



Round Ornament

FINISHING GUIDE



Welcome!

In this guide, you'll find detailed project instructions for completing a round needlepoint ornament without glue, using the lacing method. This is a great first project because round ornaments are one of the easiest shapes to finish. You'll learn the mechanics of blocking, making the front and back of your ornaments (sometimes called cookies), and assembling them with your own custom-made cording.

About This Guide

Each step includes:

- Written instructions
- Photographs for key steps
- Call outs with QR codes to scan for accompanying videos or for additional resources

About Your Instructor

Amanda Metes is a Grosse Pointe, Michigan-based needlepoint finisher. She's committed to helping needlepointers discover the magic of needlepoint finishing through her online tutorials and in-person workshops. She's been offering professional direct-to-consumer finishing services and workshops since 2023 and launched online tutorials in 2024.



Materials

- Needlepoint, stitched and blocked
- Acid-free 4 ply matboard (2 sheets: one for front, one for back)
- Batting such as Warm and Natural (2 layers for front)
- Floss or DMC Pearle 5 (2 skeins of floss or 1 skein DMC Pearle 5)
- Additional floss or comparable thread for lacing (approx 4 feet)
- Invisible thread or 6lb fishing line
- Backing fabric measured 1" wider on all sides (6x6 for 4x4)

Supplies

- Sharp needle, e.g. beading needle or sharp general purpose needle - Size 7 sharps is my favorite
- Tapestry needle
- Cording maker: Laxis, Kreinik or a drill with a cup hook
- Chopstick or dull knife
- Wonderclips
- Pins
- Scissors
- Compass



Blocking with Steam

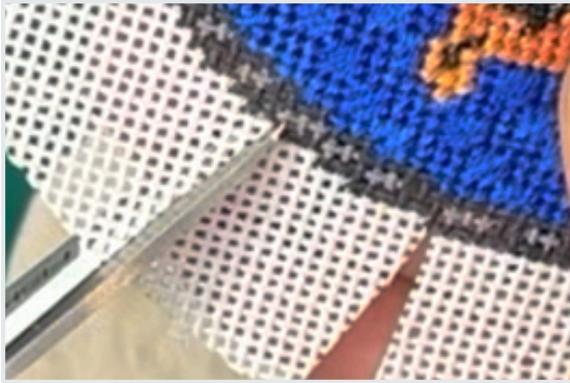
Steam blocking ensures no water directly touches your needlepoint, minimizing the risk of running colors. Test a small scrap of fiber for colorfastness.

1. Steam the needlepoint
2. Using your square or round object as a guide, stretch your needlepoint into approximate shape
3. On the long edge if you have one, align a canvas grain to the lines of your blocking board. Pin every 1/4 inch.
4. On rounds, align a canvas grain down the middle of your canvas (north and south then east to west)
5. Stretch your canvas into shape and add pins along remaining edges
6. You can **use a juice class or small bowl** to see if its round
7. Steam again as needed
8. Allow to fully cool
9. Repeat as needed



Cut the Canvas

Cutting the canvas is one of the most nerve wracking parts about finishing. Just like a haircut, you can take more off but you can't put it back on. So take your time.

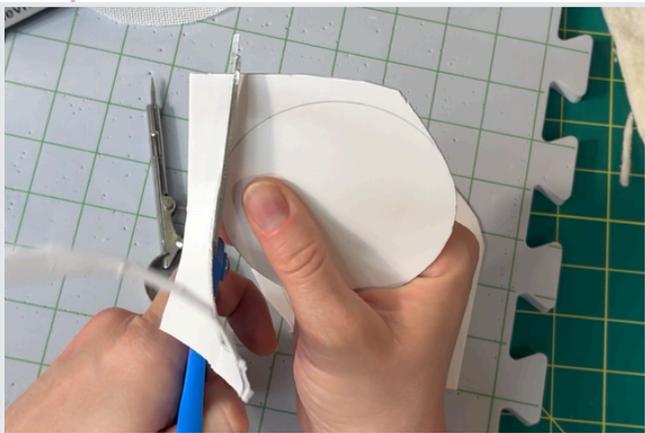


1. Cut out your canvas from the waste canvas, leaving approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch all the way around the project. For 13 mesh projects, leave the allowance longer, approximately 1 inch all the way around the edge of your project
2. Dart the canvas all the way around
3. STOP one canvas intersection away from the edge of your stitching. **Don't cut into the cell with a stitch**
4. Tab width can be $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide
5. If the tabs are too wide, it will look like an octagon when you're finished. For 13 mesh, tabs can be on the wider side at approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide



Cut the Matboard & Batting

Once you have your canvas cut, the rest is less stressful – promise. Cut the matboard and batting using your templated shape as your guide.



1. Calculate $1/8$ inch smaller on all sides (for 4 inch round, your circle will be 3.75 wide). TIP: this is approximately 2 canvas intersections smaller on each side
2. Using a compass or other template, trace 2 circles onto your matboard
3. Cut one slightly within the pencil line (this will be the front)
4. Cut another slightly outside the pencil line (this will be the back)
5. Using a pencil or pen, mark the mat board to indicate "Top Inside." This is **especially important for special shapes** but I've found that it's also helpful for rounds or squares as sometimes they are not perfectly blocked
6. Line up your front matboard on two layers of batting
7. Cut around the perimeter and trim so the batting is slightly smaller than the matboard ($1/16$ inch or so)



Make the Cording

You can make cording using a cording maker that's designed for the task (Lacis or Krenik are both very popular) or you can use a drill and a cup hook. You can also find pre-made cording; look for 3mm width. I use DMC floss for make custom cording, but you can also use DMC pearle, or other needlepoint materials for various effects.

1. Cut your floss to the desired length for your finished project. For a 4 inch round, you need 9-12 strands of DMC floss cut to 30 inches
2. Tie one end to your jig, keeping the color bundles separate
3. Loop them into your Lacis, being careful to match the colors in order so they don't criss cross. Check for even lengths and tension across each of the colors. Clip off excess so it doesn't get tangled
4. The floss running from your jig to your Lacis should be gently taught. Slide the button on the Lacis to position 1 to begin to twist. This first step twists each bundle on its own
5. When its tight but before it starts to bunch, stop twisting. **The key to a really great twist is actually a tight and even first twist**
6. Slide the button on the Lacis to 2 to twist your color bundles together
7. The cording will begin to jump and dance when you're about half way through. When it begins to tension again, you're close to done. Stop before it doubles on itself or begins to bunch up. You'll hear the Lacis begin to slow Avoid over tensioning and putting stress on your Lacis
8. Remove the ends from the Lacis and knot or tape
9. Remove the ends from the jig while holding the ends you removed from your Lacis to maintain tension. Knot or tape end

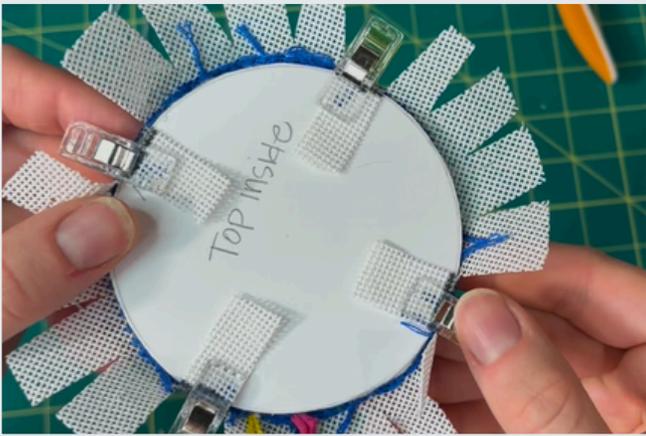


Here's a helpful video on using the Lacis.



Assembly - Front

Watch for canvas showing around the perimeter. If you see canvas, the cording will not cover this like you think it will. Take the time to disassemble and trim your matboard a bit.

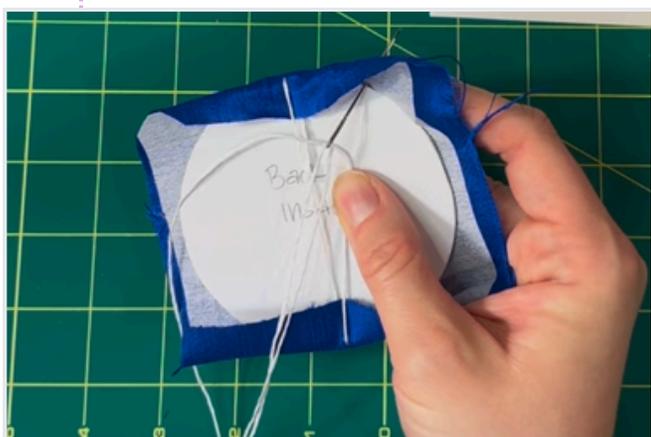


1. With your needlepoint face down on a surface, layer the batting on the canvas, and top with the matboard. Ensure your "Inside Top" reminder matches the top of the needlepoint object. You should be able to see stitching all the way around.
2. Test fit of the tabs, ensuring the canvas wraps around the batting and matboard to **"kiss" the table if lying on a surface**
3. Add 4-6 wonder clips around the perimeter, continuing to check for fit
4. If it does not fit, disassemble and trim the matboard and batting where needed
5. Cut a piece of lacing string 3 ft long
6. Make a knot in your floss and run it through the top tab. Lace it through tab at the bottom of the object. Move in a circular motion around the canvas, each time lacing across the ornament.
7. Your goal is taught front but you do not need to pull the tabs extremely tightly. If you find yourself doing so, the tabs could rip. Simply trim the matboard a hair more
8. Once you've secured all your tabs, knot off and trim excess



Assembly - Back

This process is very similar to the needlepoint assembly you just completed. I like to line all fabrics in fusible interfacing, as pictured.



1. Lay your fabric face down on the table and place your back matboard piece on top. Align grain to top arrow.
2. Trim within $3/4$ of an inch all the way around and add additional Wonderclips at north/south/east/west
3. Cut a piece of floss or string to 2-2.5 feet
4. Make a knot and sew it through the fabric.
5. Run your floss across the object, moving in a circular pattern like you did with your needlepoint canvas. Your laces should be approximately $3/4$ of an inch apart Remove your Wonderclips as you go
6. Knot off & trim
7. Sink a pin into the top of your front and back pieces
8. Use one or two Wonderclips to secure the front and the back of your ornament together, checking your alignment. (I like to clip on the left, right, and bottom, out of the way of the top, where we'll add cording next)

For tips on picking backing suitable backing fabric, scan here.



Add the Cording

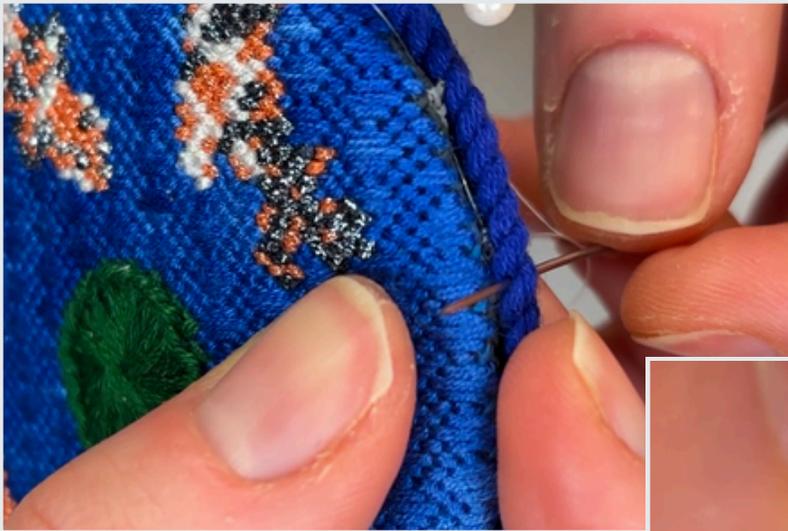
A tight, even cording sewn on with even, hardly-detectable stitches is one of the hallmarks of a shop-quality finish.

1. Begin by inserting the end of your cording at the top. Sink a pin between the two colors to secure, pinning the cording to the **front round**
2. If you're using the Lacis, head right (clockwise)
3. Run your cording around the ornament pinning every inch or two. Moving and re-applying Wonderclips to keep the front and back of your ornament together. You can twist your cording in hand as you go for a tighter effect.
4. Once you reach the top, create a loop going in front of where you started and inserted the tail. Loop up to your desired length (I prefer a 3 inch drop)
5. Cut off excess, leaving $3/4$ of an inch or more
6. Bury the tail next to the first tail using a chopstick
7. Adjust and pin the loop in place
8. Thread your needle with approximately 1.5 feet of invisible thread (doubled) or finishing line and knot



Add the cording, continued

1. Starting one inch away from the loop, start sewing by burying the knot behind your cording, piercing out through the back fabric. Thread your needle through the cording colors (careful to not pierce through the colors) and stitch down through the needlepoint very close to the edge. Come out on the fabric side very close to the edge
2. After your first few stitches (which should be shorter), angle your needle in the direction of travel. Use a color change as my frequency/width guide
3. When you get to the loop, add a few reinforcing straight stitches to secure
4. When you reach your start, stitch over your start by a few stitches, sharing the stitch holes if possible
5. To finish, double/triple knot as closely to the ornament as you can. Run your tail through the fabric to bury the tail before snipping





Hooray!
You finished a round ornament!

I hope you feel proud of your accomplishment and display it proudly. Like anything in life, practice does improve your results and speed.

Grow your needlepoint finishing skills beyond the basics with our other offerings including mini courses, in-person events, and our online community **The Needlepoint Finishing Club** full of resources and the support you need to grow your skills. You'll get access to resources, our community-exclusive Finish-Along events, and troubleshooting help.

The Needlepoint Finishing Fairy was founded to elevate the magic of needlepoint finishing through finishing services, detailed how-to-tutorials tutorials, classes and workshops.

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