

RUSSIAN PUNCHNEEDLE

Often times with fashion we see a return of something old, in a new form—such as the infamous bell-bottom pants. How many times will this style return to being fashionable? So it is with quilting. Yet, as we all know, the new release of an old product must have a unique twist or appeal. Bell bottoms as they were worn in the 1960s wouldn't be as popular today, unless embellished with tapestry belts, rhinestones, or frayed pockets.

So what's coming around again in the quilting and handwork arena? Punchneedle is making an incredible comeback, with new styles of patterns and threads that are sure to tempt you into this delightful craft! You might remember the old name of this handcraft, Igolochky. Yet today, punch needle is everywhere, and offers quilters of all skill levels a chance to incorporate something new into their quilting.

While we shopped through Spring Quilt Market in Kansas City, we were delighted to see the new options available for punch needle. The pattern styles, we felt, would appeal to our customer base—a little bit of traditional combined with a touch of whimsy. And might we mention floss? We were overwhelmed at the new choices of overdyed floss. This floss has variegated color, for a textural look in a finished project. Need to add some sparkle? Check out the polyester “shiny” or metallic floss selections. In various colors and textures, the floss world is now as diverse as the fabrics you buy.

Most of all, we loved the portability that punchneedle offered. A few skeins of floss, a piece of weaver's cloth and your punch needle are all that's required! Place your items in a handy project pouch and you're ready to go. We are busy women, traveling frequently, attending our children's sporting events, guild meetings, and more, so portable handwork is a plus for us. What's more, we love the instant gratification we receive, when we can finish a project in just a short amount of time!

Punchneedle projects can be finished on their own, or incorporated into an existing project. On our travels we saw finished projects mounted in beautiful frames, punchneedle ornaments, purses with a small punch needle project sewn into the front flap, punch needle projects embellished with buttons, and more! One pattern we came across allowed for a customized date, which would make for a great wedding or housewarming gift.

Inquire at your local quilt store to see if they carry the supplies needed for a punchneedle project. As we all know, it is so soothing to work with our hands, and this craft has come back in a big way. With freshly updated colors and designs, we know you'll love the return of this craft as much as we do!

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