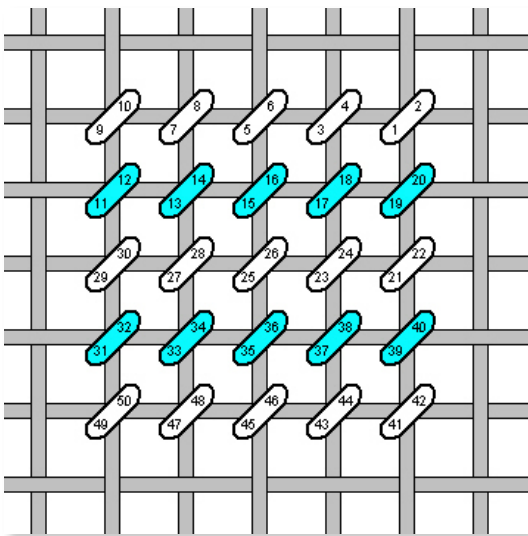


# Needlepoint 101

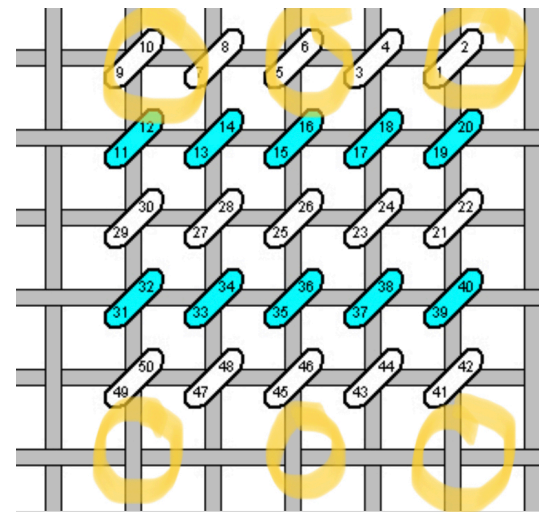
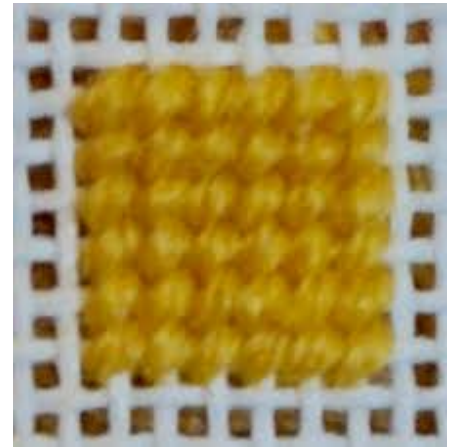
Needlepoint is truly one of the easiest things you will ever do!! When picking out your first project please keep in mind to pick out something you really like and not something you think looks easy because if you do not like it you will not want to work on it. A keychain, bookmark, ornament, dog collar, or even a belt are great first time projects!

All needlepoint is just a stitch going from bottom left to top right, a diagonal stitch. I like to think of it as going up one and over one. I will include a diagram for you to see. Everyone stitches differently and that is the great thing about needlepoint, as long as all yours stitches are going in the same direction how you get to that point doesn't matter. I will tell you how I like to get started, but please keep in mind our brains all work differently, so if this isn't easiest for you please find what does! I like to get started in my upper right hand corner and I work from right to left and then come down to my next row and work from left to right while keeping the stitches themselves going from bottom left to top right. I like to stitch my background up to my design, do my design, and then background. For me I like to break up the background and design. I have a lot of people that like to go through and stitch all of one color and then the next or they will bounce from color to color or stitch one item at a time and then stitch the background. I hear a lot of people that the background isn't their favorite thing to do, so once they have all the "fun" items stitched it takes them 10 times longer to stitch the background, whereas I am the complete opposite, I love the background, I know I'm weird! I know I am going to say this about 100 times in here but truly as long as your stitches are all going from bottom left to top right, how you get to that point doesn't matter! I hear all the time from customers that so and so told them that they weren't stitching it the correct way or that they should have started here instead of where they did, do not let that discourage you, there are a million ways to do this and just because you don't do it "their" way, doesn't make it wrong!!! I assure you that I am not the needlepoint police and just like with anything else the more you needlepoint the better you will get! Now that I have this all taken care of let me get you stitching!



Like I said above all needlepoint is, is a diagonal going from bottom left to top right. When you get started you will want to leave a "tail" of thread about 1.5-2 inches long on the back side and hold onto it for about 4-5 stitches and then you can let go, you will eventually stitch over top of the tail, so it will be good and secure. I know with a lot of hand work they tell you to do knots, but with needlepoint, especially items that will be leathered, you do not

want knots because once it is leathered you can feel those knots on the backside since the leather lays right on top of it. I know a lot of people prefer to use “waste knots” to get started, but I do not recommend this unless you are going to be doing a lot of decorative stitches because you have to go back and cut them out and tuck them under stitching. This has created now 2 extra steps on your end than if you had just left your tail originally and stitched over it. I prefer getting started in rows back and forth or better know as the congenital stitch(once you have a few projects under your belt, we are happy to show you basketweave) because this is such a easy rhythm to get into. I give the analogy that you have to know your basic algebra to do calculus, you need those stepping stones to get further up. The congenital stitch will teach you everything you need to know and once you have that down we all be happy to help you learn basketweave! I recommend getting started on your background to begin with and that way you can work on getting your hand and eye coordination and that way you do not have to worry about trying to figure out which color goes where. All you are doing is cover what is painted on the canvas with the color thread, so how to determine where you color lays isn't by where you come up or where it ends, but in-between those two spots. The color lays on the intersection, so do not look at the holes, look at the liner. If will happen where the color that is in the middle is different than where you come up and end, know that this is correct! I recommend in the beginning coming up to start your stitch and stick your needle in the top right, but instead of pulling it through pull your needle and thread away and that way you can see what is in the middle. If you are not in the correct spot all you have to do is pull your thread back a little bit and take your needle back through and this will take it out! To end a strand you will want to run your thread under about 4-5 stitches on the backside and you can cut it off even with stitching. Since you have run it under it will stay good and secure. When you start your new strand if you are working in the same area instead of leaving a tail you can run your tail under about 4-5 stitches and “hide” your tail and get going again, but if you would rather leave a tail you absolutely can! Its just when you end a strand you will always want to tuck your tail under because you may not stitch anymore in that area to secure it.



I hope you enjoy the wonderful world of needlepoint! Please do not hesitate to call or email us with any questions, I always tell everyone there are no stupid questions! You'll be addicted just like the rest of us!

Happy Stitching!!!!

-Mimi