

Locker Hooking For Beginners

History of Locker Hooking

Locker hooking became popular between 1920 and 1940 in Great Britain and 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.

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

The process shown in this class uses strips of batik fabric (high thread count) rather than yarn or string as in the original locker hooking of 1920-40.

Supplies:

- Canvas 3.75
- Locker Hook
- Scissors
- Tapestry Needle
- Batik Fabrics - a dark color used as the locker hooking material and other desired colors to form the pattern on the canvas.
- Tacky Glue
- Small Clamps

Process:

To prepare canvas:

1. Decide on desired finished size **before** beginning.
2. Cut canvas 2-4 rows beyond the finished size which will be turned to the underside before beginning to locker hook.
3. Turn under all sides, aligning the holes in the canvas. You may cut some of the bulk away from the corners, but you must apply glue to prevent the canvas from

- unraveling. Clamp while the glue dries. Glue must be completely dry before beginning to locker hook.
4. Tear strips of fabric. Locker hook material is torn in 1/2" strips. A dark color will show less than a light color. Loop fabric is torn into 3/4" - 1" strips. Tearing creates a softer edge.
 5. After canvas is completely dry, whip stitch around all edges with locker hooking fabric and tapestry needle.

Prepare to locker hook:

1. Thread the locker hooking fabric through the eye of the hook.
2. Loop fabric is held beneath the canvas.
3. Pull a loop to the top side of the canvas (approximately 1/4" tall loop). Repeat until you have 4-5 loops on the hook.
4. Slide the hook through the loops and pull the locker hooking fabric all the way through the loops which locks them in place.
5. Continue locker hooking until canvas is entirely filled.
6. Bring all fabric tails to the top side with a tapestry needle.
7. Slide the eye end of the hook through several loops toward a tail end. Thread the fabric tail through the eye and carefully pull it into the loops to hide it. Cut off any excess. Repeat for each fabric tail.
8. Sparingly apply Tacky Glue to any spots on the back side of the canvas that need a bit of reinforcing.
9. You can splice strips together to form longer strips. Please see video class for demonstration.

How to Get Creative With Locker Hooking:

- * Coasters and Table Mats
- * Journal Covers
- * Bracelets
- * Baskets
- * Book Bindings
- * Hanging Ornaments