



ZWEIGART®

MADE IN GERMANY

PUNCH NEEDLE

ALL FACTS ABOUT THE NEW TREND





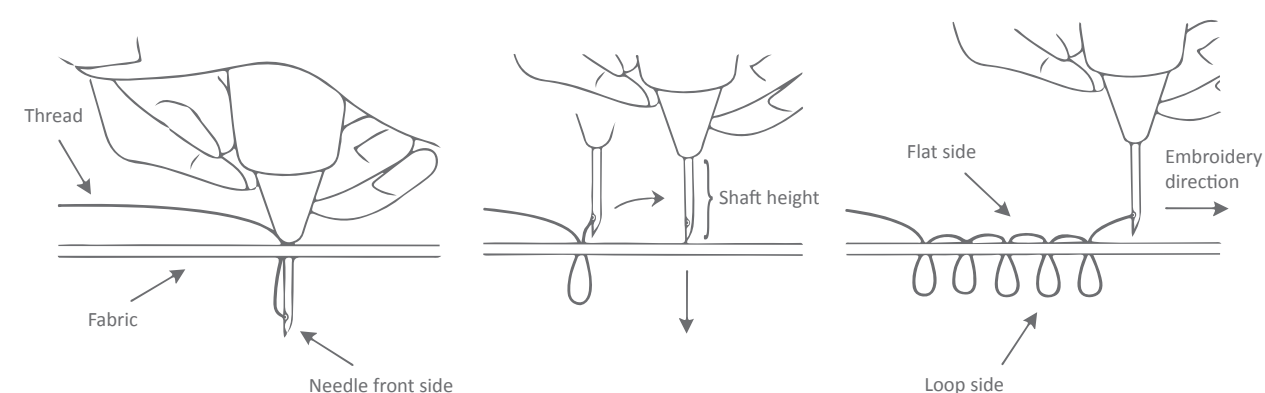
PUNCH NEEDLE

PUNCH NEEDLE: THE NEW DIY TREND

Punch needle is a versatile yet simple embroidery technique which can be used for creating unique designs and modern products on a great number of our fabrics. The technique was originally developed in the USA from the rug hooking technique.

The punch needle is a hollow decorative stitching needle with which the thread is embroidered onto the fabric from the top. This creates loops on the back side, in which the height of the loop is determined by the height of the needle.

The terms “front side” and “back side” are not used with this technique, since both



sides can be used as the front side and combined with one another. With the punch needle, one works on the “flat side,” while the “loop side” forms on the part side. The flat side is much clearer and more detailed in image. The loop side, on the other hand, is softer yet also more robust.

The punch needle technique ranges from thick punch needle with wool yarns to very fine punch needles with embroidery threads. As a result, the a wide variety of fabrics from our product range can be used for this technique.



*Articles available in additional colours.

THICK PUNCH NEEDLE

WITH WOOL YARNS

THE MATERIALS

THE FABRICS

Pillowcases, bags, wall pictures or even mini-rugs: with the punch needle, you can let your imagination run free and create beautiful patterns, shapes, pictures or letters.

Our articles 3528 Monk's Cloth, 3517 Monk's Cloth Fine and 1198 Floba are the ideal foundation for getting the nicest results out of punch needle work. Our article 3528 Monk's Cloth is used for thicker punch needles, while articles 3517 Monk's Cloth Fine and 1198 Floba are best for finer works. The background is usually completely punched so that the fabric is no longer visible later.

But other fabrics from our product range can also be put to excellent use for the punch needle technique. For instance, if the background of the punched motif is to remain free, our article 3609 Belfast offers a very large selection of decorative colours.

The following generally holds true: The finer the fabric, the smaller the punch needle can be, and thus the thinner the wool that can be used.

THE NEEDLES

The original **Oxford needle** is best for punching wool. It is more expensive than other punch needles on the market, but it is much more comfortable to hold than other needles and the quality of the workmanship is higher.

The Oxford needle comes in two gauges and five lengths, in which needle 8 has the longest and needle 14 the shortest needle shaft: Oxford needles 8, 9 and 10 are available in thick and thin, while Oxford needles 13 and 14 only come in thin variant. The needle used depends on the thickness of the wool.

The following generally holds true: The shaft height of the needle determines the length of the loop. The

longer the shaft of the needle, the longer the loops on the loop side will be.

The **SCK needle** from Pony is a less expensive alternative. It is similar in thickness to the wide Oxford needles and, with four shaft lengths, is variably adjustable for making loops of different heights. As opposed to Oxford needles, however, a threading aid will be needed for the wool in this case.

THE WOOL

Virgin wool is preferable when punching with wool. This becomes matted over time, making the model highly robust and durable and eliminating the need for adhesive on the back side.

Other wool yarns can also be used, but the model will not be as durable then.

The fibres will hardly get matted at all, so they will have to be fixed to the back side with textile adhesive for longer durability.

THE FRAME

The fabric must be stretched taut across the frame for punching. For that reason, only a good, round embroidery frame with spring-and-groove connection is needed. If the fabric loosens during punching, it can be retightened.

A gripper frame can be used as an alternative. The base frame for the gripper frame will have to be built on your own. The instructions for this can be found free of charge at www.dkw-construction.de. The gripper strips as well as the tongue and groove frame can also be purchased there.

THE TECHNIQUE

THICK PUNCH NEEDLE WITH WOOL

- 1

Tighten the fabric in the frame

The fabric should be tightened so that it is quite taut so that it does not slip while being worked on and start loosening up. The threads of the fabric should be at a 90-degree angle to one another.
- 2

Draw on pattern

Once the fabric has been tightened, the patterns are drawn on it. This should not be done before the fabric has been tightened in the frame, because the fabric will shift slightly when put under tension, and cannot be corrected afterwards. It's best to use a black magic marker or felt-tip pen. Thin markers do not make much sense, since the lines are too fine and therefore cannot be punched in great detail. The thickness of a felt-tip marker approximately reflects the punched wool width.
- 3

Punching

Thread the thread into the needle. The wool should not be under any tension, since the loops will otherwise loosen up. From the top, pierce through the fabric with the needle until it stops. Then pull the needle upwards and, just above the fabric, pierce it back into the fabric at small and regular intervals. Loops will form on the back side of the fabric. The opening in the needle points forwards the whole time. The position of the loop is determined by the shaft length of the needle.

An edge of 3 stitches per cm should be punched for borders and any place where two colours come together. All areas which are filled are punched with 2 stitches per cm.

- 4

Preparation & change in colour

Cut off the thread just above the last stitch punched and push it through on the loop side. Begin with the new colour in the last hole of the old colour. At the end, go over the loop side with a scissors handle to get out all of the hidden thread ends and then cut them off. For sharp contours between changes in colour, "part" the punched colour areas with a knitting needle or a modelling stick. Any missing loops can now be punched afterwards. Then lay a wet bath towel onto the loop side and iron it thoroughly with steel so that the fabric loosens up and the loops can unfurl nicely.
- 5

Sewing

The model can then be sewn in normally. In the process, the edges can be sewn in directly along the first loop line.
- Cleaning & upkeep**

The finished model can be washed in the washing machine or by hand without trouble. This is because the fibres of the pure virgin wool mat together through the washing process and the stress they put on one another, making them robust and durable. For that reason, no adhesive is needed on the back side of the model.

If other types of wool are used, then the model should be cleaned more carefully and washed by hand, since the wool fibres do not mat together as much (or at all), and the loops might fall apart.
- 6
- ## IMPORTANT INFO AT A GLANCE
- | ZWEIGART® FABRICS | NEEDLES | WOOL |
|---|--|---|
| 3882 Kloster (2,8 / cm - 7 ct.)
3528 Monk's Cloth
(3,1 / cm - 7,5 ct.) | <p>Oxford punch needles:
No. 8 + 9 + 10 (in thick)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">For thick punch needleThe smaller the number of the needle, the longer the loops will be. <p>SCK needle from Pony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">For thick punch needleThe shaft length is adjustable in four stages.A threading aid is needed. | <p>Recommendation:
Pure virgin wool</p> <p>Advantage: This becomes matted over time, making the model highly robust and durable.</p> <p>Other wool can be used, but it may be necessary to fix it on the back side with a textile adhesive.</p> |
| 3991 Tula (4,0 / cm - 10 ct.)
3517 Monk's Cloth Fine
(5,0 / cm - 13 ct.)
1198 Floba (6,85 / cm - 18 ct.)
3711 Ariosa (7,5 / cm - 19 ct.)
3385 Perlleinen (10,0 / cm - 25 ct.)
3604 Dublin (10,0 / cm - 25 ct.)
3281 Cashel (11,2 / cm - 28 ct.)
3609 Belfast (12,6 / cm - 32 ct.) | <p>Oxford punch needles:
No. 8 + 9 + 10 (in thin) and No. 13 + 14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">For fine punch needleThe smaller the number of the needle, the longer the loops will be. | <p>Recommendation:
Pure virgin wool</p> <p>Advantage: This becomes matted over time, making the model highly robust and durable.</p> <p>Other wool can be used, but it may be necessary to fix it on the back side with a textile adhesive.</p> |
- Needles from other manufacturers can be used, of course. But is generally recommended to punch a little sample before starting. This way, it can be determined whether the shaft height and thickness of the needle actually fit the selected fabric and wool, since the information here is just a recommendation.



3489 / 100 BERGEN*

3984 / 4259 MURANO*

3348 / 705 NEWCASTLE*

3835 / 618 LUGANA*

3225 / 100 KINGSTON*

3609 / 4093 BELFAST*

3609 / 7349 BELFAST*

3441 / 100 NORMANDIE*

3217 / 705 EDINBURGH*

*Articles available in additional colours.

FINE PUNCH NEEDLE

WITH EMBROIDERY THREADS

THE MATERIALS

THE FABRICS

The fine punch needle with embroidery threads makes an impression on the flat side much like that of classic embroidery with back, stem and satin stitch. The fabric is often desired to remain visible as a background. For this reason, much finer fabrics with a more beautiful structure than when punching with wool are used.

A special advantage of the fine punch needle is the enormous selection of colours our fabrics offer. For instance, if the background of the punched motif is to remain free, our articles 3609 Belfast, 3984 Murano and 3538 Lugana offer an extremely large selection of colours. **Special background effects** can be created with our printed fabrics, such as Petit Point, Sparkle, Vintage and Splash, or metallic threads, such as Irisé, Gold or Silver.

The table on page 11 shows which of our fabrics with which needle and embroidery thread thickness is most suitable for this technique.

The following generally holds true: The finer the fabric, the smaller the punch needle can be, and thus the thinner the thread that can be used.

THE NEEDLES

The following generally holds true: The shaft height of the needle determines the length of the loop. The longer the shaft of the needle, the longer the loops on the loop side will be.

The **punch needle from Pony** can be used for punching with embroidery thread, for example. This needle has a fixed shaft length, which is why it can only be used for punching with a specific loop length. A threading aid (included with the needle) is needed to thread the embroidery thread into the needle. The needle is primarily suited for fine to very fine fabrics of 18 threads/cm - 46 ct. and up.

The **punch needle from Buttinette** can be used as an alternative. It has three needle attachments with various thicknesses (fine, medium and large) and, with twelve shaft lengths, is highly adjustable for forming loops of various heights. A threading aid (included with the needle) is needed for this as well.

The fine and medium needles are primarily suited for fine to very fine fabrics of 18 threads/cm - 46 ct. and up., but the large needle can also be used for coarser fabrics of 10 threads/cm - 25 ct. and up.

Tip: The loop height adjustment should be tested prior to punching. If too small a loop height is selected, the loops could loosen up again. A loop height of 4 has proven to yield good results in both visual and technical terms.

THE EMBROIDERY THREADS

Embroidery threads from Anchor, DMC or Medeira can be used. The number of threads of the yarn to be worked with depends on whether an area or a line or border is to be punched. Recommended guideline values can be found in the overview table on page 11. Since (unlike punching with virgin wool), the thread is not supposed to become matted, the back side of the model may have to be fixed with textile adhesive to ensure greater durability. This is an especially good idea of the model is to be put to everyday use.

THE FRAME

The fabric must be stretched taut across the frame for punching. This requires an embroidery frame with spring-and-groove connection. If the fabric loosens during punching, it can be retightened.

THE TECHNIQUE

FINE PUNCH NEEDLE WITH EMBROIDERY THREADS

- 1

Tighten the fabric in the frame

The fabric should be tightened so that it is quite taut so that it does not slip while being worked on and start loosening up. The threads of the fabric should be at a 90-degree angle to one another.
- 2

Draw on pattern

Once the fabric has been tightened, the patterns are drawn on it. This should not be done before the fabric has been tightened in the frame, because the fabric will shift slightly when put under tension, and cannot be corrected afterwards. For a fine punch needle, the motifs are drawn with a pencil or magic marker. With light fabrics, the motif can also be traced onto the fabric with a light box or window.
- 3

Punching

If the punching is not done with 6 threads, the embroidery thread will have to be divided into the right number of threads beforehand and cut off. The shorter the thread of the yarn selected, the more often it will have to be sewn in the next step.

Thread the embroidery thread into the needle using the threading aid – it should be totally loose not be under any tension during punching, since the loops will otherwise loosen up.

From the top, pierce through the fabric with the needle until it stops. Then pull the needle upwards and, just above the fabric, pierce it back into the fabric at small and regular intervals.

The opening in the needle points forwards the whole time when doing so. Loops will form on the back side of the fabric during this process. The shaft

- 4

height of the needle determines the length of the loop.

TIP: It is recommended to punch the border lines first and then fill them with stitches. In general, the patterns should always be punched in a circular form from the outside to the inside, in order to obtain a nice and even structure on the flat side.

Preparation & change in colour

Cut off the thread approx. 10 cm above the last stitch punched and push it through on the loop side with a blunt embroidery needle. Begin with the new colour in the last hole of the old colour.

The threads on the back side are sewn over and over again in the loop area on the back side (so that they are not visible, if possible). Conventional knots are not made in this process. Instead, the thread is simply pulled through the already punched loops a few times and then cut off.

Since the yarn threads do not get matted, it is recommended to fix the back side of the model with textile adhesive. This is an especially good idea of the model is to be put to everyday use and not hung on the wall as a picture.
- 5

Sewing

The model can then be sewn in normally. In the process, the edges can be sewn in directly along the first loop line.
- 6

Cleaning & upkeep

The finished model should not be washed (or should only be washed carefully by hand). Special care is required if the back side of the model is not fixed with textile adhesive.

IMPORTANT INFO AT A GLANCE

ZWEIGART® FABRICS	NEEDLES	EMBROIDERY THREADS
3489 Bergen (18,0/16,0 Fd / cm - 46/41 ct.) 3441 Normandie (21,6/16,8 Fd / cm - 55/43 ct.) 3225 Kingston (22,0 / cm - 56 ct.)	<p>Punch needle from Pony:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No variable shaft height adjustment• A threading aid is needed <p>Punch needle from Buttinette:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fine or medium needle• Variable shaft height adjustment for different loop heights• A threading aid is needed	<p>Buttinette fine needle:</p> <p>2 to 4-thread embroidery thread from Anchor, DMC or Madeira</p> <p>Buttinette medium needle & Pony needle:</p> <p>2 to 6-thread embroidery thread from Anchor, DMC & Madeira</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Areas: 4 to 6-thread Lines and borders: 2 to 4-thread</p>
3609 Belfast (12,6 / cm - 32 ct.) 3217 Edinburgh (14,0 / cm - 36 ct.) 3348 Newcastle (16,0 / cm - 40 ct.) 3835 Lugana (10,0 / cm - 25 ct.) 3984 Murano (12,6 / cm - 32 ct.)	<p>Punch needle from Buttinette:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large needle• Variable shaft height adjustment for different loop heights• A threading aid is needed	<p>2 to 6-thread embroidery thread from Anchor, DMC or Madeira</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Areas: 4 to 6-thread Lines and borders: 2 to 4-thread</p>

Needles and threads from other manufacturers can be used, of course. But is generally recommended to punch a little sample before starting. This way, it can be determined whether the shaft height and thickness of the needle actually fit the selected fabric and embroider needle thickness, since the information here is just a recommendation.

punch with love

creative fabrics • made in Germany

"Punch needle" is a versatile yet simple embroidery technique which can be used for creating unique designs and modern products on a great number of our fabrics. The technique was originally developed in the USA from the rug hooking technique.

This flyer provides a wealth of information on the material and technique of the Punch Needle.

As a German weaving company our passion lies in the development and production of high-quality needlework fabrics "Made in Germany". Further information on our homepage at www.zweigart.com.



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