

Repairing Needlepoint Canvases

By Master artisan Nancy Lukoskie

A curved needle is your answer!

1. Whether you are replacing one stitch or several stitches you can use a curved needle to fill in missing stitches.
2. Thread the needle with the matching fiber (depending on the type of fiber — you may need to use a needle threader).
3. Insert the point of the needle approximately a 1-1/2” from the frayed area. Try not to dive deeply into the inside of the piece, you do not want to damage the inside material.
4. We use a 2-1/2” - 20 gauge for finer work and a 3-1/2” - 18 gauge for larger pieces. Using the appropriate needle will make this task easier and create less stress to the surrounding area.
5. It may feel a little awkward handling a curved needle at first. I hold the needle with my thumb and index finger (my middle finger is applying pressure to my thumb which keeps the needle stable).
6. When I am in the process of bringing the point of the needle up and out from the inside of the piece, I will apply a little pressure with a finger from my opposite hand to the area next to the needle tip. This allows the needle to come out without putting stress on surrounding threads/canvas.
7. When you are ready to end your thread — complete your last stitch, keep the needle inside the piece and guide it away from the area at least 1-1/2”. Bring the needle tip through to the top surface. Pull the thread taut and snip the excess. The cut end should sink right back into the inside of the finished piece.



Contact us at 410.820.0480 or email to FancyworkFinishing@gmail.com

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Did you know that FancyWork Finishing offers needlepoint workshops for needlepoint enthusiasts, upholsterers and other professionals in Easton MD?

Our workshops show you how to plan, design, stitch and finish your personal or ecclesiastical needlepoint projects.

Nancy is also available for professional consultations at your place of worship to talk to you about new needlepoint projects, restorations or care and maintenance of your needlepoint artwork.

Visit FancyworkFinishing.com or call us at the number below.

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