

This year's theme is "Home"; we hope you will celebrate with us on April 13, 2024 by punching this year's pattern: *Home Is Where the Heart Is*

Help us spread the joy of punch needle by sharing your projects on social media with the hashtag #IPNRHD, or emailing a photo to una@woolywalkers.com

Materials Needed

- monk's cloth, or other rug hooking foundation fabric, such as primitive linen.
- *Home Is Where The Heart Is* pattern
- Scissors
- Permanent Marker
- The Oxford No. 10 Regular Punch Needle (1/4 inch or .64 cm loops)
- A gripper frame, no-slip hoop, or other rug frame with interior dimensions to accommodate the 7"x 9" (17.8 cm x 22.9 cm) pattern. (or the 7"x 7" (17.8 cm x 17.8 cm) optional pattern)
- Wool yarn: I punch with worsted weight yarn using two strands in the regular #10 Oxford Punch Needle. If you punch with a bulky rug yarn, use one strand, and use the same weights as a guide for how much you will need. The colors and amounts below pertain to our own Wooly Worsted yarn that you would find in our kit, which is available on my website, woolywalkers.com. Feel free to use any yarn or colors you choose, and you can use the weights as a guide.

For the 7”x 7” Pattern (lengths are for worsted weight, which will be used two strands at a time in the regular Oxford Punch Needle as previously described).

Yarn Color	By Weight	By Length
Black	.56 oz/16 g	16 yards/14.6 m
Hunter Green (dark green)	.1 oz/3 g	4 yards/3.7 m
Fern (light green)	.35 oz/10 g	10 yards/8.2 m
White	.25 oz/7 g	7 yards/6.4 m
Sky (light blue)	.42 oz/12 g	13 yards/11.9 m
Rosa (mauve)	1.1 oz/31 g	33 yards/30.2 m

Additional yarn that will be needed if you choose to add the optional lettering at the top.

Yarn Color	By Weight	By Length
Black	.32 oz/9 g	9 yards/8.2 m
Berol (medium blue)	.21 oz/6 g	7 yards/6.4 m
White	.1 oz/3 g	2 yards/1.8 m

The Basic Technique

1. Grip the punch needle like a pencil with your fingers against the shoulder of the punch. As you punch, the needle should be held perpendicular to the fabric.
2. The channel in the punch, which makes it so easy to thread, is like an arrow and should be facing in the direction you are punching.
3. Punch through the fabric all the way down so that the wooden handle meets the fabric each time.
4. As you pull the punch back up to move to the next stitch, do not lift the tip of the needle up off the fabric, but instead, just skim across the surface to your next punch.
5. The recommended stitch lengths for most projects are six stiches per inch (2.54 cm) for outlining, single lines, and the two outer rows of your project, and four stiches per inch (2.54 cm) for filling in. Regularly checking your work with a one inch stitch gauge will help to ensure your success.

GETTING STARTED WITH THIS PROJECT

This year we are giving you two options for the design. I recommend that beginners use the 7” (17.8 cm) square design that includes just the heart with home (and no lettering). For those looking to challenge their skills, I have included a banner across the top with the word “HOME.” The pattern is a mirror image, as previously discussed since punch needle is worked from the back.

TRANSFER YOUR PATTERN

Use a sunny window or light box to trace your pattern onto monk's cloth. Tape the pattern to the window, place the monk's cloth over the pattern and tape it in place. Remember that if you are using the full pattern, the word "HOME" should be backwards since we punch from the back. Trace the design using a permanent marker.

STRETCH THE MONK'S CLOTH ON A FRAME OR HOOP

With the pattern facing up, stretch the cloth evenly on a gripper frame or no-slip hoop. It should be as tight as possible, ideally as tight as a drum, which also helps in maintaining consistent loops.

PUNCH YOUR DESIGN

Punch over the pattern using the stitch lengths indicated below. When filling in, don't forget to 'brick' your stitches (offset each neighboring row so that the stitches in successive rows do not line up). I chose the following colors but feel free to personalize the pattern with colors of your own. Adventurous punchers - You could adapt the pattern to look like your own house, add little dots for stars in the sky, or dots for flowers on the hills.

Suggested punching order:

1. Outside border in Black, one row at 6 stitches per inch (2.5 cm)
2. Outline the heart in Black, one row at 6 stitches per inch
3. Roof and door in Black at 4 stitches per inch
4. Top of the hills in Hunter Green at 6 stitches per inch
5. Fill in (in any order) the sky in Sky, the house in White, and the hills in Fern, all at 4 stitches per inch
6. Fill in the background in Rosa at 4 stitches per inch



Optional 'Home' banner

7. Lettering, one row in Black at 6 stitches per inch
8. Polka dots in white (3 simple punches that will result in two tails and one loop)
9. The border, one row in Black at 6 stitches per inch
10. Fill in the background in Beryl at 4 stitches per inch



SNIP YARN TAILS

All your yarn ends should be on the front with the loops. If they are not, push them through using your needle. Trim off the ends flush with the loops.

PARK YOUR LOOPS

'Parking' your loops simply means cleaning up your project by slightly adjusting the loops from the front using the tip of your empty needle. Often, when you turn your work over and check it from the front, the design may look a little off (particularly the details, including lettering) even though it looks fine from the back. Don't panic, just nudge the loops into place from the front with your needle.

STEAM AND FLATTEN

Remove your project from the frame or hoop, lay it front side up, and steam using a damp cloth and an iron set on 'wool'. Wet the cloth fully (a tea towel or bath towel work well) and wring out excess water. Place the damp cloth directly on top of the loops and steam with your iron. Steaming will relax the wool fibers and help flatten the piece.

DE-FUZZ

I like to use a simple sweater shaver to clean up the front of my punch needle project after it has been steamed and has dried. This will get rid of any unwanted fuzz and sharpen the design.

FINISHING

All that remains is to finish the edges of the monk's cloth. Common options are whip stitching the edge with yarn, or folding the monk's cloth to the back and hemming.

Would you like a quick no-sew option for finishing? On a small project like this one, use some iron-on adhesive with a piece of felt. First, trim the edges of the monk's cloth to about 1" (2.54 cm), and cut the corners off at about $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm), fig. 1. Fold the corners over first, then the sides, and press using your steam iron, fig. 2. Then, using a piece of felt cut to size and some iron-on adhesive, use your iron to cover the back of your project with the felt, fig. 3.

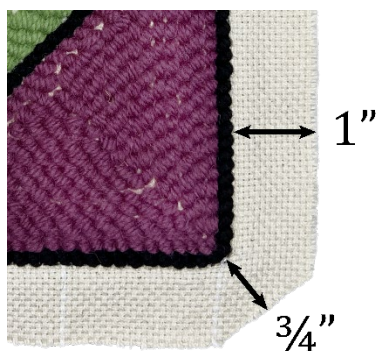


fig. 1



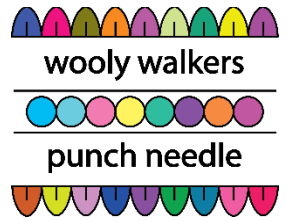
fig. 2



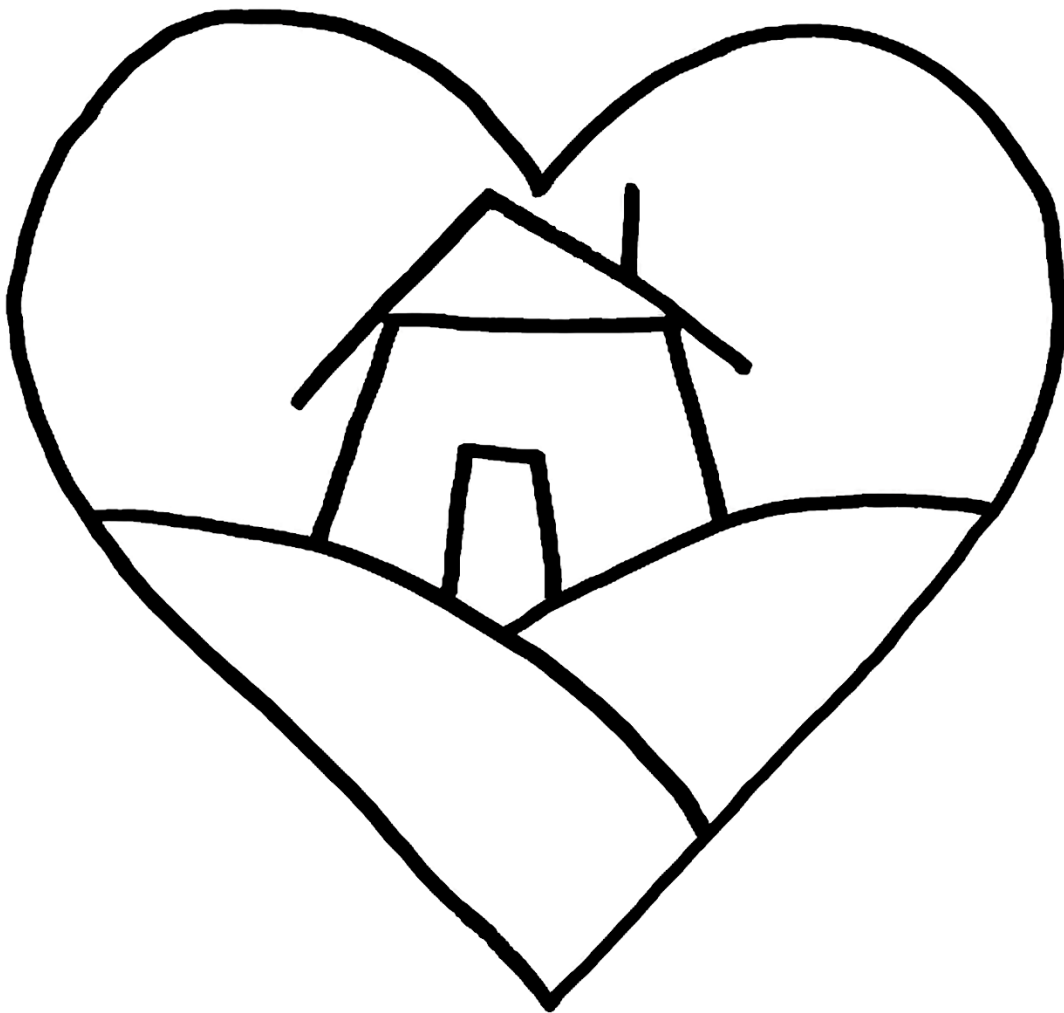
fig. 3

QUESTIONS

If you have questions about this pattern, or punch needle in general, I'm happy to help! Email me, Una Walker, at una@woolywalkers.com. Don't forget to post your pictures on Facebook and Instagram with the hashtag #IPNRHD!



• HOME •



• ARBNAILE •

• HJFEMMET •

• KOTI •

• NEM •

ZUNANSE.

MAMISON.

HOGGAR.

~EV~.