BOUTONE' RUGS
A TUFTED TECHNIQUE

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Here is a semi-tufted rug made in pleasing color tones of wool or cotton yarn, with the design parts raised in tufts against a plain-weave tabby background. One of its most welcome features is that it can be made on any kind of rug frame, as well as on a 2- or 4-harness loom. A square frame of four boards, crossing at right angles, like a picture frame serve as a good support on which to stretch the warp threads. Regular looms can be threaded to any pattern that will produce tabby.

In the design shown in Figure 1, the light unshaded portions form the background, or untufted portion, and against these, in clear relief, the shaded or design portions stand out, also marked with checks. These are tufted with heavy colored yarn. This type of rug is soft to the feet, serviceable, and most attractive in its texture. Many other useful articles may be made by following the method shown—soft sofa cushions, fluffy knitting bags and seat mats for hard chairs.

TYPES OF DESIGN:

We have given a typical conventional design, Figure 1, that forms an all-over pattern surface. The tufts may be all of one color, or a second color may be used as an accent in the rosette forms. This of course is only one type of design and you can develop any number on check paper. Any cross-stitch design, if adjusted to rug proportions, will serve. Symmetrical designs like those shown, are intriguing and there are hundreds of variations possible. The rug maker can also create original motifs in free design, lay these out on a piece of smooth wrapping paper the shape and size of the final rug, and plan to use suitable color harmonies for the tufted parts against a neutral background. It is best to start with a simple figure, and learn how to perfect the tufting method, and then adapt this to any design. The one essential is that all designs be arranged in squares on check paper.

MATERIALS TO USE AND WARP SETTINGS:

The foundation or untufted parts are made of carpet warp or grocery string doubled. Tufts can be either of wool or cotton rug yarn.

WARP: Carpet Warp, 6/1 cotton set at 6 pre. per inch. A warp of 10 ends per inch can be twined in pairs, 2 threads per heddle and 2 threads in every other dent of a 10-dent reed.

WEFT: Tabby. Pairs of Carpet Warp; or a single strand of h-strand filler; or tufting cotton.

Tufts: Wool Rug Yarn (Berne or) or Rug-Weave Yarn (Lily). Both of these have a wide range of beautiful color tones. (Send sample of color for matching, and order through this office.)

ADAPTING THE CHECK PATTERN TO LOOPS OF RUG:

In working out your pattern on check paper, make an outline of final rug in good proportions, such as 2 parts wide to 3 long. Make any curved portions of your design correspond to the checks. Shade in all design parts for ease of following. See design, Figure 3 A, one fourth only of design shaded. B: unshaded parts marked C to be left untufted.

To estimate final size of rug, figure that each check will measure 1/4 in., or there will be four checks per inch.

Let each 2 pairs of warp threads, (4 threads see Figure II, D, equal one check of check paper pattern. Notice that one of these pairs are in upper shed row, and the other pair, dotted vertical lines at D, are in lower level. Each check of your design will thus become one loop and occur between each 2 pairs of warps in the upper level, and occur right over the pair in the lower level. If working on a frame without a weaving shed, each loop will occur over every other pair of warps. At background places of your design, marked with circles in Figure II, F, there will be no loops, just plain weaving.
HOW TO PUT IN A ROW OF LOOPS
First of all, for the end of mat, to fringe
of home, weave one or two inches tabby, using
carpet warp double or single strand of 4-ply.
Then locate the even numbered pairs and the
odd numbered pairs in between them. Name the
shed in which the odd pairs are up, i.e. No. 3, 5,
7, etc., Shed No. 1; and that in which
the even pairs, No. 2, 4, 6, 8, etc. are up, Shed
No. 2. Finish the last row of tabby, before begin
ing to weave a row of loops, with Shed No. 1,
odd pairs up, even pairs down. This binds
down the even pairs, before they become the
framework of the tufts, see F, G. The tufting is
always done on Shed No. 2, even pairs up, H.

After finishing the last tabby row, shown in
detail at O, drop the tabby weft on Shuttle J.
Now take up tufting weft on Shuttle K. Weave
through, as shown at Figure II, K, carrying the
heavy tufting weft from side to side, on Shed 2.

Next take a pick-up stick, L, either a flat
stick about ½ in. high, or a 3/8 in. dowel, and
following the direction of lifting weft, from
right to left in this case, pick up loops of
weft, as at L, wherever there is a cross, i.e.,
a shaded check of design. Where there are no
checks, simply skip over with pick-up rod.

If rug is wide use two sticks. After row is
finished, leave sticks in, drop Shuttle K with
(For further methods of weaving on frames, see Joy of Handweaving.)

the tufting weft, and weave 3 rows of Tabby
on Sheds 1, 2, 1. This finishes one complete
row of loops on Shed 2, and tabby on 1, 2, 1.
You are now ready for the next row of the
design, marked Row M in Figure II. Proceed
as just described, weave through with heavy
weft, pick up loops, leave sticks in, follow
with 3 rows of tabby. Keep repeating.

It is a good idea to number the checks or
loops, as shown here at F. In row F, for in
stance, checks 1, 2, 3 of last row, have loops,
checks 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 do not have loops, (circles)
and checks 9 and 10 have loops.

FINISHING RUG
When you have finished all loops of design,
your rug will have its design surfaces raised
in fluffy relief texture against a flat back
ground of plain weave preferably of neutral
color. You need not clip the loops, they are
soft in texture and all of the same height.
In choosing your pick-up rod, you can estimate
how deep a "pile" or loop you will wish.

At both ends of mat weave at least 1 inch
of plain weave against which to tie fringe —
and if a hem is desired, weave 2 inches.

Note: If weaving on a frame, simply pass in
and out of alternate warps to get Sheds 1 & 2.