

Introduction

Women have always made do with what little they had. This is borne out in the Penny Rug traditions of the early 1800's. 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 translated into other decorative and useful 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 penny was the British penny 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, along with the outer edge of the mat were stitched with a blanket stitch.

As time went by, the designs included appliqué work also. The inspiration for their designs often came from other sources that were familiar to them. This would include folk art of a woman's ethnic community.

Quilt block patterns were the most common source of design elements. Each woman made her wool work to reflect her unique skills and tastes. With it she fashioned useful and functional items that decorated her home.

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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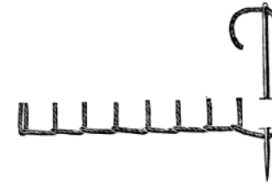
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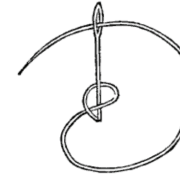
Kit Contents

- Ornament Body (2 per ornament)
- Filler (1 per ornament)
- Leaves (2 per ornament)
- Berry (1 per ornament)
- Light colored floss
- Dark colored floss
- Embroidery Needle

Stitches Needed



Blanket Stitch

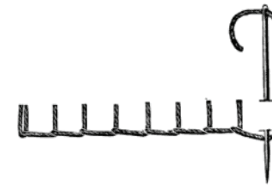


French Knot

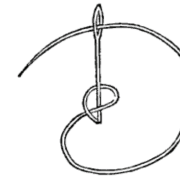
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Blanket Stitch



French Knot

Instructions

Design Side

Start with the top half of the ornament and decorate the surface with stars or french knots using contrasting floss. That is, dark floss on light colored bodies and light floss on dark colored bodies.

Arrange two leaves with one berry on top in an appropriate location and attach with a french knot. Repeat for each of the ornaments.

Assembly

Once all of the tops have been completed, place the top over the bottom of the same color with a the same shape filler in the middle. Use a blanket stitch and attach the top to the bottom using the same color floss as the decoration floss.

Finishing

Attach a loop of floss to the top of the ornament for hanging and you are done.

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Feedback

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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Merry Christmas

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The Lumenaris Group, Inc.
lumenaris.com
phone: 408-591-4034

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Christmas Ornament Kit



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