

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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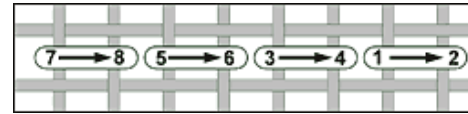
Kit Contents

Qty	Item
2	Cream Mat Base
1	Blue Mat Base
9	Snow Flakes
Floss, Needle, & Instructions	

Stitches Needed

Backstitch

This stitch creates a line of ⅛" stitches on the top



of the fabric that are equal in length with no spaces between. Knot one end and start from the back side up through to the front at position 1. Pass the needle down in position 2, up in 3, down in 4, up in 5 down in 6, and so on to make the stitch.

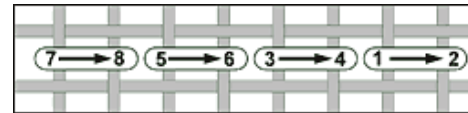
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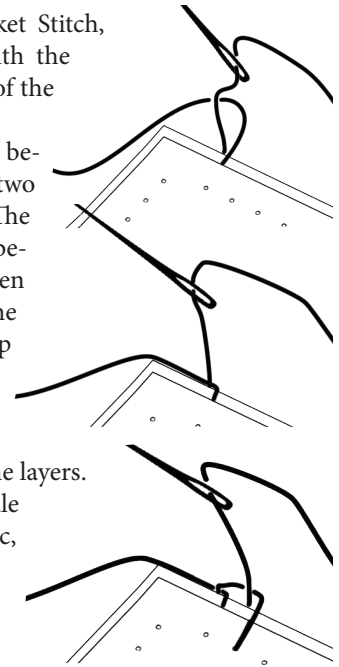
Blanket Stitch

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,



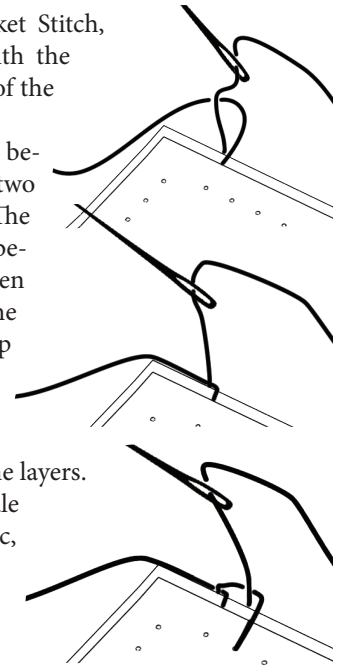
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Insert the needle down into the fabric,



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

The Frosty Days Mat Kit has snow flakes of various sizes and shapes. Refer to the box cover or to the image in these instructions for layout.

Design Side

Using one blue mat base, pin one snow flake in each lobe plus one in the center as shown. Each snow flake is attached using a Backstitch with six lines of stitches following the arms of the snow flake and a star in the center. Stitch with cream floss.

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Assembly

Pin this blue mat to the cream larger mat. Blanket stitch the edge of the blue mat to the cream mat with cream floss. Pin the second cream mat base to the back of the assembly and blanket stitch the cream mats together with blue floss.

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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