# ELEVATE YOUR FIBER ART

## *Mount Your Art on Canvas*



A beautiful photo-illustrated instruction book

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## INTRODUCTION

There's a lot of very good reason for you to mount your fiber art onto canvas. It elevates it's look and makes it easy for it to be displayed as art as it rightfully should. Especially when you mount small pieces on canvas, there'll be doubt in the minds of those who see them that it is art. And you'll definitely not get asked the question. "What is it? Is it a potholder or a placemat"?

Usually, I'll extend my fiber art by stitching fabric borders or sashing strips to the raw edges of my completed piece. Then I'll wrap the fabric strips around the canvas by pulling the strips to the back of the wooden frames and stapling them. This creates a permanent attachment to the wooden frames.

A method that is less permanent than the one I use is attaching your fabric art with velcro strips. If for any reason, you'll like to be able to display your piece on canvas and still have the option to take it off the canvas, this will be the way to go.

In this tutorial, I'm going to use photos to illustrate the step-by-step process for mounting your fiber art onto canvas.


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## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A Completed Piece of Fabric Art
  (with finished edges or facing strips ready to be sewn to the back)
- Regular Sewing Supplies
  (sewing machine, needles, thread, scissors, pins etc)
- A Stretched Canvas
  (same size as your fiber art piece)
- A Pair of Sew-on Velcro Strips
  (Long enough to go around the perimeter of your fabric piece)
- Picture Hanging Supplies
  (d-rings or eye screws, picture wire, nails, screws)
- Tools
  (hammer, screw driver, tape measure, wire cutter, staple gun and staples)


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## THE PROCESS

You're going to start with a completed piece of work whose edges are already finished by your preferred edge -finishing technique or one which will be finished with facings.

If you use a fiber piece whose edges are already finished then, you can skip to step number 3. (you'll have to hand sew as opposed to machine sewing)

Facings are currently my all-time favorite edge-finishing method.  They give you really beautiful finished edges and nicely squared corners. So, I started with a piece called "Lovecicles", that I was about to finish using my 7-step easy peasy facing technique.

In this case, I had already attached and ironed my facing strips to my fiber work. I was yet to hand sew them to the back, though. I started with this piece here which was all but ready to go.



Beautifully, faced edges, with nicely-squared corners. What is there not to like about my simple facing technique


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## THE PROCESS

1 Taking one part of your velcro strip, measure the same length as one side of your fiber art work. Then cut.







Pair of velcro strips


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2 Next,working on the reverse side of your fiber piece,  pin the cut velcro to the facing for the side you measured.

Then, measure, cut and pin the velcro onto the facing strips for the other three sides of your fiber piece. (Note: the subsequent velcro strips will be shorter than the first one)




Reverse view of fabric piece with facings attached and velcro strips pinned to them

**Note**: The next step will be way easier if you pin your velcro to your facings before you sew the facings onto your fiber art piece. That's the way I'll go next time I do this.


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## THE PROCESS

**3** Sew your velcro strips to the facings (reverse side of your fiber piece) without sewing through your fabric art piece. If you're using the facing method, you can use the sewing machine to sew your velcro to your facings.

That's the advantage of using facings here.  You eliminate the tedious work of hand sewing the velcro all around your piece. Especially if you have a large piece that can be time-consuming.

If you've already finished your fiber piece with another edge finishing method, then hand sew your velcro to the four edges of the reverse side of your fiber art piece.




Reverse view of fabric piece with facings attached and velcro strips sewn to it


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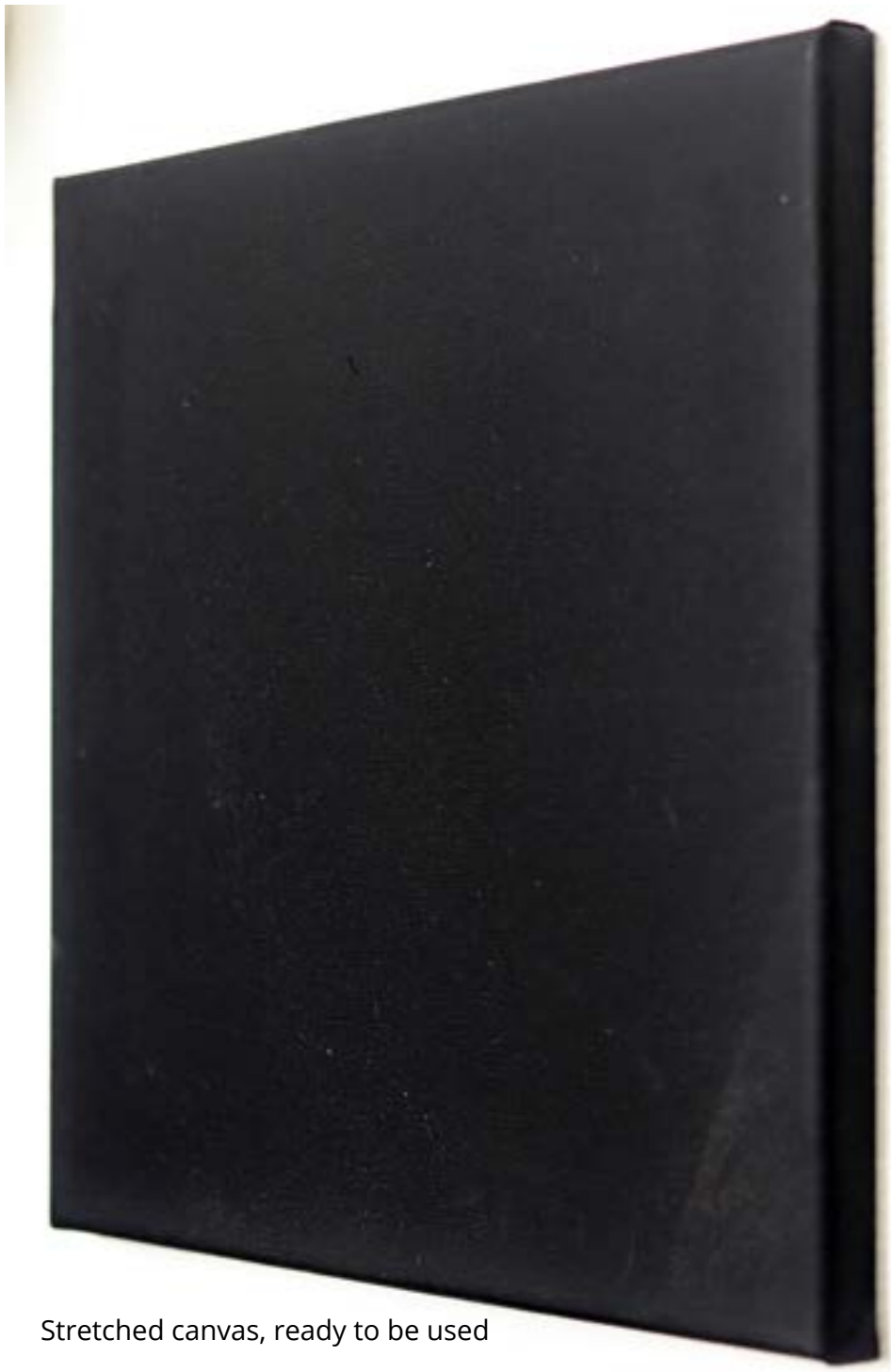
## THE PROCESS

**4** Prepare the stretched canvas on which you will mount your fabric art piece. You can paint the the canvas to match your fabric piece or to contrast it.

If you're goint to paint the canvas, you'll only have to paint the edges and a little bit of the top that will be visible from the sides.

I purchased a black canvas that perfectly matches my piece so I didn't have to do any prepping of the canvas here.



Stretched canvas, ready to be used

## THE PROCESS

**5** Measure, cut and staple a piece of the other pair of your velcro strips to one edge of the canvas top.




Staple velcro to the top of your canvas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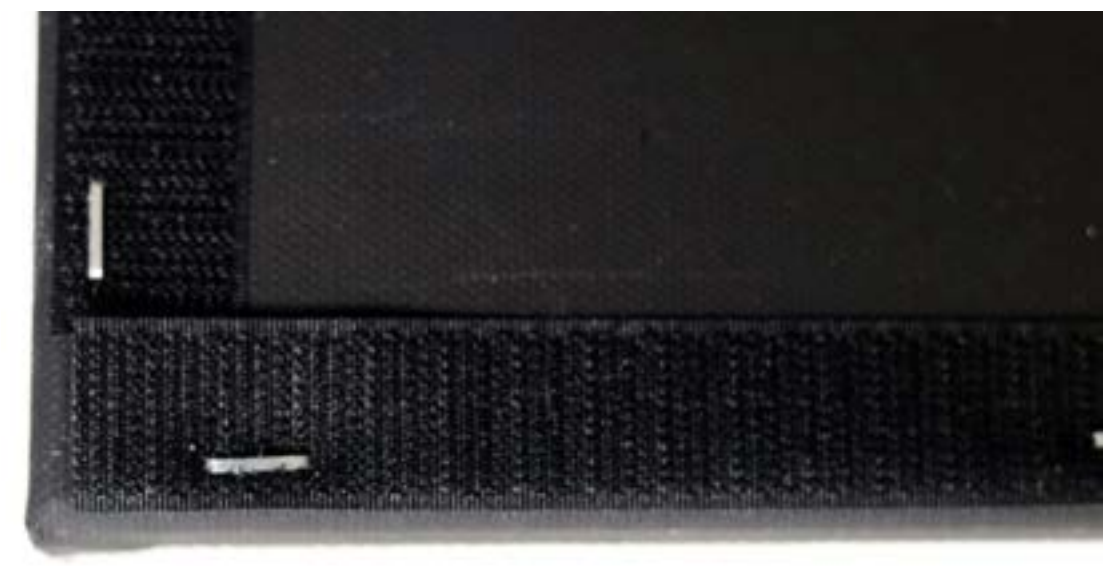
**6** Repeat for all four edges of the canvas top




Velcro stapled to all four edges on the canvas top

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## THE PROCESS

**7** Align and fasten the velcro on the bottom of your fabric art piece to those on the canvas top.



Ta da!!! You've got your fiber art piece beautifully mounted onto canvas.
But wait, we've got to do one more thing.


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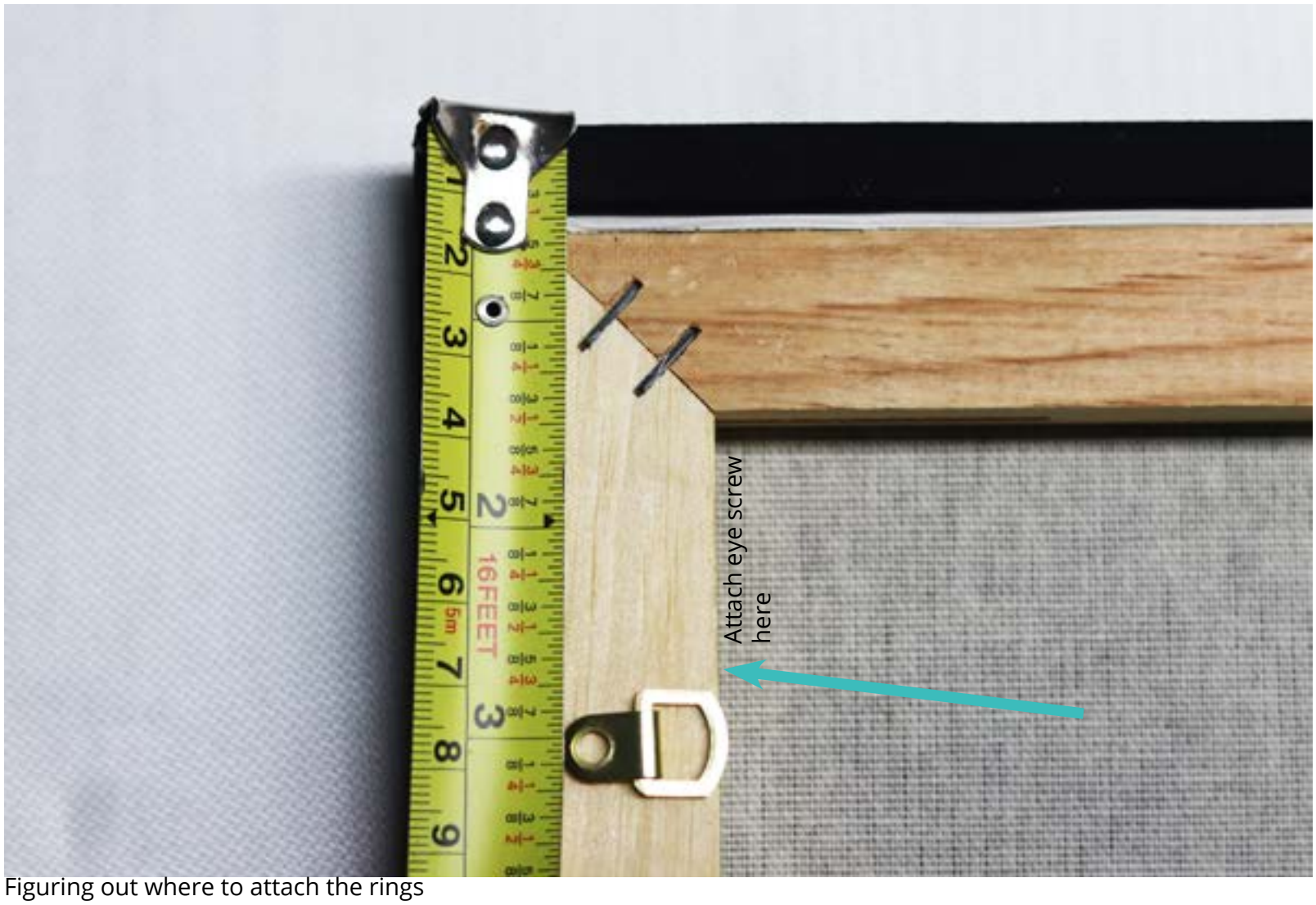
## THE PROCESS

**8** You need to get your tools and supplies ready for attaching picture hanging hardware to the wooden frames so you can hang your piece on a wall.



Picture hanging supplies and tools

**9** Flip your canvas over. Then measure and mark where to place your rings. I measured 3 inches down from the top edge of the canvas and marked it. You'll want to repeat this for the other side as well.



Figuring out where to attach the rings

Note: If you're using eye screws, you can attach them on the ***inside*** of the frame not on top of the frame.

## THE PROCESS

**10** If the wood of your frame is too hard to easily screw in your rings, then first using a hammer, drill a shallow hole at the point you marked.



Drive a hole into the wood to make room for the screw

**11** Attach the rings to either side of the frame by screwing them into the places you marked and drilled.



Attaching the rings

12 Loop the picture wire through one ring.



Loop the picture wire through the rings

## THE PROCESS

13 Twist the free end around the attached end several times



Braid the free end of the picture wire

## THE PROCESS

**14** Wrap tape on the end of the twisted wire to avoid damage from any sharp wire ends.



Tape the free end of the picture wire

## THE PROCESS

15 Keeping the wire taut , pull all the way to the other ring.  Loop through the ring and repeat the process for this side as well. Cut off excess wire and tape loose ends.



Cut off excess picture wire

16

Here’s how your canvas with the installation harware will look in the back.



Reverse view of fabric art mounted on canvas using velcro

Yipee!!!  You’re now ready to display your fiber art piece in your special space.



“Lovecicles”, 12” x 12”, Threads and dye on cotton. © Clara Nartey. *Displayed on a wall*



“Lovecicles”, 12” x 12”, Threads and dye on cotton. © Clara Nartey. *Displayed in an easle on a desktop*



“Lovecicles”, 12” x 12”, Threads and dye on cotton. © Clara Nartey. *Displayed on a mantle*



"Lovecicles", 12" x 12", Threads and dye on cotton. © Clara Nartey. *Displayed on a fireplace*

Hey there, Clara Nartey here. So, there you have it. A step-by-step tutorial on how to elevate your fiber artwork from looking like potholders to looking like art as they rightfully should.



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