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Hook a Festive House

COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

PROJECT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GWEN DIXON

MATERIALS

- » Cotton binding 1⁵/₈ inch wide
- » Wool (fabric and/or yarn)
- » Burlap or other backing
- » Cotton thread
- » Glass seed beads and beading needle (optional)
- » Miscellaneous yarn, threads, embellishments

TOOLS

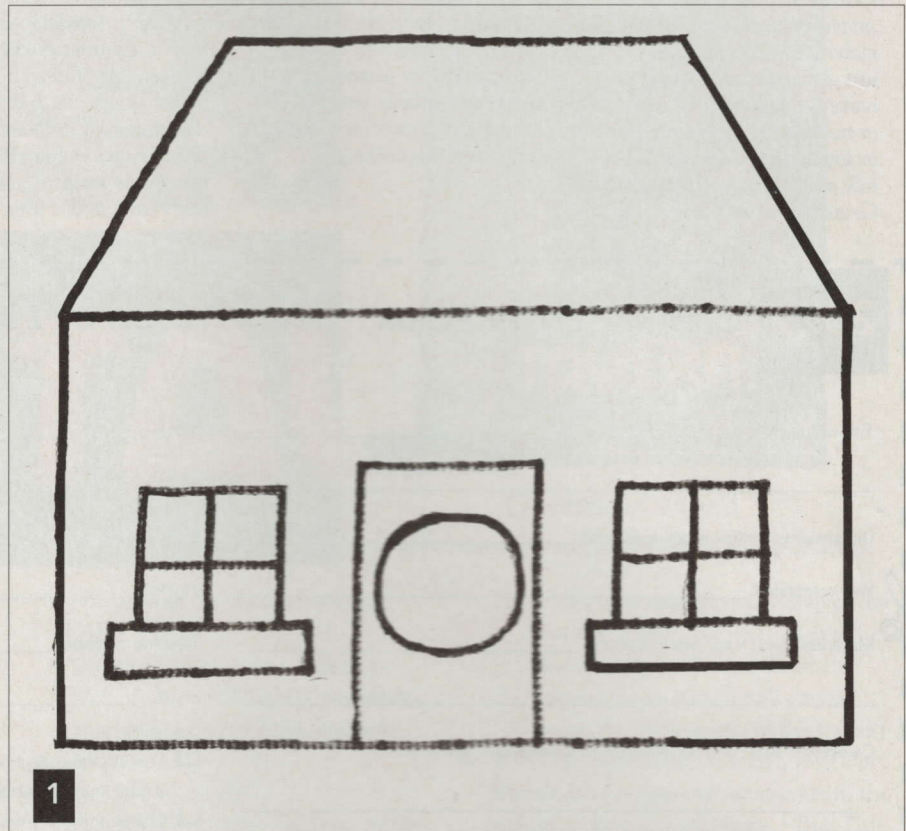
- » Traditional rug hook
- » Sharp scissors
- » Rug hooking frame
- » Sewing machine
- » Hand-stitching needles
- » Black Sharpie marker

DIRECTIONS

Prepare the Backing and Trace/ Draw the Pattern

1. Enlarge the pattern to the size of house you would like, using a photocopier. My finished houses fit on an 8¹/₂" x 11" piece of paper. **(1)**
2. Cut a piece of burlap that is large enough to accommodate your house and has extra space around it for finishing and fitting on your frame.
3. Prepare the burlap by sewing around the edges of the piece of burlap, leaving a 1" edge all the way around.
4. Transfer the pattern for your house onto the burlap or other backing. I use Red Dot tracing material to trace patterns.

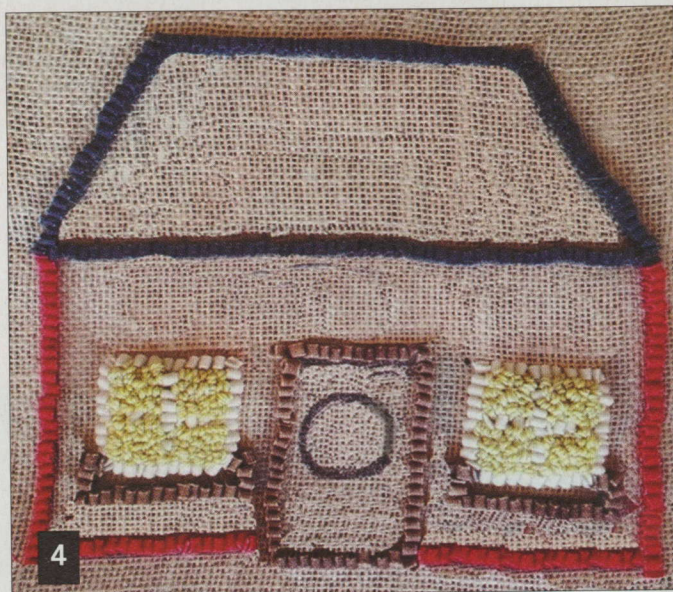
To decorate your home for Christmas, or to give as a gift! This Christmas house is a festive decoration that hooks up easily and quickly. This project uses traditional rug hooking and proddy hooking, done with a traditional rug hook. I have included some ideas for variations, and you may have your own ideas for ways to make this house your own. This is a beginner-level project, with tips to help you along the way.



5. Sew around the outline of the pattern, then around that outline, about 1" to 1¹/₂" away.

Opposite page: *Variations on Christmas House*, designed and hooked by Gwen Dixon, Riverview, New Brunswick, 2022.





TIP

If you are using Red Dot, tape it to the burlap before you trace. After you have traced the pattern through the Red Dot onto the burlap, remove the Red Dot and retrace the lines with a black Sharpie to make them a bit darker.

TIP

When you stitch around the outside of the house, stitch just outside of the lines so that you can hook on the line.

Hook the House

6. I have provided instructions and photos based on the order in which I hooked the red house. The house does not need to be hooked in this order. Sometimes I outline the roof and the main part of the house to start. You can play with the order for each house that you make.

7. I used sizes #5 and #6 cuts of wool for these houses. I like the level of detail for these sizes, and these sizes help make this project quick and easy.

8. Hook around the outlines of the windows, window boxes, and door. For the red house, I brought the tails to the front of the piece for everything except the yellow interior, inside of the windows. If you want muntin bars on the windows, you can add those now also. (If you want to put a Christmas tree in the window of your house do not hook the muntin bars.) also (2)

TIP

You can make the door taller or wider, as you prefer. The size of the door varies in the samples shown—it's taller in the turquoise house, and wider in the blue house.



9. Hook around the perimeter of the roof and the outline of the house. (3)

TIP

If you want to give your roof extra texture, hook it in yarn, like I did for the blue house. Plaid wool fabric also works well for a roof.

TIP

I outlined the turquoise house in a darker value. This adds interest and detail to the house.

Hook the Inside of the Windows

10. I used yellow yarn for the inside of the windows of the red house and brought the tails of the yarn to the back. If you have muntin bars on the windows, hook these first. Both the

red and the blue houses have muntin bars on the windows. The dark turquoise house does not because it has the Christmas tree. (5)

TIP

I usually hook the windows at the end, but I wanted to be able to see the small spaces between the muntin bars more clearly, and to fill them to give a rounded and full look, so I did them earlier in the hooking sequence.

TIP

For the turquoise house, I left out the muntin bars and hooked the yellow inside the windows in a smaller cut, size #4. This makes the Christmas tree in the window more noticeable. If you are adding a Christmas tree, hook it first, then add the background yellow. I have sewn glass seed beads on the "branches" of the trees as ornaments. (5)

Proddy Hook the Greenery in the Window Boxes and Wreath

11. To proddy hook with a traditional rug hook, simply pull up one tail, then pull up the other tail in the opening next to the first one. (6) (7)

TIP

Most greens work well for this project. Balance cuts from the greens between the boxes and wreath by hooking the same green piece in the two boxes and the wreath, and by hooking the same color in more than one spot in the boxes and the wreath.

12. To make sure that you have hooked your wreath evenly all the way around, turn the frame over and look at the underside of the pattern. If one area has less greenery, add



some more in that spot. The photo shows the underside of the wreath on the turquoise house. (8)

TIP

I like to let the greenery spill out of the boxes. Trim the ends as you hook, but leave them a bit long, then decide at the end if you want them to be shorter.

Add a Bow to the Wreath

13. To make a bow, hook two long tails, then tie them in a bow and trim the ends.
14. Hook the bow at the top, bottom, or side of wreath, as you prefer. You can also place it in the center of the wreath, where you will hook the door.

TIP

Both yarn and wool strips work well as bows. In the samples, I have used a wool strip on the blue house, a thick yarn on the turquoise house, and a thinner yarn on the red house. (9)

Hook the Roof

15. Work your way around the roof, bringing your tails to the front, using wool strips (in a solid color or plaid) or yarn.

TIP

Move around the sides of the roof as you hook, to get a nicely "constructed" look. (10) (11)

Hook the Main Part of the House

16. Hook the line just below the roofline, then hook around the door and windows. Next, fill in the spaces between the doors, windows, and roofline. (12) (13) (14) (15)



13



14



15



16



17

Hook the Door

7. I used brown wool strips to suggest a wooden door. Any color can be used for the door.

TIP

You may want to remove the bow in order to fill in the door.

8. As you are hooking the door, you may decide to pull out one or two pieces of the proddy if you find that the wreath is too full.

9. Remember to hook the space inside the wreath also, as shown in the photo, to fill in your door. (16)



FINISH YOUR PROJECT

20. Once you have finished hooking your piece, trim away the excess burlap, cutting outside the second stitched outline. (17)

TIP

Your burlap edge will need to be narrower than the cotton binding you are using. I use $1\frac{5}{8}$ " wide binding. Compare your binding to the width of the remaining burlap. (18)

21. Trim away more burlap if you need to, to cover the edge with the binding, but do not trim away the second stitched outline, about 1" to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the house. If your burlap is still too wide, fold it under twice and iron flat. (19)
22. Iron the sides of the burlap, making it flat, and folding at the corners. (20)

Attach the Binding on the Outer Edge

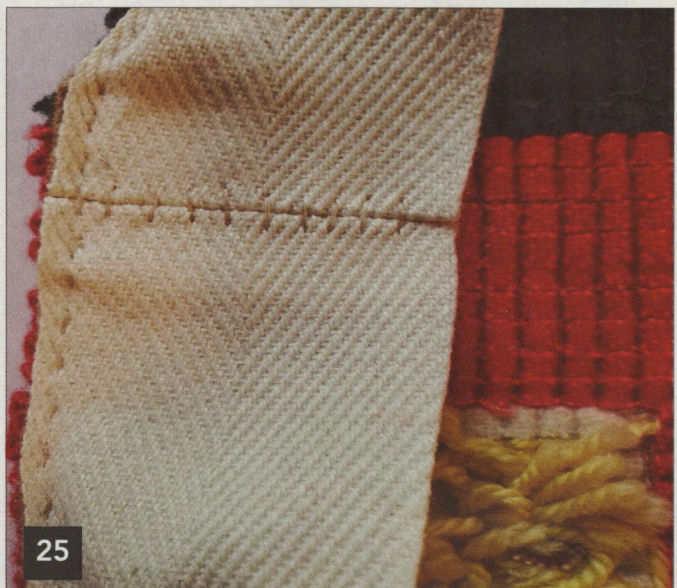
23. Hand-stitch the outer edge first, stitching between the loops in the first row. Check back and front as you stitch, making sure that you are not pinning any loops down. (21)

TIP

Leave about $1\frac{1}{5}$ " not attached to the burlap. This will allow you to fold it under, iron, and stitch it closed at the end. (22)

Joining the Ends of the Binding

24. When you have returned to the starting point, cut binding, leaving enough to fold over. Iron the folded ends down. (23)
25. Stitch the two folded edges down, stitching through the mat and between the loops. (24) (25)



TIP

As you are hooking between the loops, check the front to make sure you are not pinning any loops down with the thread as you stitch.

26. Stitch the inner edge of the binding to the mat. Stitch the bottom edge first. Fold both side edges to lie on top, miter the corners, and iron. This will give the finished back a more symmetrical look. **(26)**





27. For the red house, I folded both sides at the roofline as well as at the corners. When I finished the blue and turquoise houses, I did not fold the binding at the roofline. (27) (28)

TIP

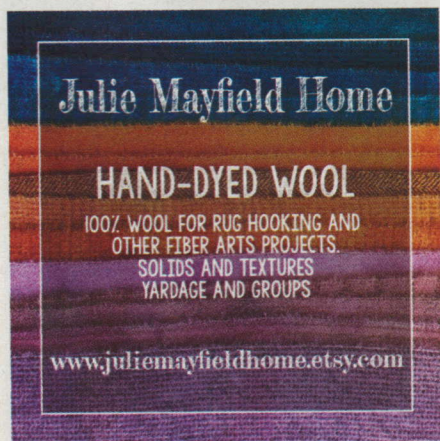
Use pins to hold the corners and tucks folded after you have ironed them in place.

Stitch the Corners and Tucks

29. When you have finished stitching all the way around the inside edge, sew down the tucked and cornered areas. (29) (30)

Iron and Hang

30. Iron the binding on the back when finished stitching. Attach hoops if you want to hang your house on the wall or door. (31)





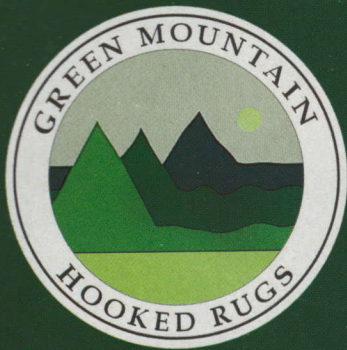
TIP

Any size plastic hoop will work, so long as the opening will fit over the head of a small nail.

Enjoy your Christmas house. Hang it on your door or wall. Make it part of a wreath or larger display. Give as a gift or sell at a Christmas market. Most of all, enjoy this festive season!

P.S. I would love to see your Christmas houses! Send me a note and photo at happydogs@rogers.com **RHM**

Gwen Dixon is a fiber artist and adult educator from Riverview, New Brunswick, Canada. You can find her on Facebook or by email (happydogs@rogers.com).



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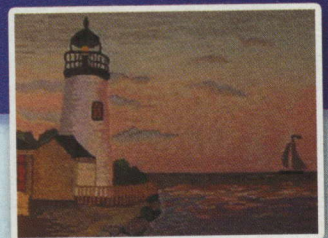
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