

Couched Yarn Collage

Supply list (1 page)

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This process is an exploration into line, shape, and texture through the application of couched yarns and cords. Varying colors, weights, and textures of yarn will be couched down by machine to create a tapestry of organic shapes reminiscent of banded agate or aerial landscapes. The composition can be planned like a mosaic collage or applied spontaneously, changing colors and textures at whim. This is an excellent project to use up leftover and salvaged bits and balls of yarn. This would make a wonderful embellishment on a garment or bag.



Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503-888-9784 or helene.m.knott@gmail.com if you have any questions.

A Note to Students: Many students do not realize that once the teacher is paid, the shop offering a class makes little if any income on the class itself. The shop is relying on product sales to continue offering quality classes to you. Therefore, I urge you to patronize this shop when buying your supplies for this class as much as possible and remind you that big chain stores do not offer the variety of classes that the smaller shops do. Keep quilt classes alive by supporting this shop. **Thank you, Helene**

TOOLS/MATERIALS:

- **Fabric:** For a standalone panel, a 10" x 12" piece of medium to heavyweight fabric to serve as a base for your collage. Denim, canvas, heavy-weight felt, or upholstery fabrics are all good choices. Quilter's weight cotton can be used if you are making a collage to apply to another object like a vest or jacket. If that is your intent a medium/heavy weight fusible stabilizer should be applied to the back. Keep in mind that some of the fabric will be visible between the couching so choose a color that coordinates well with the yarn or cords you are using. You can also couch directly onto a garment, but as ripping out undesired stitches can be labor intensive, I advise creating the corded collage i-on a separate piece of fabric that will then be stitched to a garment.
- **Stabilizer Tear away or cut away (optional):** This will be used only if you are couching on a lightweight fabric base. A medium to heavy weight sheet of fusible stabilizer measuring 10" x 12" (for lighter weight fabrics).
- **Water Soluble Stabilizer (optional):** The class fee includes a sheet of water soluble stabilizer suitable for transferring the design to the fabric for stitching. If you wish to explore larger design options of your own creation, you will need to provide your own. You can choose a product that comes on a roll like Floriani Wet N Gone Tacky, or Sticky Fabri-Solv by Sulky. Alternatively, you can draw a rough outline for your collage directly on the fabric.
- **Yarn and decorative cords:** Choose a variety of colors and weights from fine to heavy to create areas of contrasting textures. Yarns will be easier to work with but soft cords can also be used as long as they are flexible enough to be coiled and bent into tight curves.
- **Threads:** You will need a variety of threads that coordinate well with the yarn you choose. The thread need not match the yarn exactly, similar colors are fine and you can get even interesting visual textures with contrasting thread. The thread can be cotton, polyester, rayon, or invisible thread if desired.
- **Sewing Machine:** If you are comfortable using a free motion presser foot, this makes the stitching faster and gives better flexibility. This project can also be carried out with a zigzag presser foot (an open toed one is preferable to a closed one) or a Cording/couching foot (if your machine has one), but zig zag and cording feet are harder to maneuver into tight curves.
- **Extra sewing machine needles:** A package of Topstitching needles in size #12 or #14.

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- **Scissors:** A pair of fine bladed craft scissors.
- **A sewing awl, stiletto or a seam ripper:** This will be used as a prodding, guiding tool to help keep the yarn or cord in place while feeding it under the presser foot so any tool that can serve a similar function will be adequate.
- **Sewing pins**
- **Friction Pen or drawing pencil:** To trace your design onto the object or panel you are covering with collage.
- **A few sheets of copy paper and a pencil and good eraser:** This is only needed if you want to play with your own design composition.

