



# Needlepoint Basics...

Compliments of Caroline's Thread & Canvas  
110 Thompson Street  
Ashland, VA 23005  
(804) 752-6902

## Canvas

### Sizing

- **Largest standard** = 7 mesh rug size
- **Standard sizes** = 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18
- **Congress Cloth** = smaller; less commonly used
- **Mesh #** = number of threads per inch (ex. 10 mesh = 10 threads per inch; 18 mesh = 18 threads per inch)
- **The greater the mesh size** (example: 18) = the more detailed options in designs
- **Popular sizes:** 14 & 18

### Types of Canvas

- **Interlock**
  - Threads interwoven (warp & weft)
  - Durable; less expensive
- **Mono**
  - Horizontal and vertical threads overlap
  - Used specifically for painted canvases
  - Advantages: being able to read threads; more give with needle; feels good!
  - More expensive than interlock
  - 18 mono available in colors
- **Penelope**
  - Most popular for option of petite point
  - Used with pre-worked canvases

## Threads (A major topic by itself )

### Options:

- **Wools**
  - Patemayan
  - Appleton
  - Medici
  - More. . .
- **Pearl Cottons**
  - Sizes 3, 5, 8, 12
  - Size of canvas determines size of pearl cotton used
- **Other threads**
  - Overdyes, rayons, blends, silks, metallics

## Stitches:

- **Many, many stitches = needlepoint**
- **Basketweave, Tent, and Half-Cross** = most basic
  - Stitches look same on top, but are executed differently
  - Different reasons for using each
- Basic stitch is like executing first half of a cross-stitch
- Most visible difference between "B, T & H", is apparent on back-side of canvas

## Needles

- Sizes 20--22 good with 14 canvas; individual preferences apply
- Tapestry needles duller points; don't split canvas threads

## Why Basketweave???

- It keeps the canvas from distorting
- Durability; strong backing for long-term use