



HOW TO HOOK

Stretch foundation fabric on a frame or hoop, design side up, keeping taut.

Sit comfortably, resting frame on table or lap.

If you are right-handed, follow these instructions. If you are left-handed, simply reverse everything.

With left hand, hold end of wool strand between thumb and forefinger.

With right hand, hold hook as pencil with fingertips on the metal collar.

With left hand beneath foundation materials, push hook through weave, catching wool.

Guiding hook and strip with left thumb, pull end of strip through weave to height of 1/2".

Push hook into next weave, catching wool and pulling to form loop 1/8" to 3/16" high, pulling loop back toward previous loop to prevent pulling out.

Working from right to left, make even loops which touch each other so that the foundation fabric is not visible. You will need to skip some rows or holes in the weave so that your hooking does not buckle (when wool is packed too tightly your piece will roll).

At end of strip, pull end through weave. All ends should be pulled to surface throughout looping process. Tails left on the back are easily pulled out.

Start second strip in same weave in which previous loop ended and again end on the surface.

Trim ends even with loops after completing a section.

Continue looping process until pattern is complete.

Do not cross a row of hooking with another row on the back as it creates lumps.

Finished hooked items can include rugs and floor mats, pillows, tea cozies, placemats, trivets, seat pads, or simply decorative pieces suitable for framing.

FOR THE BEGINNER

HOOKS ~ There are different size hooks (points) depending on your preference and hooking need (primitive versus traditional fine rugs). Hooks are generally around \$4.50 - \$8.00.

FRAMES ~ (includes lap frames, floor frames and hoops) Frames are either wooden or metal such as the Puritan Frame. For large rugs, many people prefer a larger floor frame. Tacks are used to attach the backing material to wooden frames and the Puritan Frame has carding strips with gripper like teeth that hold the backing material firmly in place. A hoop frame, used for needlepoint, etc, is smaller and good for small projects, especially to avoid a large expense until you are sure you like to hook. You can buy these at most craft stores. Frames are priced anywhere from \$13.00 up to \$200.00.

WOOL MATERIAL ~ Wool material can be purchased by the yard or piece, or in swatches. Swatches are usually 6 pieces of material of gradient shades of one color. To start out, you may wish to purchase pre-cut material from any one of a number of suppliers.

RUG PATTERN ~ This pattern is drawn on monk's cloth or burlap. You may decide to try out hooking first by purchasing an all-inclusive kit. Pattern costs range depending on size and intricacy. The biggest cost is not the pattern itself, but the wool material. As you become more adept with the materials, and if you have an artistic bent, you may decide to design your own patterns and color schemes.

FOR THE MORE ADVANCED HOOKER

CUTTER & BLADES ~ (to cut the wool material into strips) There are different types of cutting machines, some with suction cups to keep them stable, others with a clamp on device for a table. There are also different size blades to cut the wool into different size strips appropriate for your rug. Cutters can cost from \$120.00 upwards with blades around \$13.00 and up.

WOOL DYEING ~ Experience rug hookers also dye their own material with dyes one can purchase through rug hooking suppliers.