

Ellen's Needlepoint Tips & Tricks



serendipity

NEEDLEWORKS

hello lovely!

I'm so glad you're here. We're gonna have a great time! Get ready to meet oodles of brand new friends - kindred spirits who share your love for all things needlepoint and stitching related. And, we'll explore all kinds of new ways to bring more color, creativity, and fun to your needlepoint hobby.



Be sure and hop over to our Serendipity Needleworks Facebook group, too, and request an invite to join, if you haven't already. It's a happenin' place!

I created this little guide to corral all kinds of important information for you in one handy location. Just print it out, pop it in your project bag and Voila! You have a pocket guide chock full of tips and tricks that you can refer to over and over again.

“In the rhythm
of the needle,
there is music
for the soul”

Enjoy...and, as always, happy stitching!!!

XXXX!!! Ellen :)

“My soul is fed with needle and thread.”

work basket essentials

1

Several Sizes of
Tapestry Needles



2

Embroidery
Scissors

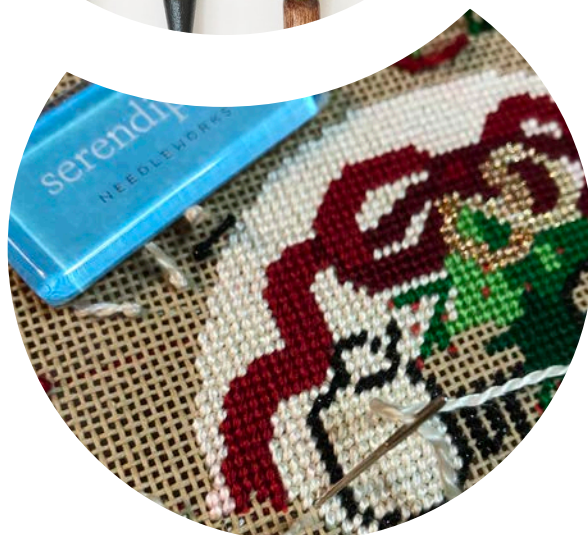
3

Laying Tool



4

Stitcher's Best
Friend



5

Needle Minder

work basket essentials

6

Measuring Tape

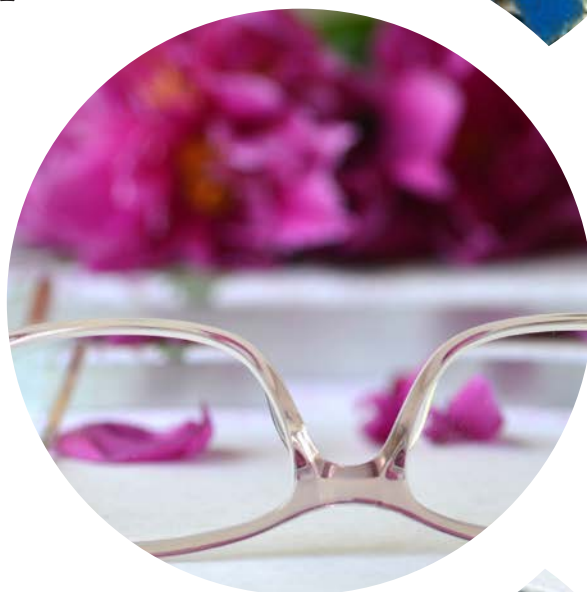


7

Box of Brass Tacks
with Tack Remover

8

Magnification
Device
(Reading Glasses)



9

Artist's Tape
(to tape canvas edges)



10

Floss Away Thread
Organizer

How much thread do I need?



The Fist Method

Make a fist. Place the flat part of your fist on the canvas and move it along the surface, noting how many "fists" of each color you need for each section of your canvas. The flat part of your fist is equivalent to approximately 5 square inches of canvas. You can use this method to estimate yardage for large blocks of color and for backgrounds.



The Thumb Method

For smaller areas, you'll need to use your thumb as a guide. The distance from the top knuckle on your thumb to the tip of your thumb is about an inch, so two side-by-side "thumbs" is equivalent to approximately one square inch of canvas. You can use this method to estimate yardage for smaller blocks of color and scattered bits of color.

Next....

After you've counted the square inches required of a particular color, multiply that number by 1.5 to determine how many total yards you need. Next, divide the total yardage required by the number of yards in a skein to determine how many skeins you need to purchase.

NOTE: This is not an exact process and the measurements used for our examples are based on an average sized hand. It's always a good idea to add 20% to your total to ensure that you'll have enough to complete your project.

What to look for when you buy a painted canvas...

Tips to Help you Pick the Perfect Needlepoint Project

Choosing a painted canvas can be intimidating, but these tips will help you make the right decision for your next project.

1 Choose a canvas that is relatively small - no larger than 10" x 10". Remember, the smaller the project, the more quickly you'll finish it.

2 Your piece should be painted on 13 or 14 count canvas, so it's easier to see. Smaller mesh (like 18 count) does provide more detail, but it's harder to see and it takes longer to finish. Try an 18 mesh piece after you feel more comfortable with working on painted canvas.

3 If you're planning to use decorative stitches on your project, be sure that the design elements are large enough to accommodate them. In other words, choose a piece that has large blocks of color.

4 Choose a canvas that is stitch painted. Stitch painted canvases are painstakingly hand painted so that you know exactly which color to use on every canvas intersection. They're pricier, but it's worth the extra expense when you think about how long it takes to create one - and how much frustration the artist is saving you from feeling.

5 Is there a lot of shading in the design? If there is, you need to be prepared to do a lot of thread changing. Heavily shaded pieces are harder to stitch using decorative stitches, too.

6 Do you love, Love, L-O-V-E the canvas? If you don't, you probably won't finish it, so wait until you find something that really speaks to your heart.

Get Ellen's weekly NeedleNotes - tutorials, tips, and tools that will help you improve your needlepoint skills so you can stitch with confidence.



What size mesh is your canvas?



Lay a ruler across the canvas and count the number of threads in an inch. How many did you get? The number you count is the mesh size of your canvas and the mesh size is equal to how many stitches it takes to complete a running inch.



Which size needle should I use?

Stitcher's Needle Guide

Canvas Mesh Size

Tapestry Needle Size

#8 - #10

Size 16

#10 - #12

Size 18

#12 - #14

Size 20

#14 - #18

Size 22

#22 - 24

Size 24 - 26

“ Although the threads of
my life have often
seemed knotted, I know,
by faith, that on the other
side of the embroidery
there is a crown... ”

-Corrie Ten Boom



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