

## Locker Hooking for Beginners

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Locker hooking became popular between 1920 and 1940 in Great Britain and in America where strips of fabric were used to create rugs. It's a similar process as that used in rug hooking, but a bit different. When locker hooking, one pulls a yarn through a canvas to form loops that are "locked" in place with another strand of wool. Unspun wool has also been used as the hooking material through the canvas.

### Patterns for Inspiration

Needle work and cross stitch patterns are good reference for locker hooking designs, however simpler ones are best.

### Locker Hooking Supplies:



The first thing you need is rug hooking canvas. The mesh is 3.75.

## Locker Hook Package



You'll find a locker hook in some craft stores in the needle arts section.

## The Locker Hook



It's a lightweight aluminum tool that looks like a crochet hook on one end and a giant tapestry needle on the other. There really isn't a substitute for this tool.

## Scissors

You'll need fabric scissors, craft scissors, and a small trim scissor.

## Tapestry Needle



You need a large-eyed tapestry needle with a blunt point.

## Fabric



The process shown in this class uses strips of batik fabric (high thread count) rather than yarn or string as used in the original locker hooking of 1920-40. The reason I use batik fabrics is because they are durable (and they're gorgeous, too).

You need a dark color for the locker hooking material and other desired colors to form the pattern on the canvas.

The amount of fabric depends on the size of the project. If you have 1/4 yard of several colors to start with, you'll have enough to learn the process.

## Tacky Glue



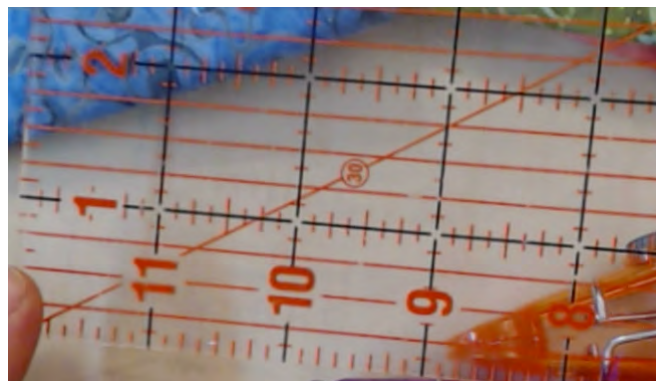
Aleene's Original Tacky glue

## Clamps



Several small pinch clamps are very helpful.

## Ruler



Any ruler will work to measure strips.

## Process - Decide How Big

Decide how big you would like the finished piece to be BEFORE you begin your project.

Cut canvas 2-4 rows beyond the desired finished size. Be sure to use craft scissors to cut the canvas.

## Glue Cut Edges

After cutting the canvas to size, I like to add glue around all the edges. Once it's dry, the canvas won't be as likely to try to unravel.

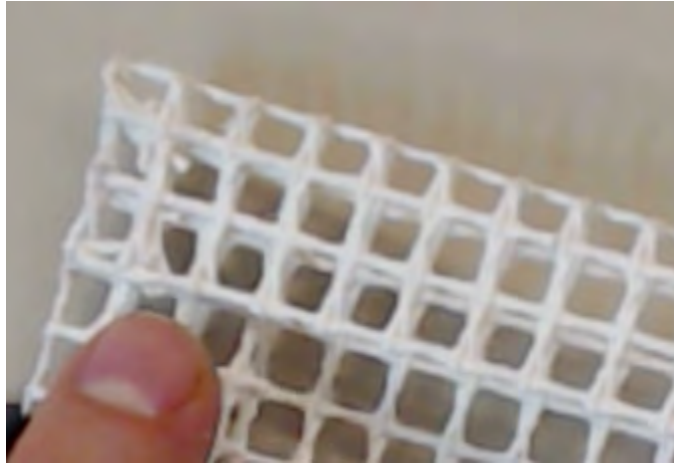
## Corners



Turn under all sides, aligning the holes in the canvas, especially at the corners. You may cut some of the bulk away from the corners, but you must apply glue to prevent the canvas from unravelling. Clamp while the glue dries. **Glue must be completely dry before beginning to locker hook.** (Watching the video will help you understand what I'm explaining.)



## Prepared Corner



Here you can see the prepared canvas with a trimmed and glued corner. I've turned down 3 rows of canvas in this example

## Fabric Strips - Locker Hooking Fabric



Snip every 1/2" and then tear the strips.

## Torn Locker Hooking Strips



This is what the torn strips look like. You can pull the threads away from the strip so that they don't get tangled up in the canvas and drive you crazy. Tear lots of strips before you begin to locker hook.

This dark fabric is the locker hooking material and also creates the edging.

## Loop Fabrics



Snip and tear 1" wide strips for the loops. Torn edges are softer than cut edges. You'll probably need to spend a few minutes getting rid of the raveling threads.

## Edging the Canvas



Thread tapestry needle with a narrow strip. Enter the canvas with the needle several squares from one corner.

## Fabric Tail



Pull the strip of fabric through the canvas until you reach the last 2-3 inches. Lay the fabric tail along the edge of the canvas and as you wrap and stitch the canvas edges, you'll stitch over the tail which will secure it in place.



## Wrapped Edge



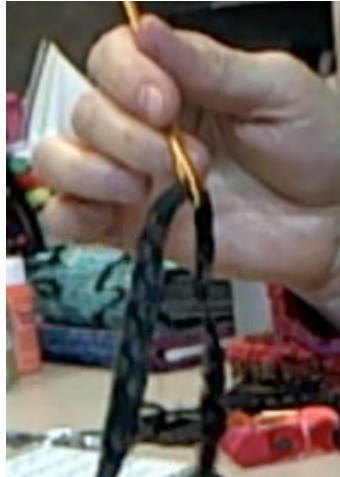
Each edge will be wrapped and stitched like this. You might need to put more than one stitch in the corner to cover the canvas.

## Ending the Edge Fabric



When you finish stitching around the canvas, run the needle under a few stitches and pull the fabric strip through and then clip. No need to knot.

## Ready to Locker Hook



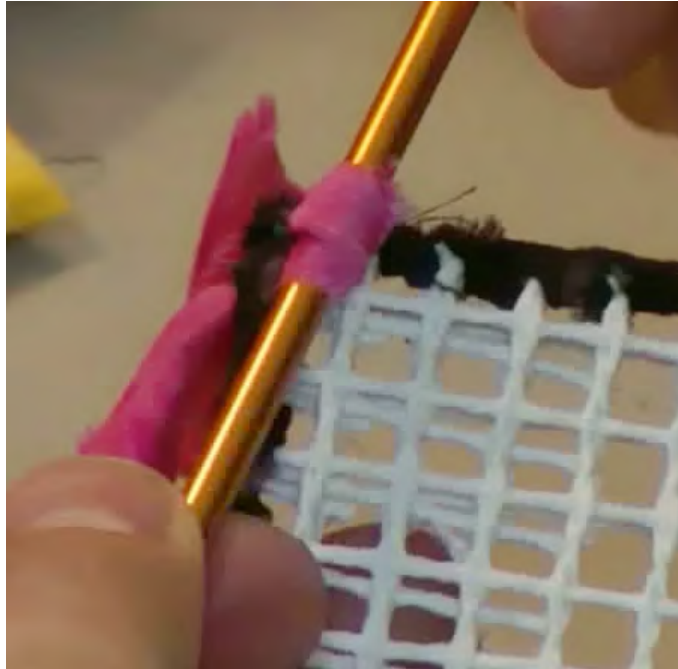
Thread a new piece of locker hooking fabric (no more than 1 yard in length) **through the needle end of the locker hook.**

## Insert the Hook



Insert the hook in the canvas. It may be quite tight in the corner. Once you get going, it's a very easy process, but getting started may take some perseverance!

## Pull up a Loop



Loop fabric is held beneath the canvas.

Pull up loop to the top side of the canvas. The loop is approximately 1/4" tall.

## Pull Up the Next Loop



Insert the hook into the next square and pull up another loop. (The first row all around the canvas is tight because the wrapped edge fabric is sharing the same space.) At first it feels awkward to do this. It gets easier and easier.

## Continue to Pull Up Loops



Pull up 5 or 6 loops.



## Slide the Hook Through



Slide the hook all the way through the loops and pull the locker hooking material through. The locker hooking fabric fills the loops and locks them into place. Be sure to leave a tail of fabric. We'll deal with that later.

## Repeat the Process



Pull up the next 5-6 loops.



## Slide the Hook Through



Slide the locker hook through the loops and pull the material through to lock loops in place. Repeat until you run out of a strip or wish to change colors.

## To Add a Strip - Splicing



Fold the end of the new strip over about 1". Cut a slit in the strip about 3/8" long.

## Snip the First Strip, Too



Fold the end of the old strip over about 1". Cut a slit in the strip about 3/8" long.

## Note



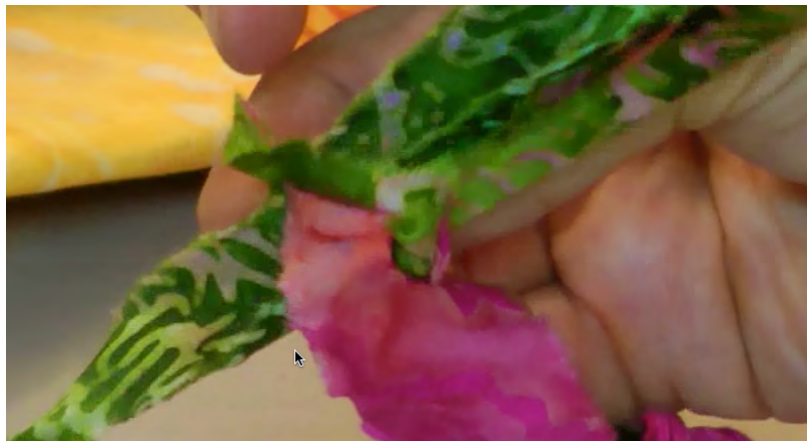
Note that the slit does NOT go to the end of the strip. You must leave some fabric beyond the end of the slit.

## Insert



Insert the new strip into the old strip.

## Pull New Strip Through



Stay with me here. . .

Pull the long end of the new strip through the slit in the new strip - all the way through.

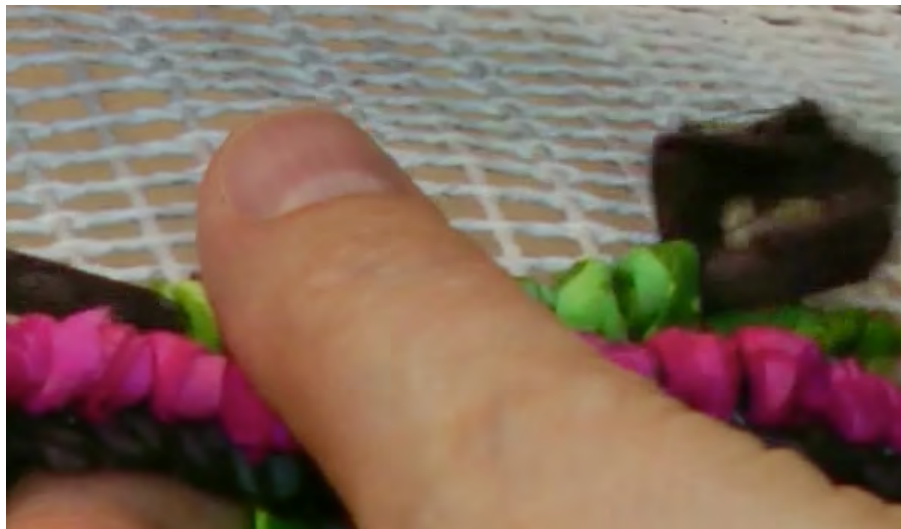
## Pull to Tighten



Pull both the old and the new strips to tighten gently and create one long strip again.

You splice the locker hooking material exactly the same way, even though the strip is narrower.

## Continue Locker Hooking



When you come to the splice, keep it on the back side of the canvas.

Just keep pulling up loops on the hook and then slide hook through with the locker hooking material and lock the loops. That's it! Keep going and have fun.



## Exposed Canvas



As the fabric relaxes, you won't see much of the canvas at all.

## Gluing the Splice



Sometimes where you splice one fabric to another, it gets lumpy on the back side of the canvas. I add a very small amount of Tacky glue and smooth the fabric down until it's flattened.



## Finishing the Fabric Tails



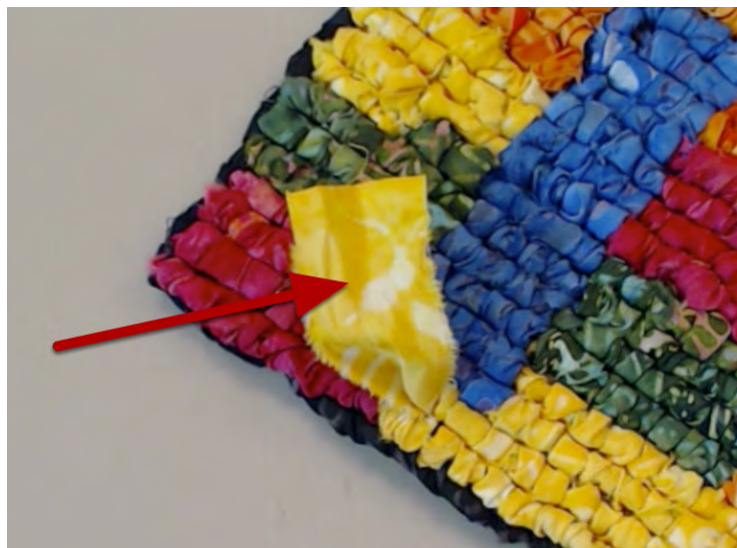
This is what the back side looks like before working the tails in.

## Thread the Tapestry Needle



Thread the fabric tail through the tapestry needle and pull the tail to the FRONT of the locker hooking.

## Tail on Top



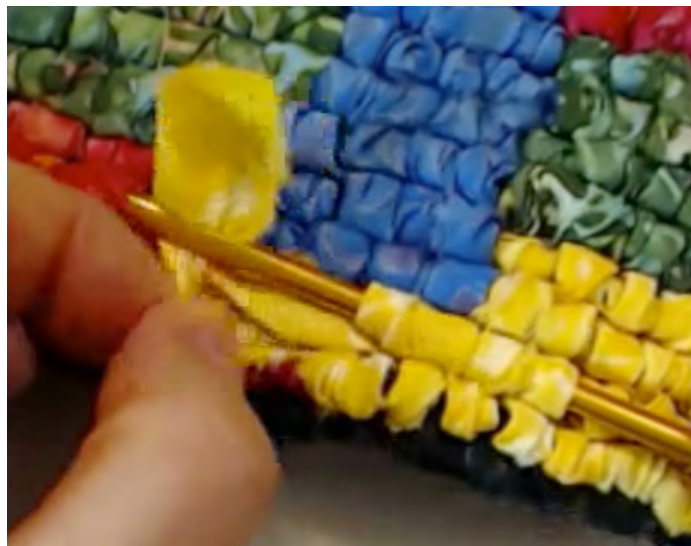
See the tail?

## Insert the Locker Hook



Insert the eye end of the locker hook into several loops away from the fabric tail.

## Thread the Locker Hook Eye



Thread the fabric tail through the eye of the locker hook.

## Pull the Tail Through



Pull it into the loops on the hook to bury it. Clip the end with your small scissors.

Repeat this process for every fabric tail.

That's all there is to locker hooking. It takes a little practice to get comfortable with the steps.

## Ways to Use Locker Hooking



Bracelet made with cotton scraps. I didn't even hide the splices in this one. They became part of the texture.



## Silk



Bracelet made with strips of silk.

## Journal Cover



I locker hooked the entire cover from miscellaneous batik fabrics and then I glued it to a composition notebook.



# Class Notes

## Front and Back



This is the entire cover.

## Locker Hooked Spine



This is a handmade book. When it was finished, I created a piece of locker hooking and glued it on to cover the spine of the book.