

A Valentine's Day String-Art Heart Made the Easy Way

Supplies needed:

- STYROFOAM™ Brand Foam: 10" x 10" x 1" sheet
- Red fabric, 13" square
- Brass escutcheon pins or small nails with heads, 1" long, about 130 (this should give you a few spares)
- Crochet thread in white
- Thick, white craft glue or Yes! Paste

Tools needed:

- Scissors
- 1" spackling knife
- craft pins
- large needle, such as a crewel or carpet needle
- ruler
- optional: rubber brayer or rolling pin.



To make an Easy, String-Art Heart:

1. Use the spackling knife to spread a thin layer of white glue or Yes! Paste across the front of the 10" square, foam sheet. Center the red fabric over the square, and smooth it down using your fingertips, a rubber brayer or rolling pin (roll lightly so you don't compress the foam).
2. Wrap the fabric around the sides and to the back of the foam sheet, folding the corners to they're neat and square. Pin and glue the fabric to the back.
3. You're going to mark the spot for each nail using the large needle and a ruler. To start, insert the needle at each corner, about 1/8" in from the corner. Then, add 19 more holes between the corner nails on each side and about 1/8" from the edge. Each hole will be spaced about 1/2" apart. When finished, you should have 21 holes on each side of your square.
4. Insert a brass pin or small nail through each hole and straight into the STYROFOAM Brand Foam. Push the nails in till just about 1/4" is still exposed.
5. Place the inner heart pattern in the exact center of the square and pin in place. Using your large needle, make a hole in each tip of the heart pattern, and then make 19 more holes on each side, with slightly less than 1/4" between the holes. Push the brass pins or small nails into each hole, leaving 1/4" above the surface. You should have 38 nails total around the heart. Remove the pattern.
6. Now, you're ready to add the string. As you wind the string around, consistency is the key. A few pointers before you start:

- Wrap the string from the left side of each nail, and around to the right.
- Wrap the string all the way around each nail.
- You'll use every-other-nail as you work your way around the four sides.
- You'll wrap each nail around the heart — no skipping.
- When you're done, you will have gone around the square twice, wrapping each nail along the sides once and each nail around the heart twice.

7. Ready? To start, tie the end of the white crochet thread to the center top nail; use a double knot – you don't want it to loosen!

8. Bring the string down the left side of the center nail of the heart, wrap string around the nail, and then go back to the top. Skip the nail to the right of the center nail and wrap the thread around the left side of the second nail to the right of the center nail. Make one entire wrap around the nail, and then go back to the heart and wrap the thread around the nail to the immediate right of the center nail of the heart.

9. Continue to wind the string around every-other-nail on the outer edges, and each nail on the heart. Be consistent about winding first along the left side of each nail.

10. Once you've gone around the square once, skip the center nail and proceed to the first empty nail to the right. Go around the square again, winding the thread around each empty nail on the frame, and every nail on the heart.

11. When you reach the center top again, tie the string to the center nail with a small double knot.

12. Glue and pin a small string loop to the center back for a hanger.