



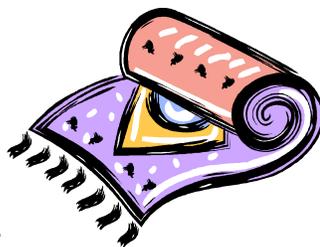
Time for Prayer

Prayer...the easiest way to fill your spiritual vessel...it takes no preparation

When I was serving in the Young Women we decided that we wanted to give all our Laurels a special gift when they graduated from High School. We thoughtfully and carefully considered this gift. What could we give them that would have the most meaning and be lasting to them as a gift of our love? We had tried so hard to enrich their testimonies and bring them to an understanding of their Saviors love. We were inspired to do something about Prayer which we felt was the most important principle and gift that they could take out in the world with them. We crocheted a rag rug for each of the girls in their favorite colors to be used as a prayer rug. We wanted them to never forget their morning or evening prayers and told them that the rug would remind them to drop to their knees every time they saw it. Most of the girls were headed to college. My own daughter was one of those girls and she was going to another state to a university with a specialized program for what she was studying and a full scholarship. She was very independent but uncomfortable about being so completely on her own without our large and supportive family around her. Her prayer rug immediately became meaningful to her and to her roommate. Almost from the start Mallory's roommate used the prayer rug as much as she did and often they even prayed together for the strength and help that they needed.

Some of our other girls later told us that the prayer rug reminded them of lessons that they had in Young Women because it reminded them of us and the testimonies that we had shared with them. They said that they loved kneeling on the rug and keeping the commitment that we had asked them to keep that they would always go to the lord in Prayer every single day.

We do not need a rug to be reminded to pray constantly and in any place we find ourselves...but just as the rug became a little circle of refuge to my daughter away from home, we can all have that special place where we can go to the Lord.



Crochet a Rag Prayer Rug

I love rag rugs! They make colorful and fun PRAYER RUGS Start with a simple chain crochet stitch and old tee-shirts. Cut a long strip of cloth out of each tee-shirt to use as yarn, about 1/2 inch wide, and on a spiral from the bottom of the shirt to the top, all in one continuous long "thread". Then simply roll that up for a "ball of yarn" to crochet with.

You can make a circle rag rug or a rectangle rag rug this way. They are multi-colors (no patterns) and all from tee-shirts. They are sturdy and wash up easily in the washing machine. I highly recommend the person who wants to start with rag rugs try making one like this...it's easy and looks nice when finished.

Here are some other tips I found on the internet about Crocheted Rag Rugs.....

CROCHETED RAG RUG PATTERNS

How they work...and why some don't

by master rugmaker, Diana Blake Gray

We get a lot of questions from people who have purchased rug patterns (from other folks) and wonder why they can't get them to work. So here is a primer on how crocheted rag rug patterns developed and how they work.

Back-and-Forth Crocheted Rug Patterns

There are basically two sorts of patterns for making crocheted rugs. The first type is a back-and-forth construction. (Begin with a base chain the desired length, chain 1, insert the hook in the 2nd chain from the hook and make a single crochet. *Single crochet across the row, turn work, chain 1, and repeat from*.) These patterns may use half double crochet, double crochet, or specialty stitches. With this type of pattern, the fabric strips should be cut straight on the grain of the fabric, usually $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, and not more than an inch wide unless you are using very lightweight fabric. If all of the rows are the same length, these patterns will create a rectangle. If the rows are of varying length, unique shapes can be created. One gal is making crocheted rugs in the shape of the state of Texas, while another is making a Nebraska shaped rug, using this type of pattern.

In back-and-forth crochet patterns, the only trick is to size the hook to the weight of the strip, and not work really tight stitches. Heavy fabrics and wide cotton strips don't work well for these types of rugs, since a prominent ribbed effect is created.

Radial Crocheted Rug Patterns

The second type of crocheted rag rug pattern is the "radial" construction which is the standard

crocheted rug. These begin from a round center or a base chain and are worked around and around the center, always stitching in the same direction. In the 1800s to the early 1900s, patterns for these types of rugs most often were quite general, using such phrases as "increase as necessary to make the rug lie flat". The strips for these rugs were cut straight on the grain of the fabric, and the rug makers of the day made the rugs by "feel". With practice they knew about when to add stitches to keep the rugs shape and allow the rug to lay flat.

Some early crochet patterns used the device of working rag strip over clothesline. This was done for two reasons: the stiffness of the clothesline helped to force increases which helped the rug lay flat; and/or the fabrics used in the rug were so worn that the clothesline was needed to give the rug body. Unfortunately cotton clothesline used in rugs shortens the life of the rug. It holds water when the rug is washed (leading to damp rot), and the clothesline itself has a harder texture than the fabric, so that the fabric wears through faster.

By the 1920's, several crocheted rag rug patterns appeared where someone with the "feel" of rug making wrote down the stitches they added as they worked. Unfortunately these old patterns most often did not work for someone with a different touch in crocheting. For that reason, patterns in the 1930s and 1940s often called for the fabric strip to be cut on the bias so that it would have enough give to work with the written patterns.

So two schools of thought developed-one which called for bias cut strips of cottons, and the other which used straight cut (or torn) strips. Of course in moving away from the traditional straight strips, the rugs were supposed to be easier to make, but unfortunately the resulting bias rugs continued to stretch, even after they were made, and didn't hold their shape well.

In the 1930s and 1940s crocheted rugs were also made with recycled stockings, instead of rags. The stockings had a built-in stretch and resilience so that they acted like yarn, and the rugs were made from regular yarn rug patterns (which will not work with fabric strip).

Even through the 1970s, when I began researching rug making, such venerable sources as Better Homes and Gardens were still publishing directions for radial crocheted rag rugs saying "increase as necessary" which is not very useful to a beginning rug maker.

Research on Crocheted Rag Rugs

It was not until the early 1980s that I began to conduct experiments with fabric strip for crocheted rugs, to determine why the old radial patterns for rug making simply did not work reliably and did not work with patterns that did work for yarn rugs. The very first fact that I discovered was that fabric strip--even when cut on the bias--does not act the same way as yarn does. Straight-cut fabric strip has no 'give' like yarn does, and bias-cut fabric strip will stretch out, but does not have the resilience to resume its original shape as yarns will.

Working with the traditional straight-cut fabric strip, I experimented extensively to develop an increase pattern which would work for radial crocheted rug patterns. That increase pattern worked so well that it was adaptable to crocheting rag rugs in all sorts of shapes all of which laid flat, every time, no matter who was handling the crochet hook. The pattern was the breakthrough which allowed the full development of fabric tapestry rugs. In 1984, the increase pattern was first

published (under formal copyright), and again in 1997 in the book "Crocheted and Fabric Tapestry Rugs".

So, while our books all deal with traditional crocheted rugs (e.g. made with straight cut, not bias, strips), the directions are based on the increase pattern which was only recently developed. That is why our rugs are so consistently shaped, and the fabric tapestry patterns are so symmetrical. Because of the copyright protection, we are the only source for books using this increase pattern.

Old Rug Patterns Available on the Internet

There is a lot of information about crocheted rugs on the internet, and even some free patterns, such as the one for a 1930s style bias cut (oval) crocheted rag rug on About.com. The instructions are an interesting piece of rug history so long as you understand the shortcomings of bias-cut rugs, and old patterns. Don't be discouraged if the pattern doesn't work for you, since it is an old-style pattern relying on the 'feel' of the original rug maker.

Finding Crocheted Rug Patterns that Work

If you are looking for rug patterns of any sort, look at the rug pictured. Is it evenly shaped? Is the rug shown laying flat? Be especially careful of directions that show a rug draped over something 'artistically'. This is often a device to hide the fact that the rug doesn't lay flat. Also be careful of directions that show a picture of a rug with something else sitting on it. This trick is used to hide the fact that the shape is not good (most often used with poorly done heart rugs).

Be cautious of crocheted rug patterns that call for fabric strip to be cut on the bias. These are most often derived from older patterns which require the fabric strip to stretch in order for the rug to lay flat. Similarly, patterns which call for fabric strips to be cut very wide (over 2 inches) create a very lumpy look. These are most often touted as being "quick" to make, but in reality, are mostly a device to sell patterns, not teach people how to make functional and attractive rugs.