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 were made to protect table tops and were covered with stacks of "pennies". The pennies were circular pieces of wool cut using the coins of the day as templates. Both the edges of the pennies, along with the outer edge of the mat were blanket stitched.

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.

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.

Kit Contents

- Ornament Body (2 per ornament)
- Filler (1 per ornament)
- Balls (16 per ornament)
- Star (2 per ornament)
- Floss and Embroidery Needle

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



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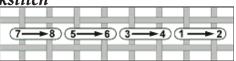
French Knot

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.

Backstitch

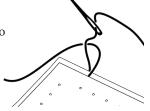


This stitch creates a line of ½" stitches on the top of the fabric that are equal in length with no spaces between. Knot one end and start from the back side up through to the front at position 1. Pass the needle down in position 2, up in 3, down in 4, up in 5 down in 6, and so on to make the stitch.

Blanket Stitch

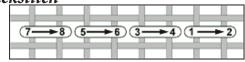
Knot one of the two ends of thread.

Insert the needle between two lay-



bigger the knot. You can experiment on a scrap piece of fabric to see which size you like best.

Backstitch

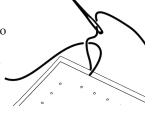


This stitch creates a line of ½" stitches on the top of the fabric that are equal in length with no spaces between. Knot one end and start from the back side up through to the front at position 1. Pass the needle down in position 2, up in 3, down in 4, up in 5 down in 6, and so on to make the stitch.

Blanket Stitch

Knot one of the two ends of thread.

Insert the needle between two lay-



ers, then down through the bottom layer and up over the tail.

Pull tight to 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 completed the edging.

Stitching should be evenly spaced and have the loop along the seam between the two layers.

Instructions

Design Side

Start with one tree body and pin the star and balls following the box cover. Attach the balls to the tree using a backstitch with yellow floss. Add the

ers, then down through the bottom layer and up over the tail.

Pull tight to 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 completed the edging.

Stitching should be evenly spaced and have the loop along the seam between the two layers.

Instructions

Design Side

Start with one tree body and pin the star and balls following the box cover. Attach the balls to the tree using a backstitch with yellow floss. Add the light strand using a backstitch with green floss. Add french knots to the green light strand using cream floss. Remove the star. Repeat for each side of each tree.

Using one star, add the decorative rays using yellow floss. Repeat for all stars. Join two stars together with the rays on the outside using a blanket stitch and yellow floss. Holding the star in the same position as in the picture, stitch from the 8 o'clock position and go clockwise until the 4 o'clock position. This leaves the bottom of the star open so it can slip over the top of the tree.

Assembly

Use a blanket stitch and yellow floss to attach the front of the tree to the back with the stuffing in the middle. Stitch all the way around.

Slip a star over the top of the tree and blanket stitch it to the top on both sides.

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Finishing

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

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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Victorian Christmas Tree Kit







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