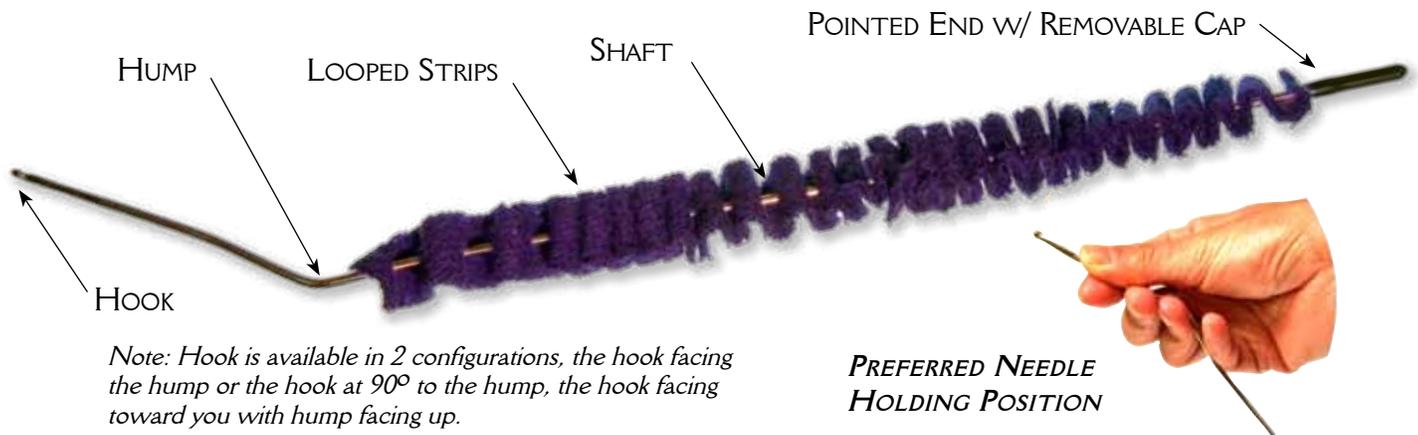


LD91

the *LACIS* STEEL "SCHIRREN" RUG HOOK

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING A SHIRRED RUG



In the tradition of strip-made rugs, all conceived as a means for recycling discarded fabrics to create new and useful rugs, the "Shirred" rug remains as the least known technique yet one which offers many advantages over the more popular hooked and braided techniques.

A "Schirren" rug has no equal. Completely reversible, it is made from narrow strips of fabric of any length, joined together in corrugated form, so the strips stand on end. It requires only the hook and some string, requiring no frame or clamps.

This Lacis "Schirren" hook is of revolutionary ergonomic design facilitating the manipulation of the hook while allowing the working material to flow through on to the working rug.

It is a 2.5mm x 14" long thin steel shaft, on which to thread and store your strips of fabric and make all the connecting stitches. A crochet hook on one end makes your joining stitches as you peel the material off, a hump near the hook end to facilitate the holding of the needle and directing the hook and a sharp point on the opposite feed end to facilitate the feeding of any fabric from denim to wool onto the hook. A removable stop on the feed end keeps the working strips in place.

Strips of fabric, in any length, are folded and joined at the center, with the strips standing on edge in the finished piece. This creates the most luxurious rug which is completely reversible, will never wear out and will not collect dirt since there is no sealed backing to lock in the dirt. The technique is extremely simple, the work easily done in the comfort of your favorite chair. Using the "Schirren" rug hook for making a shirred rug, mat, seat or decorative object is, by far, the simplest method, mastered in a only few minutes.

MATERIALS & HOOK

FABRIC: Although any medium weight woven fabric can be used, a medium weight wool or flannel is suggested for a first rug with consideration given to solid color as well as patterned materials. Working with 3/4" strips, allow approximately 1 yard of material for each square foot of rug. To avoid fraying, the material must be cut on the bias, approximately 45° to the weave. A fabric slitter is the recommended tool for cutting your strips although a scissors or rotary cutter can be used.

JOINING THREAD: The rug is held together with

a strong flexible thread worked through the center of the strips. A good quality cotton rug warp or crochet thread such as DMC "baroque" is suggested.

HOOK: The standard configuration of the hook has the hook facing the hump. Some crocheters prefer the hook at right angles to the hump, the hook facing toward you with the hump upward (for right handed crocheters). Hook is available in both configurations. The unique "Schirren" hook is the only tool needed to create a rug. It not only stores your working material but serves as the hook for joining the fabric strips together. The strips, fed on from the back, pointed end of the

hook, allow you to control the sequence of colors as you work. The hump on the hook is for placement of your finger for physically noting and controlling the direction of the hook and serves as a handle to hold the hook as you work your stitches.

HOLDING THE HOOK with your two middle fingers under the hump, the little finger over the hump and the thumb and forefinger in front of the hump, toward the hook, is generally the most comfortable position allowing maximum comfort and control of the hook.

PROCEDURE

REFER TO STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTION PAGE

Requiring no prior skills, these instructions are designed for the novice.

PREPARING THE HOOK: The cut strips will be placed on the needle from the back or pointed end. Remove the plastic tip and insert the exposed pointed end, back-and-forth, through the center of the strip at approximately 1/2" intervals. Fill the hook, as in the illustration, so the looped strips fill the hook from the notch to the pointed end, the loops pushed snugly together. Replace the removable tip. When adding new strip (noting that any length strip can be used), overlap the old and new strips approximately 3/4". The folds should look fairly even, but a little variation in fold or thickness of strip is fine.

Keeping the notch clear for your finger, move 6-8 pleats in front of the finger notch.

STARTING: The procedure described is for the basic round mat or rug which is worked in a continuous spiral. It will be obvious that square, oval or rectangular rugs can just as easily be made.

FIRST ROUND: Using your thread make a slip knot on the hook and follow with two chain stitches. Slip two complete folds off the end of the hook, pushing them against the chain exposing the hook between the 2nd and 3rd folds. Chain 3 stitches and slip off two more folds. Repeat until you have slipped off 12 complete folds (six sets of two folds). Examining your work, you will see the thread running through the center of all the folds. All subsequent joinings will be made to this thread, between the folds. Coil the first 12 folds to form a circle (the side where the thread shows, to the

inside). This will be held in place by the first stitch of the 2nd round.

ALL FOLLOWING ROUNDS: In the space between the first and second folds, make a JOINING STITCH with the thread in the folds following the STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS. Work two folds of fabric off the hook, pulling the thread through them. This will be the typical stitch for the remainder of the work.

As the diameter of the rug increases, the number of folds in each round must be increased. The number of additional folds necessary will depend on the material used, the tightness of your stitches and the size of your loops. The key is to observe the finished portion of the work, looking for uniformity and flatness. It should be obvious that if making a square or rectangular rug, where each row is parallel and of the same length, increases are not necessary. In this case there will be only one fold between each fold of the previous row.

In working the second round, it is suggested that you double the number of folds. After each fold of the first round, make your JOINING STITCH and pull off two new folds from your hook. In subsequent rounds you can pull off one or two folds between each fold of the previous round, in a regular fashion, looking for uniformity of texture. If you use a variety of materials, as would be the case with recycled materials, this simple method of adjustment will need to be made.

SECURING THE WORK: It is suggested that you secure your work after approximately every dozen stitches as well as when you stop working. Simply pull up loop of your chain stitch, put your spool of thread through and tighten loop.

FINISHING: The rug should be finished with a dense outer edge. This is simply achieved by placing two new folds of fabric between each fold of the previous round. Tie off by the securing method described above. Cut off your thread leaving a short tail which can then be worked into the body of the rug with any needle. Trim, with a scissors, any extending strip ends.

REFERENCES

TRADITIONAL SHIRRED & STANDING WOOL RUGS, Diana Blake Gray (DG87)

STEP-BY-STEP "SCHIRREN" STITCH INSTRUCTIONS



STARTING

Chain 2 stitches and slip 2 folds off the end of the hook



Catch working thread again and now pull through both loops.



STITCHING FIRST ROUND

Chain 3 stitches and slip off 2 more folds.



Catch thread again and



Finish with single chain.

Repeat until you have slipped off 12 complete folds.



Completion of the first stitch of the 2nd round.

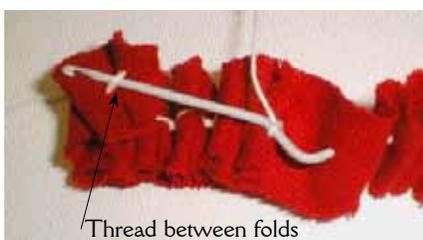


Coil the first 12 folds to form a circle.



COMPLETION OF JOINING

Work 2 folds of fabric off the hook.



JOINING STITCH

2nd Round:

Following illustrations, place hook under the thread which is between the first and second folds.



Pull working thread through this loop.



Repeat making stitch with thread between the next pair of folds.