



## 2022 International Punch Needle Rug Hooking Day Pattern

*International Punch Needle Rug Hooking Day is a wonderful way to celebrate this much-loved craft and to participate in the rich world of the fiber arts. The 2022 theme for the day is SHINE, highlighting the Oxford #14 or #13 fine needles. Please enjoy this complimentary pattern.*

### -Rebecca Martin

StoryTeller Wool Artist and Educator  
Certified Oxford Punch Needle Instructor

### Materials Needed:

- Paper Pattern (included in this document)
- Punch Needle (ex. #14 or #13 Oxford FINE needle)
- Rug hooking monk's cloth, 12 count (not sold in box stores)
- Heavy worsted/Aran weight or thinner yarn.
- Small scissors
- Tape (masking or painters tape)
- Sequins, beads, mirrors, and more



## Threading your Needle

Hold the punch needle in your non-dominant hand with the channel facing you. Thread your yarn through the eye of the needle and notch the yarn into the channel near the bottom end of the needle.

Pull on the side of the yarn that is through the eye of the needle, and the yarn will pop into the channel. The fine needles have an eye hook to help train the yarn away from the needle.

Make sure the yarn is moving freely in the channel of the needle. Then pull the yarn back so that you leave about 1/4 inch of yarn sticking out of the eye of the needle.

See our YouTube channel for video instruction of this step – as well as a 5-minute mini class

## GETTING STARTED

Print the design and tape it to a window. Tape rug hooking monk's cloth over the design and trace with a permanent marker.

Stretch your pattern on a gripper frame or use a hoop, like a Morgan Hoop, which aids in getting the monk's cloth nice and tight.

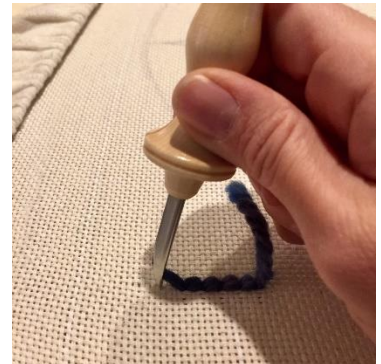
Find an area on the cloth to practice. Do not worry, the monk's cloth can handle it. Practice anywhere and then pull it out when you are ready to start your design.

Hold the needle like a pen – then move it into a more vertical position.

Punch all the way down into the monk's cloth. The wooden handle will stop you when it hits the monk's cloth.

Pull up just past the top of the monk's cloth. If you pull too high your stitch will come out. Keep your needle hovering/grazing the monk's cloth.

A variety of yarn weights fit in the fine needle. I prefer a heavy worsted/aran. For this weight you will want to punch every other hole. Do not leave gaps between your rows. If you are using worsted weight or thinner, you will want to punch in every hole and leave a bit of breathing room between rows.



**How did that go?** Flip the frame/hoop over and look at your stitches. Are any of the stitches tiny? You might not have punched down all the way down or the yarn might have gotten stuck under your arm or the frame. Make sure to keep the yarn where you can see it!

## Common Questions

### **I do not understand how the stitches stay in place.**

Tension! Tension and the fact that all your tails will be trimmed and pushed through to the front. No glue needed – glue eats yarn, do not be tempted.

### **Help – I keep counting holes. Isn't this supposed to be relaxing and easy?**

Do not worry, you will gain muscle memory for the stitches before you know it.

### **My "right side" looks so messy! Is this normal?**

This is normal. At the end of the project, you will be nudging those loops where you want them to go and steaming the piece does wonders for it.

## **Let us get started on the design!**

When working on a punch needle project the recommended order goes like this:

1. Border of the piece, if there is one (no border with this design)
2. Outlines of main details
3. Main details
4. Background

Since there is no border, start with the fan shapes and curls.

This design looks best punched in either the #14 or the #13 fine needle, or a combination, #13 for the details, #14 for the background. The design can be punched with the Oxford regular needles – it just won't be as crisp.

**Punch every-other hole or every hole depending on the yarn.** You can use your stitch gauge to check your stitches, there should be 7 -8 appearing in the cut-out square when using a heavy worsted/aran weight. If you are using thinner yarn you may see up to 12 stitches per inch, by punching in every hole. Make sure you are not crowding your stitches. Flip your work and check on it, every yarn punches a bit differently.

Once you have completed the details, move on to the inner circle. When you get to an area where you can't continue, stop, snip, poke the tail through and start in a new area. Do not jump over punched areas.

Finally, punch the outer area. Do not punch in straight rows for the background, pick an area, outline and spiral inwards until complete. This creates a subtle movement to your loops on the finished side.

Make sure you are trimming all your tails  $\frac{1}{4}$  or shorter and pushing them through to the looped side with closed scissors.

**Switching Colors:** Pull your needle up, as it clears the monk's cloth place your finger on the yarn to hold it in place as you draw the needle higher, this exposes the yarn where you can snip it with scissors. Leave about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch tail. Take your closed scissors and poke that tail back through the hole it occupies. Trim all the tails at the end. See our YouTube channel for a video on this process.



### 3 Things to Remember

Punch all the way down to the monk's cloth.

Face the channel of the needle in the direction you are going.

Turn the needle when it is down in the monk's cloth.

Make sure the monk's cloth is nice and tight on your gripper frame or hoop. The best hoops are the ones with a channel and groove, like the ones made by Morgan.

### Adding SHINE to your Shine Pattern

**SPECIAL NOTE** – this pattern is begging for fancy yarns, ribbons, and more. Remember many novelty yarns cannot be steamed. Keep this in mind and leave a bit of breathing room between rows if using a yarn that cannot be steamed.

This pattern was punched with heavy worsted weight wool yarn. It was steamed before the beads and sequins were sewn.

Any of the Oxford needles, in many combinations, can be used with this design. #13 for the details and #14 for the background was used for the sample. A second piece was punched with a #9 regular needle. It looked nice, however the design is better shown off by the smaller finer needles.

### FINISHING YOUR PIECE

This is an often overlooked, but very important step. Make sure all your tails are poked through to the front of your work. Flip your work over and tug slightly on the ends and trim them flush to the piece.

Next is your clean up phase, push and nudge your yarn loops where you want them to go. Go along your curves and push the background yarn away from the detail lines to help make them look crisper.

Take the work off the frame/hoop. Your piece should roll up like a taco when it is off the frame. This is a great sign that you used enough yarn.

1. Lay your work face up on an ironing board.
2. Place a very wet dish towel over it.
3. Press with a hot iron for 10 seconds at a time.
4. Be careful handling your piece - ouch – yarn can get hot! After you steam your work, it is time for a final clean up. You might have discovered a few tails that need to be trimmed or some other areas that can be nudged into better alignment.

Next step is your final pressing with the iron -

5. Lay work upside down and trim off the excess monk's cloth, leaving 2 inches.
6. Cut across each corner about an inch from the piece, Press the monk's cloth back onto the piece
7. Press sides back onto the piece (you are creating a mitered corner)
8. Steam and press.
9. Stitch the folded monk's cloth down.
10. If desired – sew on Velcro to your piece to allow for a variety of display options.
11. Admire your work!



**Final Step:** We would LOVE to see a photo of your work. Please feel free to post it on social media and use the International Punch Needle Rug Hooking Day hashtag **#IPNRHD**

Displayed in a painted wooden frame.  
The piece is attached with Velcro, allowing it to be swapped out with other designs.





