

Tool Time Fun Needle Threaders!

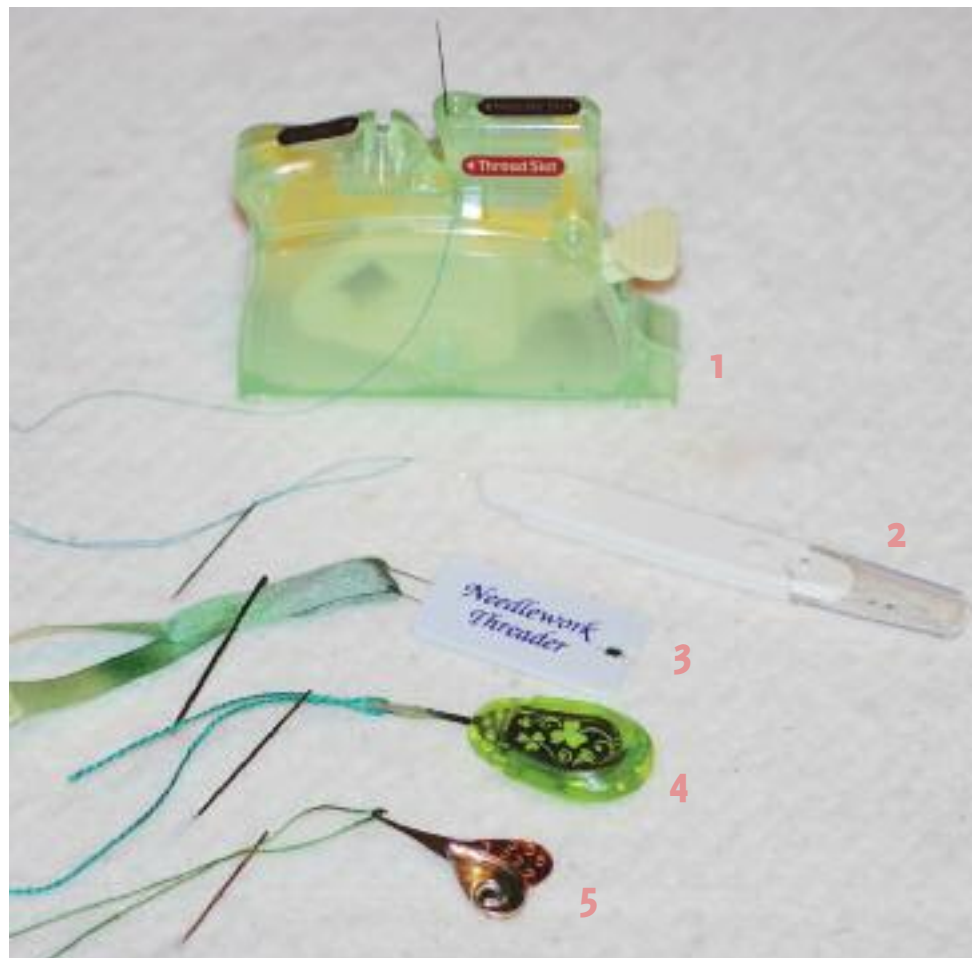
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A Needle Threader is a simple, but cool tool for threading needles without drama. If you are a quilter on the go with portable projects, or perhaps your eyesight isn't what it used to be, you will appreciate this smart tool. And your stitching experiences will focus on fun!

Customers often ask, "Why do threaders always break?" The thread thickness and needle-eye size are gauges to assess which type of threader is best suited for the job; however, *both the filament and the thread must back out together from the needle eye without resistance*. You will enjoy more years of performance from your threaders with this simple practice; thereby, not stressing the fragile filament or tip. Here are my favourite threaders.

1 The Desk Needle Threader is first up for discussion. Many manufacturers offer a similar version of this innovative design, which continues to evolve and improve. The positive features of a desk threader outweigh the negative.

Procedure: Position the unit on a flat surface. Align your thread over the centre slot (as labeled), place a needle with its eye DOWN in the right slot; the left slot is a cutter feature on this model. Depress the lever engaging the filament located inside the sealed unit. The limitation of this particular threader is the minimum/maximum needle sizes noted on packaging; otherwise damage to the tool will occur. They're grrrrreat for projects requiring multiple strands of thread prepped ahead assembly-line style—each taking maybe one



to three seconds! Appliqué and embroidery divas prefer this automated tool as it accommodates smaller eye needles for finer threads like #100 silk. Average Price: \$20 to \$25.

2 The Double Needle Threader shown is equipped with a pointed wire filament on each end. One end is for larger needles and sewing machine needles while the other is precisely petite for smaller needles. A handle is a bonus making the tool easier to locate and store along with protective end caps. The fine wire filaments are delicate and will break

under pressure as mentioned. You're likely familiar with the finger-held filament threaders costing about a dollar and resembling a guitarists' nylon pick (e.g. #3, below). What's your track record for destroying this type of threader along your quilting/stitching journey? Average Price: \$5 to \$8

3 The Ribbon/Yarn Threader have conventional tips suited for various fibres. If you use these threaders for their intended purpose, you will preserve your fine threaders for delicate threads. There are numerous yarn



type threaders on the market with a metal hook, filament or nylon looped end—all will work for the application intended depending on needle-eye size. Average Price: \$2 to \$4

4 The Embroidery Threader (Clover® brand in photo) is amazing! If you routinely hand stitch with perlé cottons, flosses or thicker embellishment threads you will be delighted with this newer threader. The closed flat tip allows for smooth threading without shredding—a very clever and durable design. Consider a couple of these threaders because whomever you share it with will want one! Average Price: \$11 to \$13

5 Hook Needle Threaders will accommodate regular long-eye needles (shown). There is also a micro needle threader option (not shown) for finer quilting, appliqué and beading needles as well. The stainless steel

hook is more durable than wire filament threaders. Both sizes combined will accommodate any embellishment threads. Currently I carry three fun designs in this handcrafted line: heart, puppy and kitty. They are magnetic to attach with companion needle nannies. How smart is that? Average Price: \$12

I believe needle threaders are classic tools deserving space in every quilters' toolbox. When you choose the right tool for the job and use it correctly, you can expect years of loyal performance. If I were collecting extra tools for myself (as always!) I'd add each type discussed in this article to my toolbox.

Needle threaders are huge time-saving tools. They protect your threads from shredding. They reduce eyestrain and eliminate frustration while increasing creativity. They are all listed on my website under *Tools or Notions* if you have needs or desires.

Happy Needle Threading!💎



Why not forward me a photo and note your favourite threader. I will share three entries on social media. Winners will receive one of these cute threaders handcrafted in Thailand from brass, copper and stainless steel. Good luck!



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