

Working With Rustic Moire Wool Thread!

There's been lots of discussions lately in numerous posts about the new **Rustic Moire Wool Threads** and how they 'work'. Hopefully these little tidbits of info and helpful hints will give you a guideline when deciding if these threads are for you!!! I've listed the most commonly posed questions or concerns and answers to them all!

The threads are gorgeous, but are they strong?

The threads are 100% wool. By that nature, they are spun fibers, and will break if you yank on them, as will any spun fiber. For example, you can take a length of the thread, hold it between the fingers of both hands, give it a yank and yes - it will break. It's 100% wool - not mixed with polyester, - spun not blended - and therefore will break. HOWEVER - when stitching (wool applique), you are NOT yanking the threads, and should NOT experience breakage as long as you follow a few tips below!

#1 - a large eye chenille needle is a must when working with these threads. All large eye needles are NOT created equal LOL. I prefer to use the Richard Hemming brand because the eye has more of a rounded shape inside the eye vs a sharp oval shape inside the eye (which can shred the threads). I use a 24 with the Richard Hemming, and sometimes a 22 (which is larger) with some of the colors. You will find that the threads are NOT all the same thickness (heathered ones being thicker than solid colors) - which is why I change out my needle size. Just a suggestion - needles are relatively cheap. As with wool, fabric, etc - you get what you pay for most of the time. So paying the extra 50-75 cents for the better Richard Hemming needles (6 to a package) pays off in my book!

#2 - I absolutely despise when I run out of thread, so when I use Valdani Perle Cotton for example, I will cut a 36" length and applique away! With the **Rustic Moire Wool Threads**, you simply cannot use strands that long. Once again, these threads are spun fibers, and by their nature tend to "stress" for lack of a better term as they are pulled through the wool again and again. I have found that 18" is my max length to use when appliqueing. As long as I keep it to 18" or less, I've had NO breakage

#3 - Oh - and lest I forget - - - the threads are also subject to whatever method you have used to secure the applique pieces to your base. For example - if you have pinned the applique piece to your base, you are only pulling the thread through wool on wool. Not much "stress" there. If you have used a fusible or glue - then the threads are pulling through fusible or glue and will "stress" just a tad bit faster. It's just a little something to keep in mind.

#4 - - Not all wool is created equal. Plaids have a different weave and texture vs herringbones vs solids vs honeycomb textures and all of which can be overdyed! So - bottom line - some wools are "looser" weave than others - and your threads will not 'stress' as much'.

I realize that all of these tips make it sound as though the **Rustic Moire Wool Threads** need to be handled with kid gloves, so to speak, or that they are too "finicky" to work with. NOT AT ALL. They are no different than any other thread - a little education into the characteristics of the threads can be a HUGE advantage when working with them! It's hard to thread a needle with these threads.

What are these threads like? How do they compare to other threads?

These threads are **RUSTIC Moire Wool Threads** - not smooth like perle cottons or cotton floss. They have small slubs in them, and are "hairier" than "wool blend" threads that are a blend of wool and polyester, and definitely 'hairier' than the smooth threads. When choosing your needle to use with these threads, it's recommended that you use a #22 or #24 chenille needle which we discussed above. In threading your needle, because these threads are "hairy", a threader always helps! For those of us (ahem - I include me in this group) whose double bifocals still don't do the trick - a needle threader no matter WHAT thread you are using is a must LOL!!!

The thread doesn't glide through my wool like the DMC or Valdani threads.

Once again, these are **RUSTIC Moire Wool Threads**. They are hairy, slightly rough and scratchy to the touch, and have intermittent slubs. When appliqueing, the coarse nature of these threads has each strand "grabbing" onto the wool you are appliqueing with. Think of it as wool on wool. Rub two pieces of wool together and they do not glide. Rub a piece of wool onto satin, however, and it just glides along! So stitching with the wool thread onto your wool applique - you are going to have a bit of a "grabbing" effect. It's a different feel than what you may be used to if you use stranded floss or perle cotton - - but one that you will get used to almost immediately.

The thread doesn't sink into my wool applique like other wool threads.

Other wool threads, or wool blend threads, are smooth to the touch and more refined. By that token, they will 'melt' into your wool applique piece. The **Rustic Moire Wool Threads**, by being more coarse and rustic, tend to 'sit on top' of the wool applique vs blending or melting into the wool most of the time. (This does vary with the wool you are working with) This makes it absolutely perfect for showing off your stitches!

Can I use these threads for punchneedle? Embroidery? Cross Stitch?

The simple answer is YES - YES - and YES!!!! For anyone who has ever done **punchneedle** - this thread is fabulous. Punching is much more 'vicious' as a process to threads than wool applique, yet these threads punch beautifully and are strong enough to stand up to any punchneedle you attempt. I personally have used the Cameo Ultrapunch, the Clover punchneedle, the Igolochkoy Russian punchneedle (large eye) the Dimension punchneedle and the CTR (medium and large needle) punchneedles. All work beautiful! The trick with these threads is to NOT punch directly from the spool. Because the wool fibers grab on to each other, they do not pull from the spool smoothly. They create a drag. So - simply cut a length of thread, thread your needle, let the remainder of the thread coming from the needle hand loose, and punch away!!!

Embroidery with the **Rustic Moire Wool Threads** is absolutely gorgeous! As with wool applique, the threads tend to "grab" to whatever fabric you are embroidering on. A little practice will have you happily embroidering in a jiffy! Your end result will be not as smooth as a DMC floss for example - but slightly more raised and 'hairy"! For a truly rustic look, try embroidering on hand dyed linen or prairie cloth!!

Cross Stitching with the **Rustic Moire Wool Threads** is no different than embroidering with the threads. Your "X's" will not show as clearly as when you use floss, however. Because the threads are a bit hairy - the overall effect as you look at a finished piece will be more of a softer, blended look. You can cross stitch on traditional counted cloth, linen, blends - you name it!

Overall - these **Rustic Moire Wool Threads** are an absolute delight to the eyes and to the senses. I personally own every color in the line, and am enjoying working with them more than I can ever describe to you!!! For those of you who have worked with the threads, please give us your feedback! We'd all love to hear!!!

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www.the-teachers-pet.com/moirewoolthread.html