From Rags to Hooked Rugs

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Spring Renovating
Frances Thomas

One glimpse of the first bluebird, the sight of the first courageous tulip pushing its way through the ground, and one breath of balmy, spring air causes the housewife to gaze with distasteful eyes upon the countenance of her winter-worn house. Immediately her soul is beset to that thing dreaded by every masculine mind, “spring housecleaning.”

To our grandmothers, housecleaning meant a thorough cleaning from attic to basement that upset not only the house itself but the mental equilibrium of every member of the family. Furniture was moved from every room, while pictures were taken down, rugs were put on the line for a religious beating, woodwork and floors were unmercifully scrubbed and curtains were washed and put in stretchers to dry—all to be put back in the very same spot at the end of the cleaning period.

To the modern housewife spring housecleaning has a somewhat different meaning. It is her idea not so much to change material things as to change the atmosphere of the whole house from that of winter to one of airy spring and summer. As a first requirement, she, like our grandmothers, requires cleanliness for does not spring herald us with an ever-renewing materials. The last mentioned suggests a floral design but is in no way realistic. At the present time, baskets of roses are ever new and fascinating because of the different designs and colors that are available in the home, cheap materials can be purchased at rummage sales; however, the things bought at a rummage sale should be sent to the laundry before

From Rags to Hooked Rugs
Gladys Parker Myers '28

Even old rugs have their place in the home in this age when all women are especially interested in beautifying the home. Hooked rugs, although they have been made by our great-grandmothers are ever new and fascinating because of the different designs and colors that can be used in them.

As in choosing a dress, the first thing to consider before making a rug is the use for which it is intended and then the size. No one would buy a dress without first deciding for what purpose it is to be used and most often we feel the need of a particular dress before we start shopping. How much more exciting it is to hook a rug for a certain spot than to labor over a rug and then to carry the completed rug around the house trying to find a place where it will fit in best.

Next comes the designs and, again, the design must fit the space, size of rug, as the design of a dress must fit the wearer. No really large woman would wear a dress made for a small woman but we often forget that there are different designs for the large and the small rugs.

There are two types of design used in hooked rugs—the conventional design which works well in an all-over pattern and the abstract rhythmical flower shapes. The last mentioned suggests a floral design but is in no way realistic.
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minutes. When both rice and raisins are cold, turn the rice into a shallow bowl and pour the raisins around it.

There are always the old standbys of cream soups to use for milk. Did you ever try cooking potatoes in a very little water and then adding milk just long enough to heat the milk? No thickening is necessary, and this is an easy way to prepare a "hurry up" warm dish for a school child.

Milk, sweetened and with a few drops of vanilla or almond and a maraschino cherry in it is especially good, if it is well cooled before serving. Milk in itself is far better than adding cocoa for the child, but the vanilla gives it a delicate flavor that is not unlike ice cream.

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they are handled or taken into the home. Any of the light colored materials can be dyed with commercial dyes such as Putnam, Dimond, Angel or Sunset.

The design should first be sketched on a small piece of paper in proportion to the size of the rug and then drawn on a piece of paper the same size as the rug. On a light colored burlap about four inches wider and longer than the finished rug will be, transfer the design on the right side, by means of carbon paper or by blacking the back of the paper design with a soft lead pencil.

Four strips of light wood, but still strong enough to hold the burlap firmly, are to be cut a few inches smaller than the burlap. Before the frame is nailed together, tack the sides of the burlap to the side strips about every three inches, keeping the edges even and the cross threads straight. Nail the end pieces of the frame to the sides, spreading the side strips as much as possible so that the burlap will be stretched very tight and being sure that the frame work is absolutely square. Then tack the ends of the burlap to the frame. Pull the burlap tight and keep the threads straight because the finished rug will be no straighter than is the burlap on the frame.

Hooks can be purchased or can be filed from a small screw driver. The strips of material are cut narrow enough so that they will pull through easily. This width will vary with the quality of the material. The loops are pulled through one-fourth to one-half inch as desired and must be the same length all over the rug. The rugs will wear longer and are easier to clean if the loops are not cut; however the ends of the strips are pulled to the right side and are cut the same length as the loops. The edges of the rugs are hemmed back on the wrong side.

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