

Machine-Made Tapestry



Textured hand-woven tapestries are popping up in many trendy home design inspiration platforms. Learn how to use your BERNINA and some unconventional accessories, like felting and freemotion couching, to create a one-of-a-kind piece of modern art for your home.

SUPPLIES:

- Duck cloth canvas or wool felt - cut 16" x 21"
- Quilting cotton - cut 16" x 21"
- Variety of weights of wool/natural fiber yarns
- Wool roving
- Pencil
- Embroidery thread
- Iron + ironing mat
- 18" long 1/2" wood dowel
- Twill tape or ribbon for hanging

Prepare Your Canvas

- Pre-cut main fabric (either duck cloth or wool felt) and quilting cotton (for backing) to 16" x 21".

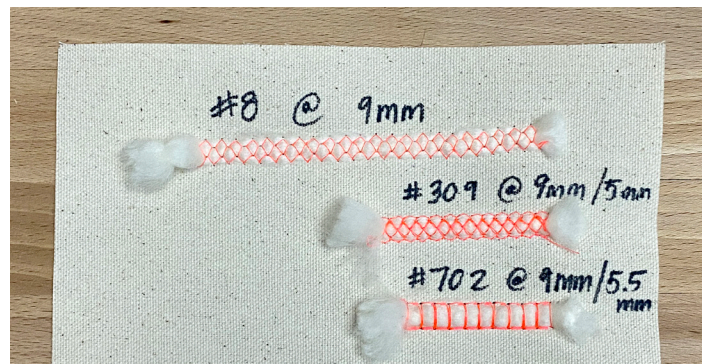
- Measure 1/2" in from the raw edges on both long sides and one of the short ends and mark with a pencil.
- Repeat, measuring 1" in from the three sides.
- Along the remaining short edge, measure and mark 1/2" and 2 1/2" from the raw edge.
- Within the marked lines is the 'working area' of your canvas. Using a pencil, sketch the outlines of your desired design.
- Fill in the design using a variety of the following techniques: traditional couching, freemotion couching, and felting.

Traditional Couching

Traditional couching is a great choice for straight lines, gentle curves, or precise angles. A wide variety of yarns or cording can be used.

- Attach Bulky Overlock Foot #12/12C to the machine.
- Select a decorative stitch on the machine. For example, honeycomb stitch #8.
- Place a bulky yarn underneath the presser foot, nested in the deep groove on the bottom of the foot.
- Stitch over and through the yarn.

TIP: For a subtle textured look, stitch with a thread that matches your yarn. For more pronounced stitching, use a high contrast thread.

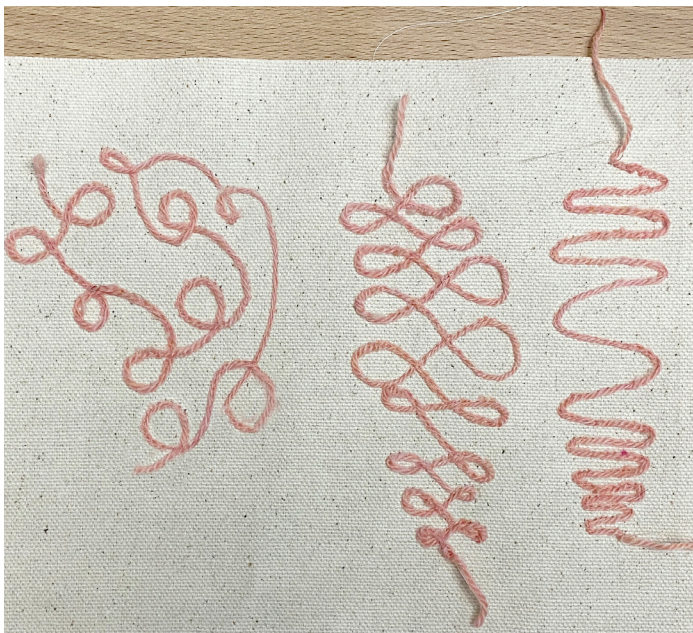


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Freemotion Couching

Freemotion couching can be used to couch yarns in any shape or direction. Crisp lines can be drawn or filled in with this technique.

- Choose a yarn for couching.
- Determine the best fitting couching insert for the Adjustable Ruler Foot #72. The yarn should be able to pass through the opening of the insert without resistance but there should be no gaps between the yarn and the opening of the foot.
- Press the couching insert into the bottom of foot #72. Thread the yarn from the top through the bottom of the foot.
- Attach the presser foot to the machine.
- Lower the machine's feed dog.
- Stitch freemotion. Motifs like loops, ribbon candy, and serpentine waves make for great couched designs.



Felting

Needle punch felting uses a specialty accessory and needles to bond fibers of yarn or roving together with the base fabric. It can be used to create incredibly unique, three-dimensional textures.

- Insert triple punch needle.
- Attach Needle Punch Set #45 to the machine with the appropriate punch stitch plate.
- Remove thread and bobbin from the machine.
- Deactive upper and lower thread sensors.

Machine felting allows you to place yarn or roving down on your fabric and 'stitch' it in place, moving in any direction and stitching as many times as you like. Play with the yarn or roving to find textures you like. A few to try out include:

- Flat fill - Untwist yarn or spread roving into an even, undefined area. Stitch back and forth across the yarn in many directions to create an evenly 'filled' area.
- Single twist - Stitch down a length of yarn, moving the fabric under the presser foot and triple felting needle parallel to the needle. The result is a crisp, defined line.
- Double twist - Using two (or more) strands of yarn, cross the yarns over one another and 'stitch' in place at the intersection of the yarns to tack down. Continue crossing, or twisting, and tacking down to create a fluffier, less defined line.
- Loops - Tightly twist a strand of yarn and cross the yarn over itself to create a small (under 1/2" diameter) loop. Tack down at the point where the yarn crosses over itself. Repeat many loops in a row to create a dense, three-dimensional texture.

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Creating the Wall Hanging

- Place the precut quilting cotton on the back side of your canvas or felt fabric.
- Fold the raw edges toward the backing at the drawn lines (1/2" and 1") and press.
- Stitch down three sides of the tapestry using a walking foot.
- Along the top edge, fold and press the raw edge toward the backing at the drawn lines (1/2" and 2 1/2").
- Edgestitch the hanging pocket from the back side of the tapestry, backstitching at the beginning and end.
- Insert an 18" long 1/2" wood dowel through the hanging pocket.
- Cut a 21" length of bias tape or ribbon. Tie to either end of the wood dowel to hang.

