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3-D Christmas Ornament

This pattern was designed by Sigrid Grant of the Ottawa Olde Forge Rug Hooking Branch.

SUPPLIES:

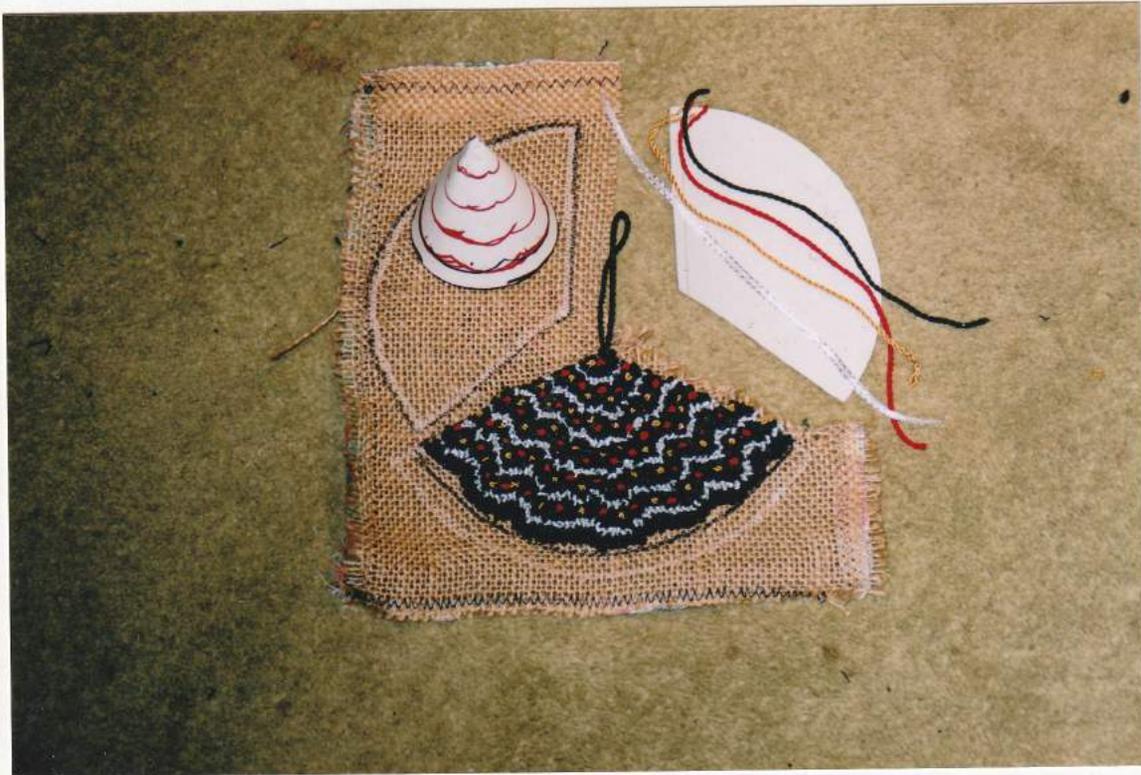
- A scrap of burlap backing
- OR RIBBON ← • Wool or red and green coloured twisted cord
- Beads and decorations
- Invisible thread
- Silver, gold or other shiny ribbons
- Green felt



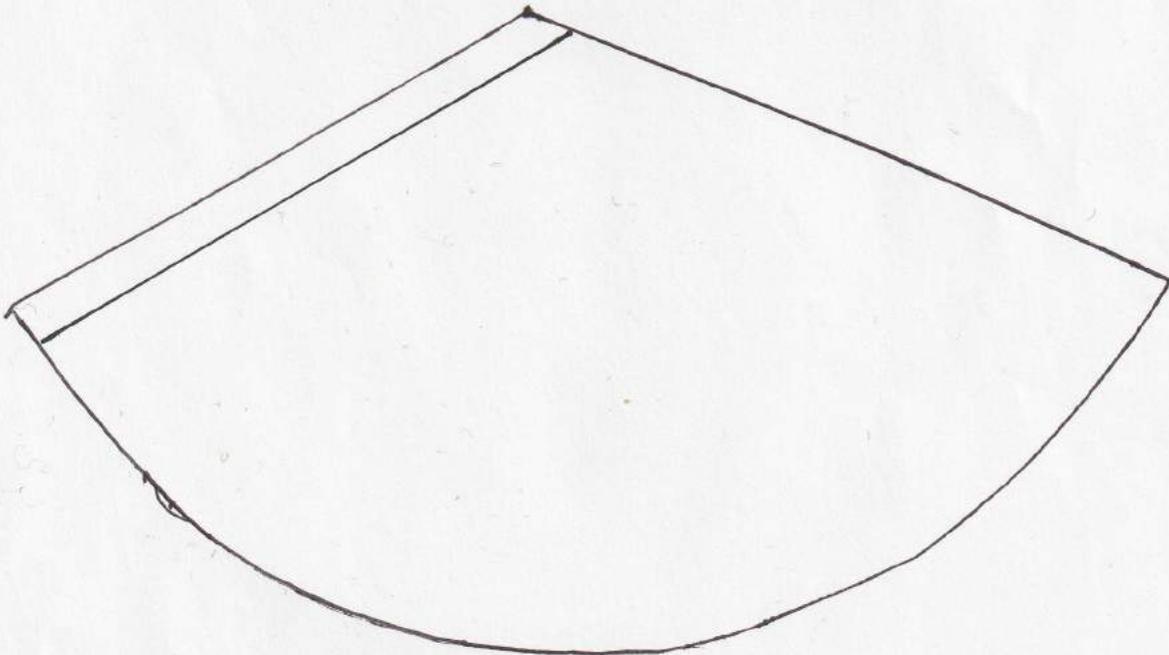
INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Trace the tree template onto the burlap. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ ' on one of the straight sides (do not hook this seam allowance).
2. Zigzag stitch around the design.
3. Draw a series of scalloped arcs down the cone, making sure the ends will match when stitched together.
4. Hook the scalloped rows of branches with wool or twisted cording, starting at the base of the tree and ending with its' pointed top.
5. Decorate the hooked branches with beads etc.
6. Trim off the excess burlap close to the zigzag stitching.
7. Shape the tree into a cone.
8. Fold the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam-allowance to the inside and sew the straight sides together using invisible thread.
9. Cut out a circle of green felt for the bottom of the cone. Sew in place.
10. Stitch a ribbon on top of the cone and your Christmas tree ornament is ready for hanging.





of



Christmas Tree Ornaments, Old & New,

Trimming a tree with ornaments is a tradition that comes from ancient Rome, but Christmas tree decorations as such have come to us from the 16th Century Germany.

According to legend, Martin Luther began the tradition of decorating trees to celebrate Christmas.

One Christmas Eve, about the year 1510, Martin Luther was walking through snow-covered woods and observed the starlit sky sparkling through the branches of fir trees. This sighting moved him to chop down a tree, take it home and erect the little tree indoors. He decorated it with candles so he could share this vision with his children.

In the 17th century, German families decorated their Christmas trees with coloured paper roses, apples, wafers, spangel-gold and sweets. Another decoration was tinsel. It was first used in Germany in 1610 and was originally made of silver (later of silver foil).

In the 18th century, creative German glass blowers brought sparkle to the Christmas tree by creating glass blown balls, bells, Santa Clauses, Angels, suns, stars, and others. The German glass Christmas tree ornaments became the most popular of all and are still being made today.

Nuremberg in Bavaria produced metal ornaments. Dresden and Leipzig produced embossed paper ornaments or cardboard Christmas Tree ornaments known as Dresdens and Angel hair.

Queen Victoria's German husband, Prince Albert, introduced the custom of decorating a Christmas tree in England. After he married Queen Victoria and they returned to England from Germany, he provided his family with a tree that was decorated in the finest of hand blown glass ornaments. It was admired by all England. Since everyone liked the Queen, they copied her Christmas customs including the tree ornaments.

The Christmas tree tradition most likely came to the United States with Hessian troops during the American Revolution, or with German immigrants to Pennsylvania and Ohio. But the custom spread slowly. By 1820, a small number of German families were decorating their trees.

Nevertheless, decorated evergreens remained an unusual custom in America well into the 19th century.

During the 1870's, American businesses began importing European tree ornaments. The ornaments created for American export reflected popular characters and themes of the day, like eagles, flags, Uncle Sam and comic strip characters. The most treasured were Santa Clause, Angels, birds and animals. The first American-made glass ornaments were made by William De Muth, in New York, around 1870.

Despite its less than complete acceptance, the decorated Christmas tree soon became widely established throughout the United States.

The widespread media reports of Victoria's and Albert's tree helped bring the Christmas tree to British-Canadian families.

Once consisting of decorated glass balls and yarn figures, ornaments now are made in a wide array of wood, acrylic, bone china, porcelain and other handcrafted formats. (see samples of: pottery, quilted, smocked and **HOOKED** decorations)

Hooked Ornaments:

(1) When hooking a Christmas decoration, keep the loops low, even and close, so that the areas

of colour will be clear. Uneven edges indicate that the loops are not worked closely enough. Add gold cloisonne thread after you have completed hooking the project.

Press your work on the right side with a steam iron or a damp cloth. Outline each ornament with a 1/4 " row of Elmer's Glue-All, pushing it up against the last row of hooking so that the edge is well coated. When the glue is dry and transparent, cut out the ornament at the last hooked row; there will be no backing edge left. Glue your ornament to a cardboard and using an X-Acto knife, cut away the excess cardboard. Add a loop of gold thread at the top for a hanger. Glue felt over the cardboard. Run more glue around the edge of the ornament, and apply two rows of cloisssone thread to decorate the edge.

(2) When hooking a three dementional christmas tree, try using alternate materials to wool. For example: coloured red and green twisted cords, silver and gold and other shiny ribbons (readily available at Christmas time. (see samples)

Draw the pattern on your burlap, (see diagram) add 1/4" on one of the straight sides (needed for finishing the project -do not hook on the 1/4" strip). Zig-Zag stich around the design. Draw a scallop pattern along the rounded edge, making sure the pattern will match when stitched together! Work in scalloped rows to pointed top. To finish the ornament, cut on outside of zig-zag stiching, shape into a cone, fold the 1/4 " burlap to inside and sew the hooked sides together with invisibal nylon thread. Cut out a circle of green felt and sew it to the bottom of your cone. Stitch a ribbon to the top of the cone and your Christmas tree ornament is ready for hanging.

For many people, decorating their home and Christmas trees with ornaments is one of the most enjoyable ways to capture the magic and excitement of the holiday.

So let us include our **hooked** tree ornaments to enhance the beauty and joy of today's Christmas celebrations.

Compiled for the Ottawa Olde Forge Rug Hookers by Sigrid Grant, November 2003

The article (1) of Hooked Ornaments was taken from "Hooking Fine Gifts " by Happy and Steve Di Franza.