

# THE HOOK UP

## A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM CAT HOUSE RUGS JULY, 2006

As rug hooking enthusiasts, we are dedicated to teaching and promoting the art of rug hooking. **THE HOOK UP** is our way of keeping you updated on the latest news from **Cat House Rugs** studio.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone who enjoys rug hooking as much as we do.

(Written by Mary E. Silva)

### TIP OF THE MONTH

When choosing a background color for your rug, choose a color that allows the design to stand out. The background is the “supporting cast” for the show. Dark colors will set off lighter features in the design, while light backgrounds will support deeper ones. Medium-toned backgrounds are the most difficult to work with – the edges of the design elements must be chosen with enough contrast so as not to blend into the background. Notice how outlining the design elements with darker borders (in the rug below) defines the features of the flowers and basket. And remember to use a background that has some variations in value – like a mottled or textured piece of wool, or a combination of wools that have similar values. Edyth O’Neill’s book, *My Red Cape*, has a wonderful section on combining wools for your background.

### FEATURED RUG

**Title:** Calypso (horizontal)

**Artist:** Midge Regan

**Design by:** Melissa Elliott

**Size:** 30” X 52”

**Cut:** #8

**Hooked with:** wool on linen

Midge says she chose this pattern because she was in the mood to hook a rug with a “big, bold, bright design.” Soon after she planned the piece, her mother became ill and Midge spent many hours sitting with her in the intensive care unit. She says it was a great way to calm her mind as she stayed with her mother, and she believes she converted several new rug hookers in Connecticut who took an interest in the rug as Midge hooked.

To color plan the rug, Midge made about ten copies of the printed pattern and used color pencils to play with various color combinations until she devised a plan she liked. The background was somewhat difficult to choose but as you can see the medium peach mottled wool works well with the pale aqua basket and the bright flowers. I like her

use of outlines where needed to show some contrast with the background. The darker color around the border helps to settle the rug and keep your focus on the design.

Midge enjoyed hooking this rug so much she recently began another Melissa Elliott designed rug called “Kaleidoscope”. She began the new one at Cedar Lakes Rug Camp with instructor Joan Reckwertdt. Can’t wait!



### THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER

All Melissa Elliott’s patterns (in stock) are on sale this month – 20% off the regular price. Melissa is a terrific designer from Versailles, Kentucky and she has a great selection of whimsical rug patterns from her “Main Street Rugs” collection. Come in or call for pattern availability.



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