

# Frugal Rug Tutorial

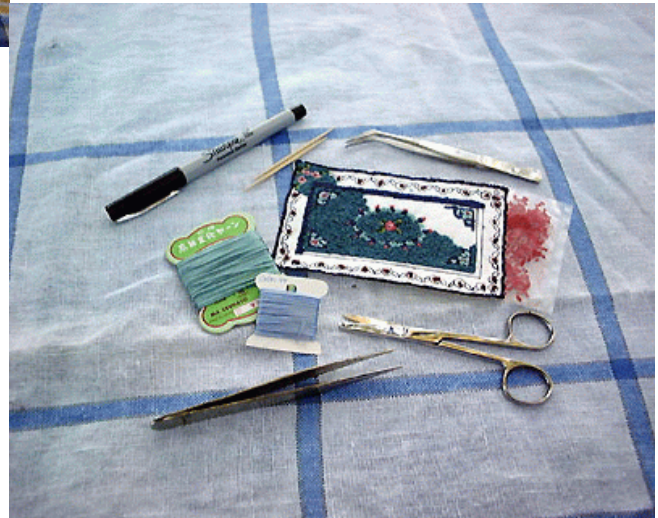
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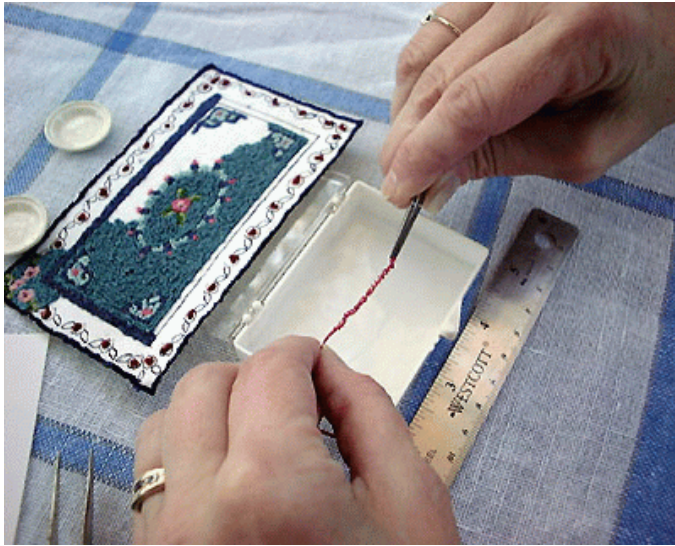
The Frugal Rug is an economical and fun project for anyone who may not have the availability of an artisan to purchase a needle crafted rug from or the funds to make such a purchase but still desires a nice bit of detail for ones Hitty's floor, vignette, or shelf display.

Supplies are simple. Specific: a

pattern, tacky glue, glue applicator (toothpicks or plastic dental pic) iron-on interfacing & iron, and Bunka. Felt snips can be substituted for the Bunka with careful gluing, but give an appearance of an old worn rug. Basic: scissors, tweezers, pencil, pen or ultra fine marker and container for snips.



In the first photo, upper left, is a finished rug of a simple pattern in bunka, as is the round rug, center photo. The unfinished rug is a hand drawn pattern by Dotie Claypool and the three lower patterns are reduced size photocopies of patterns offered in full size rug hooking books from the local library. Not shown photographed is ironing a piece of iron-on interfacing to the back of the paper patterns. For ease of work, you may choose to leave an edge around your pattern and pin it down to a piece of cardboard or gator board covered with plastic wrap or wax paper to prevent sticking, then trim to actual rug edge when finished gluing.



Bunka, when purchased, appears as a neatly woven round trim. For our use, it must be “pulled”. Do not stretch it too far out as it will not spring back, and its loose form will not be suitable for your rug as it will let all the glue show through.

Pre-snip bunka “curls” of 1/4th to 3/8th of an inch in length when you first begin working. Cutting a small supply of “snips” in advance of gluing gives you a mini assembly line effect that works very well. With several containers you can pre-cut more than one color. After you are more used to how it handles, you can place snips as long as a half inch in background areas without having your glue tack up on you. You



don't want to try to apply long snips to large pre-glued areas as you end up having to add glue the second time and glue that shows ruins the look of your piece. You can become quite handy at quickly applying no more than a 1/8th inch diameter spot of glue on the end of your toothpick at a time.



Applying the glue dot.



Apply and nudge the curl onto the glue gently tamping the snip curl into place with tweezers. A stylus, or clean toothpick can be used just as well to tamp down your curl. Maintaining the curls gives your rug that authentic look from a distance as if it were a true needle worked piece.



Hitty proudly shows how little work space is needed for this project and the size of this frugal rug compared to herself. This is considered a pattern for a “large” rug at 3 x 5 inches. The two-tone blue rug in the first photo is 2.5 x 4 inches.

For a first project I suggest a chair size rug of only 2.25 x 3.25 inches. A credit card can be traced and hold your own sketched design.