

Introduction

Penny Rugs were borne out of the traditions of the early 1800's where people had to make do with what little they had.

From bits of wool scraps and felted wool scraps, they crafted functional items for their homes that reflected their creativity and ingenuity. A penny rug was used as a table mat most often, but could also be used as other decorative items for the home as well as the sewing basket.

Originally, the mats that were made to protect table tops were covered with stacks of "pennies". The pennies were circular pieces of wool that were cut using the coins of the day as templates. Coins were different sizes than our modern currency.

In particular, the US penny was about 1¼" which is much larger than our current coin. The stacks of graduated size pennies were placed side by side on early mats. Both the edges of the pennies and the outer edge of the mat were stitched with a blanket stitch.

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As time went by, the designs included appliqué work also. The inspiration for these designs often came from other familiar sources. This would include folk art of the person's ethnic community.

Quilt block patterns were the most common source of design elements. Each quilter made their wool work to reflect unique skills and tastes. It was fashioned as a useful and functional items that decorated the home. Functional items included needle books (to store your needles with thread), scissors sheaths (to protect your scissors), and candle mats (to protect your tables from wax which bonds to a shellac finish).

May you find inspiration in these patterns to bring your own unique brand of style into your home.

Care Instructions: All of the wool felt in our kits is a blend of 20-35% wool. Dry cleaning is recommended for cleaning. To press wool felt, use a steam iron on high.

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Kit Contents

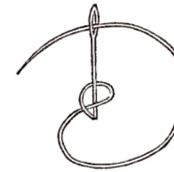
Qty	Item
2	Bird Body
2	Bird Tummy
4	Bird Wing
2	Beak

Floss, Needle, & Instructions

Stitches Needed

French Knot

Insert needle from the back side and wrap 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 turns around the needle as shown. The more turns the bigger the knot. You can experiment on a scrap piece of fabric to see which size you like best.



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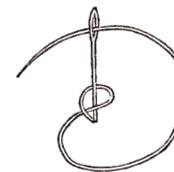
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Blanket Stitch

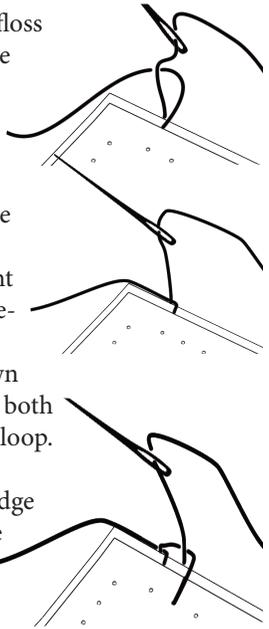
Thread the needle with floss and knot only one of the two ends.

The needle is inserted between two layers, then down through the bottom layer and up over the tail.

Pull the thread tight which will set the knot between the layers.

Insert the needle down into the fabric, through both layers, and up inside the loop. Then, pull tight.

Repeat this along the edge of the fabric until you have completed the edging.



Blanket Stitch

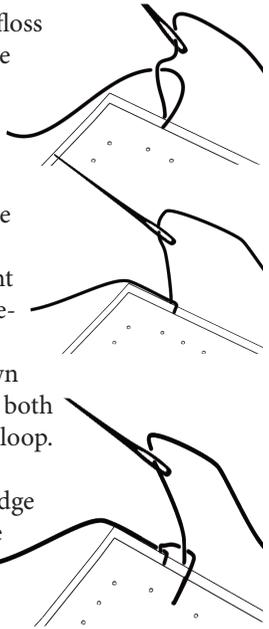
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The stitching should be evenly spaced and have the loop along the seam.

Instructions

Assembly

The Bird Needle Book is made of two sides which are mirror images of each other. Take the two bodies and lay them so you have two birds looking toward each other. Pin a tummy and beak on each as shown on the cover. Blanket Stitch the top edge of the tummy using the matching color floss. Then Blanket Stitch the back edge of the beak with yellow floss. The outside edges are stitched when the bodies are joined together later.

Add a French Knot to each body for the eye using yellow floss.

Pin the two bird bodies together with the tummies on the outsides. Pin two wings to each side as shown. Blanket Stitch the outer edges using matching colored floss. The tummy should use the same color floss as before. The beak should use yellow

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floss. The remaining parts of the body and the top edge of the wings are stitched with the remaining floss.

Optional: You can Blanket Stitch the lower edge of the outer bird wings to add a decorative touch.

Feedback

We are always looking for ways to improve our products including these instructions.

Our company's focus is on providing Products that are "Fun with a Purpose" to help young people grow in the world around them and your ideas are always welcome.

If you have ideas, suggestions, corrections, questions, photos of a completed project, critiques, or reviews on these instructions or the kit that you would like to share with us, you can send an email to:

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Bird Needle Book Kit



Bird Needle Book Kit



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