

Two-Person Stick Fringe

This technique, known by the Swedish word *kavelfrans*, is demonstrated in an excellent video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kxh13q_dUPQ

Kavelfransar were sewn to the edges of Swedish coverlets, both as a form of decoration as well as a method to protect the edges of textiles from wear. It was common in the 1700s and 1800s. Fringes on the old textiles tended to be in stripes of several colors, partly to use up remnants of yarn. It was also common to use yarns of different qualities, both single threads and twisted yarns together.

Use a flat stick, about one inch wide and about 8-12 inches long. Make two loops with the linen thread, no longer than an arm's length, and tie them together with the first piece of wool yarn. It is important that the two loops are equal in length, or it is annoying when you are working with them.

For the fringe yarn, you can use a plied yarn, or two singles, or if you want a thicker fringe, use several pieces of yarn together.

Person one: hold the knot tight against the top of the stick with the thumb of one hand, and hold the yarn in your other hand.

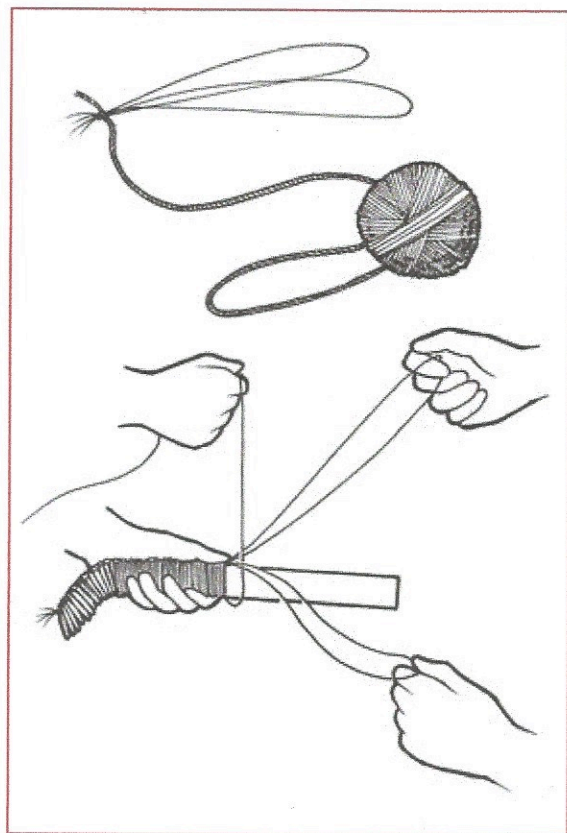
Person two: hold the loops out wide.

Person one: Wrap the yarn around the stick, between the two loops.

Person two: Pull one loop through the other, and the loops out wide again.

Person one: Wrap the yarn *in the opposite direction* around the stick, between the two loops. If you are the person holding the yarn, you will wrap one loop around the stick to the left, and the next loop to the right. If you loop them continuously in the same direction, the fringe will spiral when you take it off, and be more difficult to sew down.

When the linen yarn loops become too short to use any longer, make two new loops, knot them together, and tie them to the stick with the short loops.



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