

HEART OF ALABAMA STRING ART



SUPPLIES

- 12 x 12" square wood canvas
- outline of the state of your choice
- scissors
- tape
- brass coated 5/8" linoleum nails
- hammer
- a spool of sewing thread of the color(s) of your choice

1. Print out an outline of the state of your choice.

Using either Photoshop or a marker, draw a heart around the city of your choice. It's important to make it at least the size of a quarter while staying inside the boundary of the state's outline (you may need to cheat if it's near the border).

2. Cut around the edges.

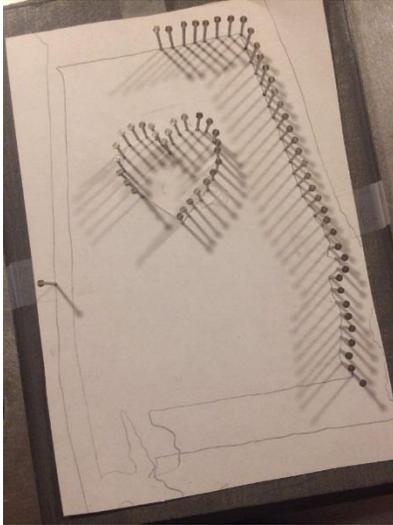
Leave about a half inch border or so.

3. Tape it down.

Don't be too skimpy with the tape either. Secure every side to the wooden canvas because the paper will want to slip and slide once you start hammering.

4. Start nailing.

Choose the upper right corner to begin with your first nail. From there add another, each one roughly 1/4" away from the next. You'll want to make the slightly closer – without touching! – when you make your way around the heart, you'll see why later.



5. Remove the paper.

Rip up the template and tape. :D



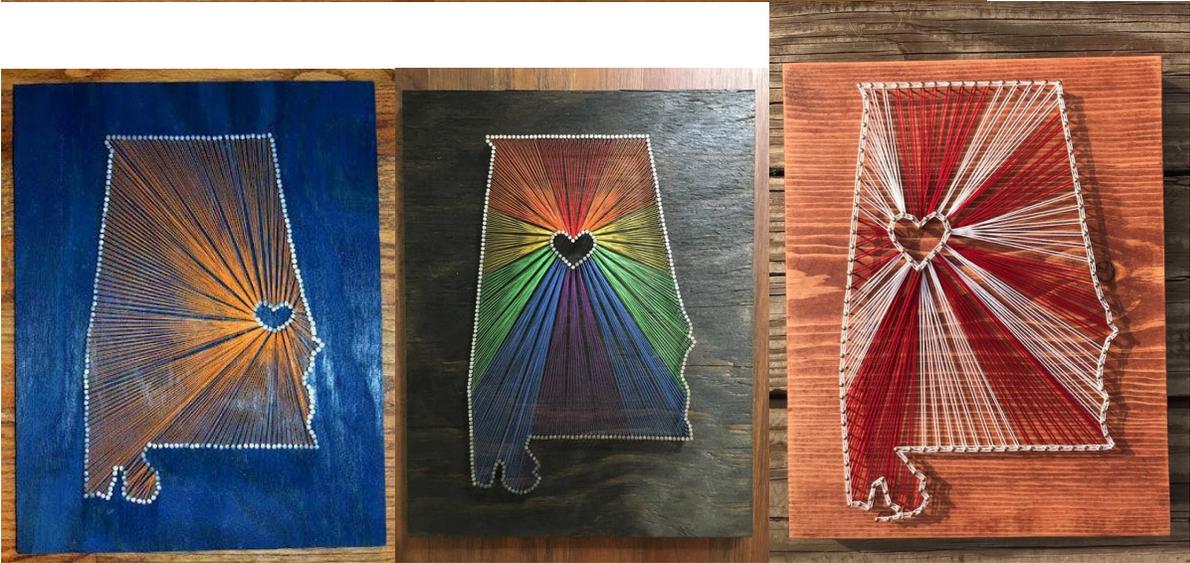
6. Wrap away.

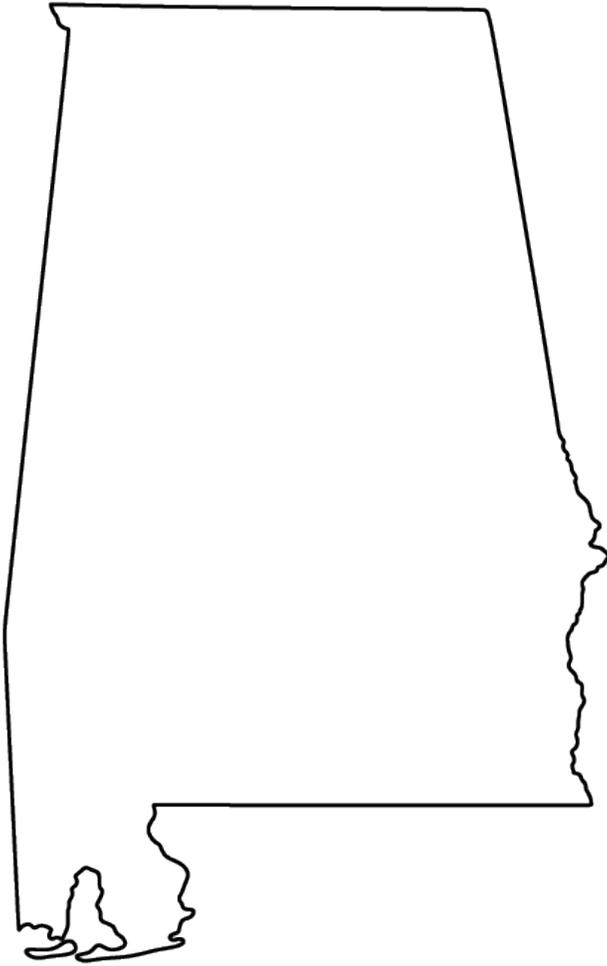
To begin, tie a knot around the same nail in the upper left that you started with earlier. From there wrap back and forth between the nails on the border and the interior heart, I like to wrap around each border nail twice to make the color of the string pop more. You'll use the same interior heart nail to anchor several border nails. Move onto the next when it feels right (i.e. there's too much thread around one or visually it's time).

7. Finish up.

After making your way around the entire state outline it will be time to tie off on the same nail you began with. And that's it! Instant art.

No matter how you do this, you'll end up with a uniquely beautiful bit of Alabama art. Try multicolored threads for variety. Wrap your nails in a more chaotic fashion. Experiment and have fun.





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