

KNITTED RAG RUG BASIC PATTERN

By Fran Palmer



Materials:

- Size 13, 14 or 15 needles (2 ¼ mm, 2mm or 1 ¾ mm) Practise with the larger size first!
- 3-4 ply wool – a thread which is ‘rough’ is best.
- Fine cotton material which does not fray too much – a mixture of plain and patterned.

Method:

Cut the material into thin strips, no wider than 2mm and approx. 25-30 cm long.
Cast on 18sts and K. one row into the back of the sts.

Row 1: K.1, pass strip of material between the needles front to back, leaving a short tail at the front, K. 1st. Bring material strip to the front again then to the back between the next sts. to form a loop, K.1. Continue making loops to last st. bring strip to the front and leave, K. last st.

Row 2: Knit.

These two rows form the basic pattern, so continue until the required length of rug is reached. The strips of patterned material form the main part of the rug and plain strips can be introduced to make stripes.

To make a plain border along the length, a plain strip of material is used to insert one ‘tail’, one loop and one tail between the three stitches at the beginning and end of the row, so there will be one plain and one patterned tail between the third stitch on the inside of the border.

When the knitting is complete, ending with Row 2, cast off and sew in the wool ends. All the loops are then cut and the rags are teased and trimmed until the finished pile is even and tidy. The back may be painted with PVA glue and backed, although I have found that this tends to make the rug a bit stiff. Provided the knitting is firm the rags should not come out.

