

“Tulip Time”



As you examine the rose coloured precut new wool for the tulips, you will note it is dark at one end and much lighter at the other. This is called dip-dyed wool and by starting at the base of a flower petal using the darker end of the wool strip, and working out to the tip of the petal, you will achieve basic shading of the petal.

Each of the tulips has three petals, large left and right petals and a middle petal that has the small top tip visible.

Do each flower separately. Complete the two large petals of a flower as described above and then do the small petal tip with the dark end of a wool strip.

Do the leaves with the green strips and then do the background in a circular pattern and surround the mat with a narrow frame if you like.

I hope you enjoy hooking your Tulip Time mat. If you have any questions or problems, please call us at :

Spruce Top—624-9312 or toll free 1-888-RUG-HOOK.

Figure 1 – Rug Hooking Kit Information and Hooking Tips



Figure 2 – Rug Hooking Kit Backing with Design and Materials

BASIC *how to hook* DIRECTIONS

by Joan Moshimer

Rug hooking is a craft as old as the Egyptians, yet as modern as tomorrow. People find that the rugs, pictures, bags, etc. they can make are beautiful as well as useful. Much fun and relaxation is derived from this easy-to-do craft.

"Hooking" is simply the pulling up through the mesh of a burlap pattern, loops of narrow woolen strips. The loops, repeated many times close together, form a pile.

The pattern should first be placed in a frame to keep it taut. There are many types of frames available, from a simple "embroidery hoop" type, either with or without a stand, to "picture frame" types, which either grip the burlap with ribbons of tiny fine wires, or use thumb tacks to fasten the burlap down. All are satisfactory and the choice is yours. (If using the "embroidery hoop" type, it is a good idea to remove the pattern when not hooking.)

Hooks vary in thickness and everyone has their favorite, one about the thickness of a #5 or #6 crochet-hook is good to begin with. Later you might acquire a finer one (about #7 or #8) for finer work and a coarser one (about #3) for rugs using wider strips of wool. The hooks have a comfortable wooden handle.

Regarding the wool strips, they can vary in width but must be cut absolutely STRAIGHT! If they are not, they will pull apart as you hook. To insure straightness, tear the wool into 3" or 4" wide strips before cutting, then it is easy to tell if you should begin to cut crookedly. It is possible to cut the strips by hand but the handy cutting machines available today are used almost universally. They do the job quickly and easily cutting several strips at a time. (The usual width to start with is about 1/8" - #4 blade on cutter.)

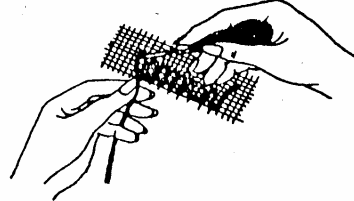
Practice hooking on an old piece of burlap or at the side of your pattern until you get the knack of it. It is well to remember too that you must not expect "perfection" of yourself, especially with your first project. This is a handcraft and one of the charms of all handcrafts is a non "machine-made" look.

The hook is held in the right hand above the pattern and the strip of wool, (can be any desired length, the usual being 10" or 12") is held in the left hand underneath the pattern.

Reverse these positions if you are left handed.

Push the hook through a mesh of the burlap, sliding the smooth shank of the hook down between your forefinger

and thumb and let it catch hold of the wool strip (which is also between the forefinger and thumb). See illustration.



Pull up the strip bringing the end through to the top side to a height of about 1". (All ends are pulled through to the top side and later cut off even with the pile. They become invisible in the finished work.) Now put the hook through the next hole and pull up a loop to a height of about 1/8". (As you pull up, press the smooth side of the hook against the burlap, this will tend to make the hole bigger so that the hook will come through without catching.) Working in any direction that seems easy for you, keep pulling up loops as evenly as you can, skipping a hole in the burlap often to keep the loops from being packed too tightly. They should touch each other comfortably. When the end of the strip is reached, be sure to bring it through to the top side and trim it off even with the top of the loops. If the wool is cut very fine you will hook into almost every mesh. When using wider strips, skip more meshes. Experience will quickly show you. Loops packed too tightly will strain the burlap, too loosely and the rug will not wear as well. The surface should be firm but not packed.

side view - enlarged



Underneath, the wool strips should be smooth and not twisted, with no ends left hanging.

At first you may find that you are pulling out the previous loop as you hook, but don't get discouraged. This can be remedied by slightly TWISTING THE HOOK AWAY from you as you pull up. With practice you will find that you do this automatically.

Practice hooking straight lines and curvy lines then make little circles and fill them in. The underside should feel smooth to your fingertips with no loops, bumps or tails left hanging. The top surface should be even, without any open spaces.

Figure 3 - Basic Rug Hooking Instructions

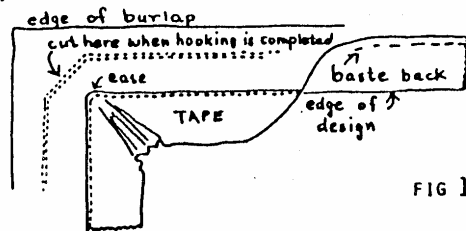
THE "HOW-TO" OF BINDING EDGES of hooked rugs

by Joan Moshimer

Before you begin hooking, machine stitch the burlap about 1" beyond the outside line of your pattern, going across the corners as shown in Figure 1. Use the zig-zag stitch or two rows of regular stitching. This is done to prevent fraying later when the rug is all finished and the excess burlap is removed. (Do not cut off excess burlap at this time.)

All rugs must be bound or faced on the edges because the greatest point of wear on a rug is its edge. A little extra care in this area will pay off in future years.

There are several good ways to bind the edges of your rugs and we will tell you about two of them - one method is done before you begin hooking; the other when you are finished hooking. Either way is good although many people prefer method #2 for several reasons, the main one being that you can put extra rows of hooking beyond the outside line of the pattern if you find you need to.



The tape used for binding is 1-1/4" wide twilled tape. Plan to have it match or harmonize with the color of the edge of the rug. Do not use iron-on tape. If you are in doubt as to the exact color you will have on the edge, then use Method #2.

Method #1. To be done before you begin hooking. In this method, the tape should match or harmonize with the background color. Lay the tape on the pattern as shown and machine stitch 1/8" in on the tape. Either ease it around corners or cut it off at each corner allowing 1" extra. Then baste it back out of the way. Hook right up against the tape as close as possible and

hook at least two rows parallel to it.

When the hooking is completed, the excess burlap is cut just beyond the two rows of machine stitching; both burlap and tape are folded back on an imaginary line 1/4" beyond the last row of hooking and mitered neatly at the corners. Hem by hand using heavy-duty thread. This will leave a quarter-inch "edge" beyond the hooking which is very attractive and practical. (Method #1 is shown in Figure 1.)

In finishing a circular or oval rug, it is easier to make your own tape by cutting strong cotton on the bias or even using the same wool as was used in hooking the background and cutting it on the bias. Regular twill tape can be used but when it is turned back it is more difficult to hem because little "pleats" will form.

After you have completed hooking and binding your rug, place on old sheet on top of a rug already on the floor and put your finished hooked rug face down on it (I am assuming your rug is too large for the ironing board). Steam press thoroughly. It may be pressed again lightly on the top side if necessary.

Method #2. To be done when you finish hooking. Hook the background right up to the line on pattern edge, putting at least two rows of hooking parallel to that line.

To match the tape color to the color of the rug, dye it (using white or a light color tape) when you dye your background wool. It won't match exactly but will blend nicely. Be sure to allow 4" extra per yard for shrinkage.

When you have completed hooking, sew the tape by hand as close to the hooking as possible, using matching heavy-duty thread. Then cut off excess burlap and fold back and hem as in Method #1.

NOTE: The burlap and tape can be folded back all the way so that the tape is hidden from sight if you wish, but I recommend letting 1/4" of it show both for looks and wearability.

Figure 4 – Rug Hooking Finishing Instructions