



Foot Book

BERNINA Needle Punch Set

Foundation & Background: Wool or wool felt

Techniques: Needle punching wool roving; needle punching silk scraps

Embellishments: Stitching printed photos; title tag attached with ribbon

BERNINA Needle Punch #45

Traditionally a hand-worked technique, needle punching can be crafted by hand using a special attachment for BERNINA sewing machines. The technique creates a textured surface by punching roving (fibers that have been carded and combed, but not spun), yarn, or fabrics into a base or background fabric. The punching is done with a series of barbed needles that enmesh the fibers into the fabric as they are punched over and over again.

Wool is the traditional fabric used for the background and also for the roving. Other sturdy fabrics such as denim or felt can be used and roving is available in several additional fibers such as silk and cotton. Along with roving, soft yarns work well for punching. Small pieces of fabric such as silk or linen can also be punched into the background fabric.



Wool Roving

Even though this is a freemotion technique, it takes very little practice and it is easy to be successful on the first try. The feed dog is lowered and the bobbin and bobbin case are removed from the machine.

Installing the Needle Punch Set

BERNINA has two versions of the Needle Punch attachment, each made for a different group of machines. The original accessory works on the BERNINA models that have a CB hook system and a maximum stitch width of 5.5mm. The second version works on the BERNINA models that have a Rotary hook system and a maximum stitch width of 9mm. Both Needle Punch Sets work in similar ways and are installed following the same steps:

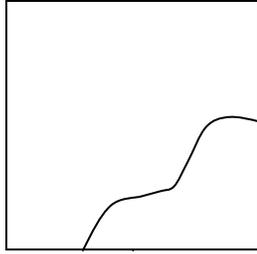
1. Lower the feed dog.
2. Remove the bobbin and bobbin case.
3. Remove the needle (and the needle holder on the CB models).
4. Remove the stitch plate and replace it with the Needle Punch stitch plate.
5. Attach the Needle Punch needle holder and needles (CB); Insert the needle(s) (Rotary).
6. Use the hand wheel to make sure that the needle goes into the holes of the Needle Punch stitch plate.
7. Attach the Needle Punch presser foot.

Note: See complete installation instructions included with each accessory.

Page Directions

Cut a square of wool or wool felt, 8" x 8".

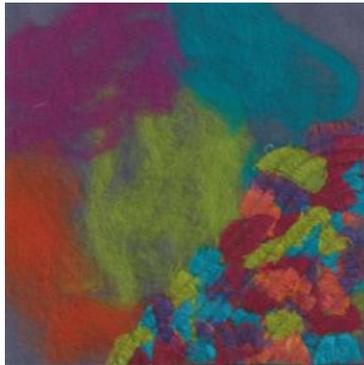
Using chalk or a fabric marker, draw a curved line in on corner, similar to what is shown.



Place several colors of wool roving on the square of wool fabric in a random, color-blocked fashion. Punch the roving into the fabric. Continue until the wool square above the curved line is covered, slightly going over the curved line, leaving most of the corner area clear. Punch until the texture is as desired. The more you punch, the firmer and flatter the surface will be; light punching results in a soft, fuzzy texture.

Using small scraps of silk in the same colors as the roving, cover the corner area and punch them into the fabric. Cover the entire area, going slightly over the upper curved line on top of the roving. Be careful not to over-punch the silk as it will disintegrate with excessive punching.

Stitch over the top of the punched silk, filling the corner area and echoing the curved line using the edge of the presser foot for spacing.



Print the two photos to the right on fabric or paper as desired. Cut out and arrange them on the roving background, using the photo on the previous page as a guide for placement. Stitch around the edges with a zigzag stitch to secure.

Cut 6"-8" of 1/4" ribbon (or two pieces of 1/8" ribbon and treat them as one). Fold the ribbon in half to find the center. Position the center on the punched silk area using the photo on the previous page as a guide for placement; bar tack (zigzag stitch) in place. Using a paper tag with a metal frame and a jump ring, write the following caption on the tag: Needle Punch x2 with a permanent ink pen. Slip the ribbon through the jump ring and tie the tag in place.

Finishing

The binding edge of this page is on the right. Place the page wrong sides together with a left bound page and zigzag stitch close to the outer edges through all layers.

Add metal eyelets to the binding edge.

Needle Punching Tips

- Use a stiletto or chopstick to hold fibers in place for punching.
- Easily add an artistic look to your design by using a multi-colored or variegated yarn; the colors are automatically coordinated and make it look like you worked harder than you did!
- Use thin wisps of roving or yarn, building up multiple layers as you punch to blend colors, adding dimension and depth to your design.
- Add extra embellishments such as free motion quilting, beading, and couching to punched fabrics.
- An easy way to create a punched design is to stitch an outline design on the embroidery machine and then fill in the areas with needle punched fibers.
- Create soft backgrounds on which you can sew decorative stitches or machine embroidery designs by punching first and stitching last.
- Never punch without the presser foot / needle guard on the machine. The barbed needles are very sharp!



Rotary Hook Needle Punch



CB Hook Needle Punch