

How to Make Métis Hooked Rugs

There are six steps in making a hooked rug. These are:

- 1) Preparing Materials
- 2) Building a Frame
- 3) Preparing a Work Surface
- 4) Cutting and Tracing the Pattern
- 5) Hooking the Rug
- 6) Putting on the Backing and Finishing Touches

1) Preparing Materials

- Use two-by-two inch pieces of wood for the frame
- Make the frame slightly bigger than the rug
- Use nails to attach the frame
- Use burlap or jute for the frame's backing
- Use corduroy or denim to reinforce the frame's border
- Use quilting or upholstery thread to stitch the border
- Use sealed wax to bind the border to the burlap/jute backing
- Use wool or string to lace the burlap border to the frame
- Use various big-eyed needles and a thimble for the lacing process
- Use paper to make the pattern
- Use paper scissors to cut out the pattern
- Use small or large straight pins to pin down the pattern
- Use sharp scissors to cut all fabric
- Use a rug-hooking tool to begin the rug-hooking process
- Rug-hooking tools can be found at craft or carpet stores, or can be made from a cork and a nail
- Use various colours of cotton t-shirts for materials
- Cut the seams out of the t-shirts, and then cut the material into thumb width strips
- The strips can be rolled into balls for easy storage

2) Building a Frame

- Make an adjustable frame by drilling holes in the wood
- Use a nut and a bolt to adjust the frame's size
- If the frame is to be used only once, nail it together

3) Preparing a Work Surface

- Choose either burlap or jute (which is finer grained)
- Then cut the material so it is slightly larger than the frame
- Use other material, such as corduroy or denim, to make a border
- Sew the border all around its perimeter
- Use a big-eyed needle and with wool attach the material to the frame

- Start at a corner and then lace up the wool along the sides or the frame, about four centimetres apart
- Make sure that the wool is held as tight as a drum

4) Cutting and Tracing the Pattern

- Make a design on paper
- Then pin the design to the burlap/jute and trace it
- Try not to make the design too crowded or too small, because the material's loop has to show
- Before tracing, be sure to measure design's length and width
- Try to leave six centimetres for the border
- This will allow for the design to be placed better on the rug

5) Hooking the Rug

- Use the rug hooking tool pull the material up through the burlap/jute
- Make a small loop with the material
- Push in and pull the material up again
- Try to get close to the first loop
- Continue along the outline
- After the outline is complete, fill in the design
- Then complete the background and your border

6) Putting on the Backing and Finishing Touches

- Tuck and then put an extra border under the rug
- Put on your corduroy or denim border
- Lay the material flat on the rug and pin it to all areas so that it is firmly attached
- The corners are tricky because they can be a little bulky
- Fold any extra material over and roll it in, using large pins to hold it

Materials needed to make a hooked rug include a hammer, nails, wood glue, nuts, bolts, a pair of pliers, wood, measuring tape, burlap or jute, quilting or upholstery thread, sealed wax, a lighter, paper, paper scissors, upholstery or fabric scissors, a rug-hooking tool, old cotton t-shirts and straight and large pins.

Reference:

Aen kroshay aen tapee avec mi gineey: Métis Hooked Rugs. (Video) Gabriel Dumont Institute: Saskatoon, 2002.