

## What exactly is Punchneedle?

A popular craft for many years, punchneedle is making a comeback in the quilting and craft industries. Sometime referred to as “*Igolochky*”, punchneedled projects resemble a miniature hooked rug (with a lot less time involved). Using a hollow needle and floss, you actually work from the back of the design and form loops on the front of the design. Easy to learn and quick to finish, this make a fun and very portable hobby.

## I don't need another hobby—why would I want to punchneedle?

I hear this question all the time, and I had even put myself on a “new hobby ban” for 10 years prior to starting punchneedle. I’ve now fallen in love with this craft – and made room for it in my repertoire.

First is the portability – we all travel, whether by plane, car, train, etc., and can’t easily take those sewing machines along with us. Of course we can take our hand sewing, but I’m not a big hand sewer, and love to have craft projects to carry. With the increased airline restrictions, it’s even getting hard to bring on your sewing supplies. Punchneedle is COMPLETELY portable! In one small project pouch (or plastic baggie), you can fit everything you need to finish an entire project – start to finish! (And from my experience - you can even take your punchneedle on the airplane – but don't quote me!)

Punchneedle is easy to start because the initial investment in supplies is minimal. You don’t need a sewing machine or many fancy tools, and many of you may even have a hoop or two lying around the house waiting to be used!

Nervous about learning how to punchneedle? Don’t be! In just minutes, you’ll be able to teach yourself and be ready to finish your first project in no time. Our Cameo Punchneedle comes with detailed drawings and instructions on everything from how to thread the needle to how punch that thread into the fabric.

Okay, another reason this is a great hobby... it doesn't take much time to finish a project. I love

cross stitch, knitting, and of course, quilting, but sometimes I just don't have the time to finish the projects. I can finish a punchneedle project in a day or two and have it ready as a quick gift or decoration for the upcoming holiday. It is fun and easy to do, and there are lots of different designs out there to suit any taste.

## All right, I'm tempted...what do I need to get started?

To get started, you need a punchneedle (a hollow needle with adjustable gauge), a locking hoop, a pattern, and floss.

## What is the actual “Punchneedle”?

Punchneedles come in many types, but we love the Cameo Punchneedle which has no parts that are easy to lose, the gauge is easy to change, and the Punchneedle feels like you are holding a pen in your hand (not too small!).

## Why do I need a locking hoop, can't I just use any old hoop?

A locking hoop holds your fabric “drum tight”, an essential part of the punchneedle process. It is difficult to punch through the fabric when your fabric is not tight, and your design will look uneven and unfinished. A hoop that keeps the fabric tight makes the punchneedle process very easy! We’ve got a great 7” locking hoop that is made of hard plastic and won’t distort shape when you are making that fabric drum tight!

## What type of fabric do I use? Where do I get the fabric?

Most of the patterns use a weaver’s cloth, which is a polyester/cotton blend. The polyester gives some sturdiness to the fabric, so you can leave it in your hoop while you're working on it (and in between). Nearly all of the patterns come with the punchneedle design pre-printed on a piece of weaver’s cloth. At our store, we carry weaver’s cloth on the bolt (44” wide) in a white and a natural. Call or drop us an email for availability of the weaver’s cloth.

