

Matching The Right Threads To Your Needlepoint Canvas

The table below is a **general guide** for the common types of needlepoint fiber and the best canvas size to use them on. We recommend you test the fiber on your canvas to make sure it gives you the look and stitching experience you want.

Tapestry Yarn. A tightly twisted 4-ply that cannot be stripped/thinned. Common brands are DMC, Anchor and Appleton's and it usually says tapestry yarn on the label. Use as it comes on 10 or 12 count canvas.

Persian Yarn. A loosely twisted 3-ply yarn that can be stripped into its individual ply. Common brands are Waverly, Paternayan, Colonial. Use on 10-12 count as all 3 ply. 13-14 count use 2 ply. 16-18 count use 1 or 2 ply.

Crewel Yarn. A lightweight, loosely twisted wool yarn commonly used for crewel embroidery. Can easily double up to use on detailed needlepoint projects and finer mesh canvases. Common brands are Appleton's, Week's Dye Works, Bucilla, Paternayan, Bella Lusso, D'Aubusson's. On 16-18 count use 2 ply. Not really suitable for other mesh sizes.

Embroidery Floss. A 6-ply cotton that can easily be stripped into the number of strands required. Common brands are DMC, Sullivans, Madeira. 10 mesh will need to thicken with an additional 2 ply. 12-14 count use all 6 ply. 18 count use 4 ply.

Perle/Pearl Cotton. A loosely twisted cotton that comes in two sizes. Has a luster a little like silk. DMC is the most common brand. 13 and 14 count use Size 3 as it comes. 16 and 18 count use Size 5 as it comes.

Planet Earth has a merino wool that is single ply for 13 and 14 mesh and is widely available. They also have a silk of similar weight and usage, and a silk called Pepperpot for 18 mesh when used single ply.

There are many other varieties of silk and boutique fibers on the market. These come in various thicknesses so refer to the manufacturer's recommendations for correct application.

This chart is based on using a tent stitch. Using a cross stitch, for example, will mean you need to thin your thread or use a slightly larger canvas. Conversely, stitching a straight stitch e.g. satin stitch will generally mean you need a thicker thread to get the same coverage.

We hope this information helps you to find the right needlepoint thread for your needlepoint canvas.