

# THE HOOK UP

## A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM CAT HOUSE RUGS MARCH, 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

Here's an idea for dyeing your wool without the mess or expense of chemical dyes: onion skin dyeing. Begin by bringing a large pot of water to a boil, then reducing it to a simmer. Add one tsp. of salt and a mordant of 1 ½ tsp. of cream of tarter and 1 ½ Tbsp. of alum. (The cream of tarter and alum should be dissolved with a little of the boiling water before adding it to the pot.) Next add the darkest outer dry skins from the onions into a large pot and simmer for about 15 minutes. The more skins you use, the deeper the color you will get. Finally, remove the onion skins and add about ½ yard of wool to the pot. Cover the pot and continue to very softly simmer (do not let the water come to a hard boil) until the wool takes up the color – about 30 minutes. When the wool has taken up the color, remove it and rinse with cold water. You can place the wool in the spin cycle of your dryer and then dry it in your clothes dryer. Try this method with any color wool solids or plaids. It brings a rich antique golden hue to your wools.

### FEATURED RUG

**Title:** Leftover Onions

**Artist:** Ada Silva King

**Design by:** Anonymous

**Size:** 24" X 36"

**Cut:** #6

**Hooked with:** Wool on linen

This little geometric rug began as a "thank you gesture" from Jyl and me to my daughter, Ada, for helping us with the restoration of our Cat House studio. We started with five piles of recycled wool pieces divided into basic stacks of reds, blues, greens, off-whites and dark browns. Then we "married" each pile of wool by boiling them in individual pots of water for about 30 minutes. This blended each color pile together. Next we re-dyed each pot of wool using the onion-skin method described above. The result was that all the wools work beautifully together. This method is a wonderful way to use up all those leftover pieces of wool that you never thought you could use again.

Well, Ada hooked a few of the blocks in the center of the rug (three years ago) and then it got filed away as she began her

family. A couple of months ago, I asked her to give it to me and I finished it for her. The funny thing is that if you inspected it you couldn't tell which part she hooked and which part I hooked. Even though she is a lefty and I'm not – our technique is identical. I really like the rug and it's a nice accent on the floor in front of her kitchen sink. With a hit-and-miss pattern like this, it will hide a multitude of spots and spills over the years.



### THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER

We have a ton of odd sized pieces of recycled wool and new wool that we are once again packaging into one pound bags. *Each one pound bag of miscellaneous wool scraps is \$10.00* and these are terrific for making hit-and-miss geometrics like the one above. (Each bag totals approximately one yard of wool.) Come browse our second floor for great finds to beef up your wool collection.



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Our hours are: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 10 am – 4 pm

Wednesday: 10 am – 7 pm

Saturday: 10 am – 2 pm