
Yarn Float

Let your art yarn walk the walk AND talk the talk!



A WoolWench Tutorial

for *FiberyGoodness.com*

Why Yarn Float?

It is the eternal question, one that so many art yarners hear: 'what do you do with your art yarn?' We know there are SO many things to do with art yarn, the possibilities seem limitless! Yarn Float is another way of utilising your textured yarns in a fun and easy way. You do not need metres and metres of complex yarns for this technique, nor do you need to be able to knit, crochet, or weave. You only need a basic knowledge of your sewing machine, a few simple materials, and you can create amazing unique pieces of art, in which your wonderful art yarns are given their voice and allowed to stretch out in all their glory as the centrepiece of your creation!

Yarn Floating is perfect for scarves and shawls, but don't limit yourself there! Think wall art, glorious throws, window decor, or make pieces to a pattern for vests or ponchos... This is a technique you can use in so many ways, let yourself be free to experiment!

This tutorial will guide you through the basics, and the end result is a scarf that I hope you will love!



You will need:



A few metres of any kind of textured art yarn, I used Lockspun Mohair. If you choose a thinner art yarn you will need more than if you have a very bulky yarn.

Any additional yarns, silks, ribbon, lace etc. In my example I used recycled Sari silk, and some fluffy silk yarn.

About 1.8 metres of water soluble embroidery stabiliser. I used something like this one available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/Sulky-12-Inch-9-Yard-Soluble-Stabilizer/dp/B001705SVS) <https://www.amazon.com/Sulky-12-Inch-9-Yard-Soluble-Stabilizer/dp/B001705SVS> If you can find something like this that is also coated with an adhesive on one side you might find that easier to use as an alternative to pinning (as explained later!)

A sewing machine set to a simple straight stitch.

Sewing thread in a colour that matches or compliments your yarns. I used a plain white cotton and also a gold metallic thread.

Pins to secure your work ready to sew.

Also some scissors!

Step One

Cut your stabiliser cloth to the size you want your final piece to be, mine ended up at about 8 inches wide by about 70 inches long - scarf size. You will need two matching pieces. If you do not have enough length of need to cut your cloth in pieces, you can sew together the pieces to make up the length you need, no need for anything more than running stitch to hold it together.

Step Two

Lay the yarn or ribbon you want to use as your outside edge onto the stabiliser fabric first. I stitched my edging on at this point to give me a good guide for the rest of the layout with the confidence of it staying in place.

Step Three

Using your 'main' art yarn lay down the pattern you want to create with it.

I made a simple back and forth pattern the entire length of my cloth, you may wish to make a very different pattern, but try to fill up a reasonable amount of the cloth with this yarn, and fairly evenly along the length of it.

You can see in the image to the right that I laid this out fairly loosely to start with, you can alter this as you go, adjusting in more detail exactly where you want your yarn. You may even want to try out several different patterns to see which one you like best. There is no 'frogging' in this, just lift it off and try another pattern till you find the one you like best!



Step Four

Add your next yarn or ribbon, just layer this on over the art yarn that you have used as your main yarn, add any pattern you like with your second layer, again you can lift off and re-lay to try out different looks. You can add more or less of this layer depending on how solid you want your finished piece to look.

Step Five

Add your next layer of yarn pattern, to the right you can see the pink sari silk added and also the white fluffy silk in the third layer.

Don't worry about these not sitting flat, they will do so once you start sewing.

If you have more yarns you wish to add, keep putting on layers until you have built up the combination and patterns that you want.



Step Five

Add your second layer of stabiliser cloth on top, so the yarns are sandwiched between the two pieces.

Pin this in place, going through all layers with each pin, I made sure to use plenty of pins to be sure my yarns would stay in place. If you were able to find a dissolvable cloth that was also adhesive you probably won't need to pin.



Step Six

Once you have pinned or otherwise secured the top and bottom layers of the stabiliser fabric you can begin sewing. The goal is to create a grid of stitching. In my scarf I stitched back and forth across the width of the piece first, each line about one inch (2.5cm) apart, at each end being sure to cross or meet the stitching around the outside edge. Work your way back and forth along the entire length of the scarf, then turn it around and do the same thing lengthwise from end to end.



You should now have the entire piece stitched and secure. Fill a sink or tub with warm water and gently submerge the whole thing. Set this sit for a couple of minutes, the dissolvable fabric will disappear, leaving your yarn 'floating' inside the grid of stitching.

You may need to rinse several time to remove all traces of the fabric. Press out the excess water by rolling the piece in a towel, then hang or lay flat to dry.



This is all there is to it! From this point you can start to experiment, try different shapes, patterns or forms. You could even do some freeform embroidery over the yarns too. All kinds of add ins could be used, sequin strings, beads, even individual locks could be laid into the fabric and stitched into place.

Please feel free to experiment and play around with all the possibilities! I would love to see your creations and processes, please do come and share on our [FiberyGoodness.com](https://www.facebook.com/groups/JourneytotheGoldenFleece/) Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/JourneytotheGoldenFleece/>

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