

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	Mat Base
32	Petals
Floss, Needle, & Instructions	

Stitches Needed

Chain Stitch

The Chain Stitch forms a series of loops, each one interlocking the prior, to make a decorative design. Inserting the needle from the rear side through to the front and back out the same hole to the rear leaving a loop. The next stitch is a repeat and about ¼" away. To make this, the needle is inserted from the back of the fabric and through the loop from the prior stitch. It returns to the back of the fabric back through the same hole.



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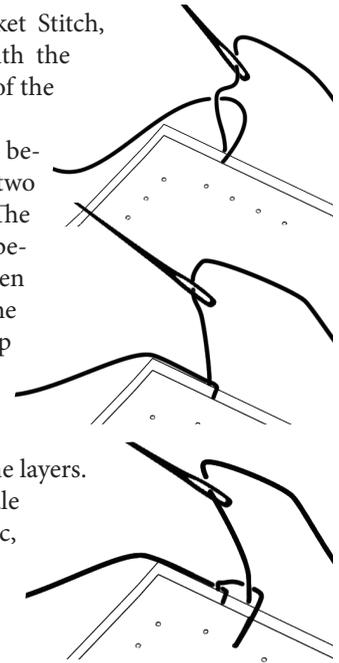
Blanket Stitch

To make a Blanket Stitch, thread a needle with the floss and knot one of the two ends of thread.

The starter stitch begins between the two layers of wool felt. 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,



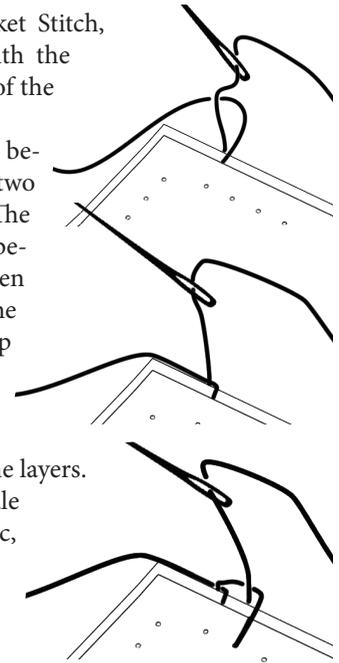
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Insert the needle down into the fabric,



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.

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

Instructions

Now everyone knows that a Shamrock is a three leaf clover. You can make yours with clusters of three leaves or four.

Design Side

Pin three or four heart petals onto the candle mat base in an overlapping fashion as shown on the box cover. Each petal is attached with three stitches arranged in “bird foot print” shape.

Using a Chain Stitch, add the stem for the Shamrock.

Repeat for the remaining Shamrocks.

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Repeat for the remaining Shamrocks.

Assembly

Pin the 2nd base layer behind the first. Stitch along the outside edge of the mat using a Blanket Stitch.

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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Shamrock Mat Kit



Shamrock Mat Kit



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