Don't be concerned - you will still be able to see the small areas on the back of your fabric.
- Begin by outlining the area just inside the line then fill the area in a series of rows. For narrow areas you may need to work at least two rows to ensure that you can see the colour change. If you need to pull out stitches, run your finger nail over the fabric to realign the fabric threads and use a fresh length of thread.

