



THE making of hooked rugs is one of the oldest of American Home Crafts. Studies of the life of our early Colonists have located hooked rugs in nearly all of the thirteen colonies, tho' more have been found in the northern areas than elsewhere. This may be explained by the fact that the winters were longer and more severe. The people who emigrated and formed our colonies came from many countries. They adapted their crafts to their needs here, and used materials that were available. It is impossible to determine which nationality originated the idea of making the hooked rugs. Most historians are agreed that hooked rugs were born of a need to keep the bitter cold of the dirt floors away from the feet of the colonists. Burlap bags that had brought goods here, could be used as base for the rugs; and clothing that was badly worn and torn could be of further use when it was cut into strips and pulled in loops through the burlap. The first examples were indeed plain and simple; but women then, like the women today liked pretty things. Materials were soon sorted by colors. Some were dyed with the juice of berries, roots or the bark of trees. With a little bright color to liven the practical blacks, greens and browns, they soon made simple scrolls, flowers, leaves and branches, and the designs show both patience and skill. As the designs progressed, so did the manner of making the rugs improve. The Susan Burr Needle is the result of a great deal of ingenious thought and study; and it helps in making a lovely part of your home furnishings, with greater speed and ease. The more you use your Susan Burr Needle, the easier it will work for you, and the more pleasure you will find in using it.



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**Cloth Strippers  
and Rug Frames.**



The  
Making  
" of  
" of  
Hooked Rugs

with



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### Mounting the Pattern



THE RUG frame consists of four smooth sticks about 2" wide and  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. Two of these sticks should be about 6" longer than the length of burlap pattern, and two sticks 6" longer than the width of the pattern.

Fold under all edges of the burlap, making it double as you tack it to the frame. This prevents fraying of the burlap, while the rug is being made. Four machinest's clamps will make the corners secure, and should be fastened with the shank of the clamp toward the plain side of the burlap; these will form supports for the frame by lifting it off the table.

### Rug Materials

ANY material may be cut into strips narrow enough to slip easily through the eye of the needle. Wool rug yarn is also highly recommended material. For attractive colors and years of service, there is nothing superior to wool yarn. However, the earliest rugs were made of cloth strips.

### Starting the Work

HOLD your Susan Burr Needle by the large end, with the needle pointing away from you. Move the lower half of the needle, so the eye of the needle point is clear. Thread your yarn through the screw-eye, then through the hole of the needle-point and have an end of material

about 3" long. Your needle is threaded and ready for work. The border is usually the first work to put in. Start at a corner, if the rug is rectangular, and follow the thread of the burlap to insure a good straight edge. Start any place you like, if the rug is to be oval or round.

Press the Susan Burr Needlepoint through the burlap pattern; let the looper follow the needlepoint down. This is your first stitch. Hold the looper down,



lift the needlepoint, press forward three threads and down for the second stitch. Lift up the looper, and thrust it down in the second stitch. A slight click will be heard as the looper snaps against the needlepoint. The needlepoint makes the stitch and the looper holds the loop at the proper length for the nap of the rug while the point forms the next stitch. Practice slowly at first, and the action will soon become automatic.

### Position of Needle

PRACTICE holding your Susan Burr Needle almost vertical as you hold a pencil. This position will let you make stitches every three burlap-threads, and will form a pleasing depth of nap. If the needle is slanted too much, the stitches will be farther apart and shorter in depth.

### Helpful Suggestions

START by making the outside border; then the designs of the pattern, and finally the background. The finished rug will have a very professional look if the background is worked in one direction; that is, back and forth the narrow way of the rug, or up and down the longer way, instead of following the shape of the designs. Keep the rows of work two or three burlap-threads apart.

### Finishing

ALL yarn ends should be punched through to the right side, then cut off so they are smooth with the loops. Any loops that are noticeably long can be shortened by pulling the extra yarn into the loops each side of the long one, to equalize them. Remove the rug from the frame. Trim the burlap, leaving it two or two and a half inches wide all around the rug. Fold the burlap in a neat hem on the wrong side and hem with fairly heavy thread, No. 8 or 10 is good. If you cover this hem with a cotton tape or rug braid about two inches wide, it will add several years to the life of your rug, and will look well. This braid can be found at most notion counters and is quite inexpensive.