



FLAT WEAVE (TABBY WEAVE) AND FRINGING A RUG

By Frances Peterson

You can make your petitpoint rug look more realistic by adding the flat weave and fringing the two long ends. Both are done on real rugs on the warp ends. The flat weave distributes the warp evenly before adding fringe. How many rows of flat weave you want to add and how long to make the fringe depends on what you think looks best. There is no rule, large rugs may have short fringe and small rugs may have long fringe.

I stitch my rugs with silk floss but I use DMC cotton Ecu for flat weave and fringe in petitpoint. The cotton makes it more realistic. I've tried silk, it doesn't lay right. The flat weave is rough on the cotton thread but I have found using Thread magic really helps. You can start with the fringe but I find it much easier to do the flat weave first. I like to do both while my rug is still on the frame. I stitch 3 rows of flat weave, enough to show it's there.

If you do the flat weave and fringe before finishing the sides, be sure to begin at the hole where the finished side will end. I overcast through 2 holes on the sides so I start the flat weave 2 holes over from the edge of the rug.

Since most rugs have 3 rows of a solid color around the border, I stitch the 3 rows on the long ends before I start the flat weave. I stitch 2 rows on the short sides, using the final overcast stitching as the third row.

NOTE: I used 14 count canvas for these photos. The single thread shows is actually several strands.

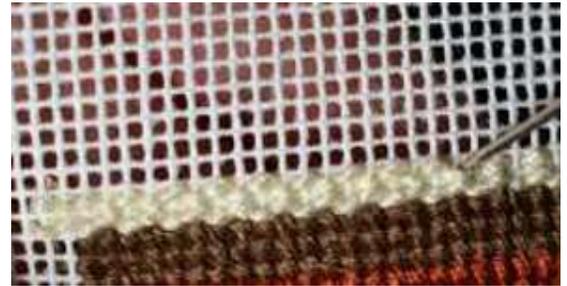
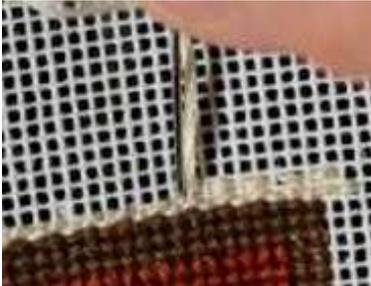
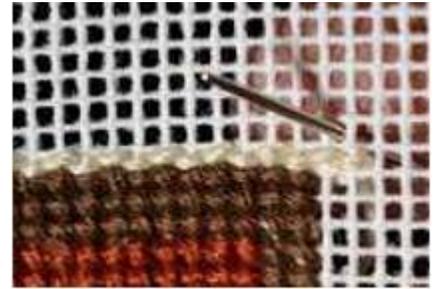
How to make the Flat Weave (Tabby Weave)

1. Thread your needle with a long single strand of floss. I like to start with at least 2 feet. Holding your rug at the top, begin on the right side where the finished side will end. The first row is the hardest because you will be going through the holes of the last row of the rug. I secure the thread by working it back and forth over a few stitches to hold the thread in place and cut off the excess when it is secure.

2. Starting from the end edge of your rug, come up through one hole and go over and down left through the next hole. Continue stitching up and down through alternate holes until you reach the other side. Come up through the last hole and going the opposite direction, go back through every other hole on that line, next to the first stitch. You are still stitching in the same row that you started on.



- When you reach the side where you started, begin one stitch over from where you started on the first row. Go back up and down through alternate holes like you did on the first row. Return back through that row like you did in the first one. You will be stitching alternate holes from the first row. For the third row, start at the same place (the end edge) as you did the first row. If you want more than 3 rows, continue alternating the start point.



- When I get to the left end of the last row of flat weave, I go through 2 holes along the edge, down to the first row and back up to the last row. This gives an overcast look like the sides will get and secures it. Then I continue the flat weave back to the other side. I do the same thing on that end and then secure the thread under other stitches. The flat weave is now complete.



How to Fringe a Rug

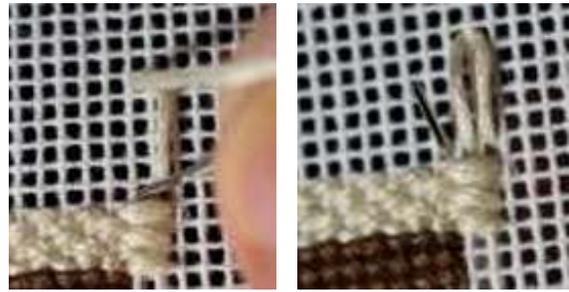
- Thread your needle with a long piece of floss, about 3 feet. You will start at the next row up from the flat weave. Begin by coming up through the hole where the finished sides will end on the right side. This is also where your flat weave started. If you are fringing your rug after finishing the edges, you will make loops on the ends. It is harder to cut them straight so I like to fringe before finishing the sides. I secure the thread by working it around the bottom of the fringe until it is secure.



- Decide how long you want the fringe and count up that many holes. You only have to count once and so you can match the other side. It is easier to add more holes and cut it off if you decide it should be shorter. Go down through that hole and back up the next hole to the left of the first stitch. This is the second hole from the start. If you are not using a frame, make a loop close to the finished length you want.



- Run your needle straight down through the second hole next to where you started. Come up through the next hole. This is the third hole.



- To secure the loop, your needle goes back down through the first hole (2 stitches to the right).

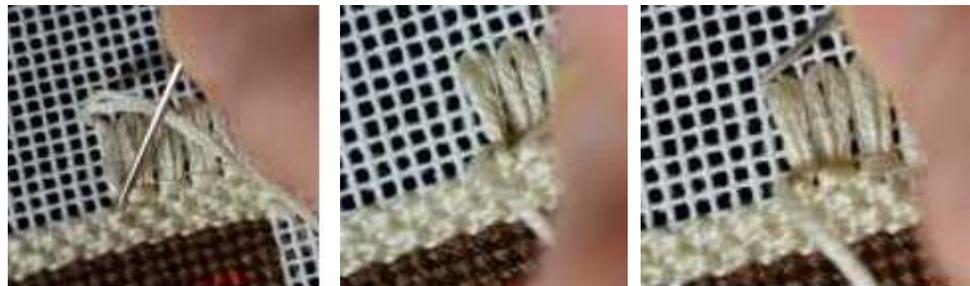


- Return back up from the last hole of that loop, the third hole. This already has a stitch in it. Rug your needle next to the hole at the top where the fringe ends. Go back up through the next hole and down through the hole at the base. Run the needle up at the next hole and down through the beginning hole. Repeat this across the rug.



- When the thread runs out, you can secure it under the base of the fringe. Start a new thread the same way and continue to the end.

- TIP: The final fringe set is always short 1 stitch. Compensating for it always looked off and that little piece of fringe would not hang correctly. I



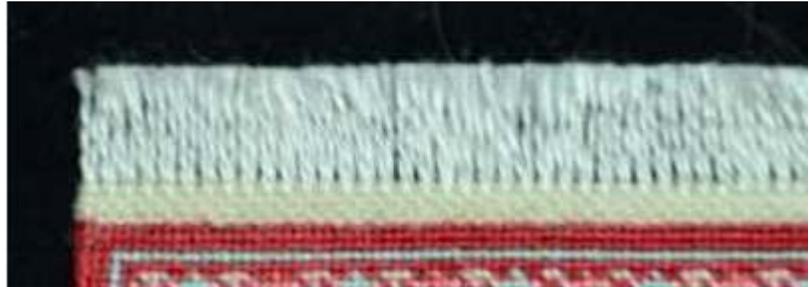
finally figured out if I compensated anywhere while doing the fringe, it didn't show and the end looked correct. You can do this by going back down through the same hole you went up on. It will have a smaller securing loop but it won't show. The next loop will go straight up through the same stitch as the compensating stitch. You will have 2 stitches in the same hole but once cut, the don't show. It doesn't matter where you do this as long as it's not too close to the edge.

- When you get to the other side, you can secure your thread under the fringe stitches.

9. When I cut the fringe off of the gauze, I found that just snipping along the top doesn't always come out straight. I now cut from the backside where I can follow the line of the gauze, using magnification. I trim down one stitch because it will be straighter. Holding your fringe tight with your other hand helps.



Your fringe and flat weave should look like this.



BLOCKING: I block my rugs before finishing the sides with the flat weave and fringe already complete. Blocking is such an important part of finishing. Whether you stitch by hand or on a frame, it will likely not be square or have wavy sides where parts were pulled tighter than others. I use a piece of 1/2" foam core for a base. I use a fine tip Sharpie marker on good quality graph paper (it won't run) to draw the finished size. I use tacks to hold the edges to the finished size. I use a regular steam iron and steam it, not touching it.



When dry, I lay a ruler to check the edges and readjust the tacks where necessary. I continue this process until it is square.

After blocking, I carefully roll the rug so that I can hold just the edges while I overcast them and not pull it out of square. I go through 2 holes overcasting with 2 threads of floss. I then go back and cut off the gauze. Because it's through 2 holes, it will not unravel. If you are not this brave, you can run a thin bead of glue on the edges and turn it under.

On the long ends under the flat weave, I trim it about and 1/8" and miter in the edges. I put a piece of paper under the gauze to protect the rug and run a thin line of glue on the edge. I press that down with an iron.

To give credit where it is due, I did not invent these methods. I did not copy their instructions but wrote my own. If you want to refer to theirs, it may help.

The flat weave is referred to as tabby weave because Anna-Carin Betzen named it that. I learned how to do from her tutorial: <http://www.btz.se/minis/DIY/fringe.php>

There are many ways to fringe but I learned how years ago from Janet Granger's book. She has her tutorial on her website: <https://www.janetgranger.co.uk/tutorials/how-to-add-a-fringe/>