

THE HOOK UP

A monthly newsletter from cat house rugs
May, 2005

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

Some of us think that the only way to hook a rug is to use beautifully custom-dyed wools. Let's face it – that can be rather expensive. Don't overlook the recycled wools for your pieces. It's a good way to keep the cost of your rugs down and the textures make for a really interesting look. The trick is to choose colors that work together and good hooking-weight wools.

FEATURED RUG

Title: Recycled Stripes and Diamonds

Artist: Myra Silva

Design by: inspired by an antique rug

Size: 46" X 26"

Cut: Hand-cut and #4 cut

Hooked with: Recycled wool on linen



Myra Silva is my daughter (of whom I am very proud.) That being said, she is a talented artist whose mediums include woodworking and painting. She observed my hooking madness for years before deciding to give it a try. Last summer Myra and her husband took a train ride to Oregon with me, and for three days out and back she hooked a small piece that was a picture of one of her sugar-glider pets. Her use of color was wonderful and she was a natural with the wool. This "Recycled Stripes and Diamonds" is her first rug and like her mother she wanted to achieve an antique look to her piece, so she hand-cut the wool. As she began hooking it however, I noticed a lot of "hooker holidays" where she had left too much space between her rows. To compensate, she cut some strips of wool on a #4 cut and hooked them in between the wider hand-cut rows. The effect was so nice that she incorporated it into the rest of her rug.

Now I have to admit that when she started this rug, I was pretty leery of her use of the gaudy reds and common grays she chose to use. I had to bite my tongue to keep from suggesting that we over-dye them to more palatable colors. Instead I let her do her own thing, trusting her color sense. And the result was a pleasant surprise. How many times do Jyl and I mask these recycled reds and grays with our dye recipes? We always say "Oh this will be great for over-dying!" I have certainly learned a lesson from my daughter – it is possible to make a rug entirely from recycled wools. It just takes a lot of imagination and a risk with color.

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER

During the month of May all recycled as-is wool will be 20% off. Time to stock up!



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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