

coulter studios inc.
138 east 60 st. (at lex. ave.)
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HA 1-8085

A HISTORY OF RYA

Rya, a unique craft of rug making, started in the Scandinavian countries as early as the 10th century. It is based on the Ghiordes knot, also called the Turkish knot, a term used in oriental rug making. When Rya began, sturdy Swedish wool was knotted on hand woven flat carpets to make a high shaggy pile, which when completed were used as bed coverlets with the pile side down for warmth. People soon discovered the beauty of the pile side and they reversed the coverlets, sometimes even hanging them on the wall to prevent drafts - no central heating in those days. Finally when their true value as rugs, pillows and decorative hangings became evident Ryas left the bed!

CREATING A RYA

Making a Rya does not require a frame or loom; you can make it on your lap without fussy winding or yarn cutting. You simply thread your needle with the moth-proofed wool and begin to put your Ghiordes knots in the rows of holes on the heavy backing. Ryas are made on a backing with a pure linen warp (almost a rug in weight) that does not need to be lined or latexed. When your last knot has been completed, you are finished. Since the knots cannot pull out, the rugs can be dry cleaned or vacuumed with complete safety.

There are several ways to plan and create a Rya. From a full color catalog of kits you can choose a size and pattern designed by a well known artist. The complete kit includes the backing, all the wool needed for the pattern you choose, a color card, needles, working graph, and instructions. The first row is started, and you continue along following the pattern.

PLANNING YOUR OWN RYA

Another way to create a Rya is to plan your own design. First, make a small drawing, which is called a cartoon. You are totally free here to either copy a favorite picture or design one of your own. Rya also has the advantage of allowing you to create a wildly bright abstract of your own design.

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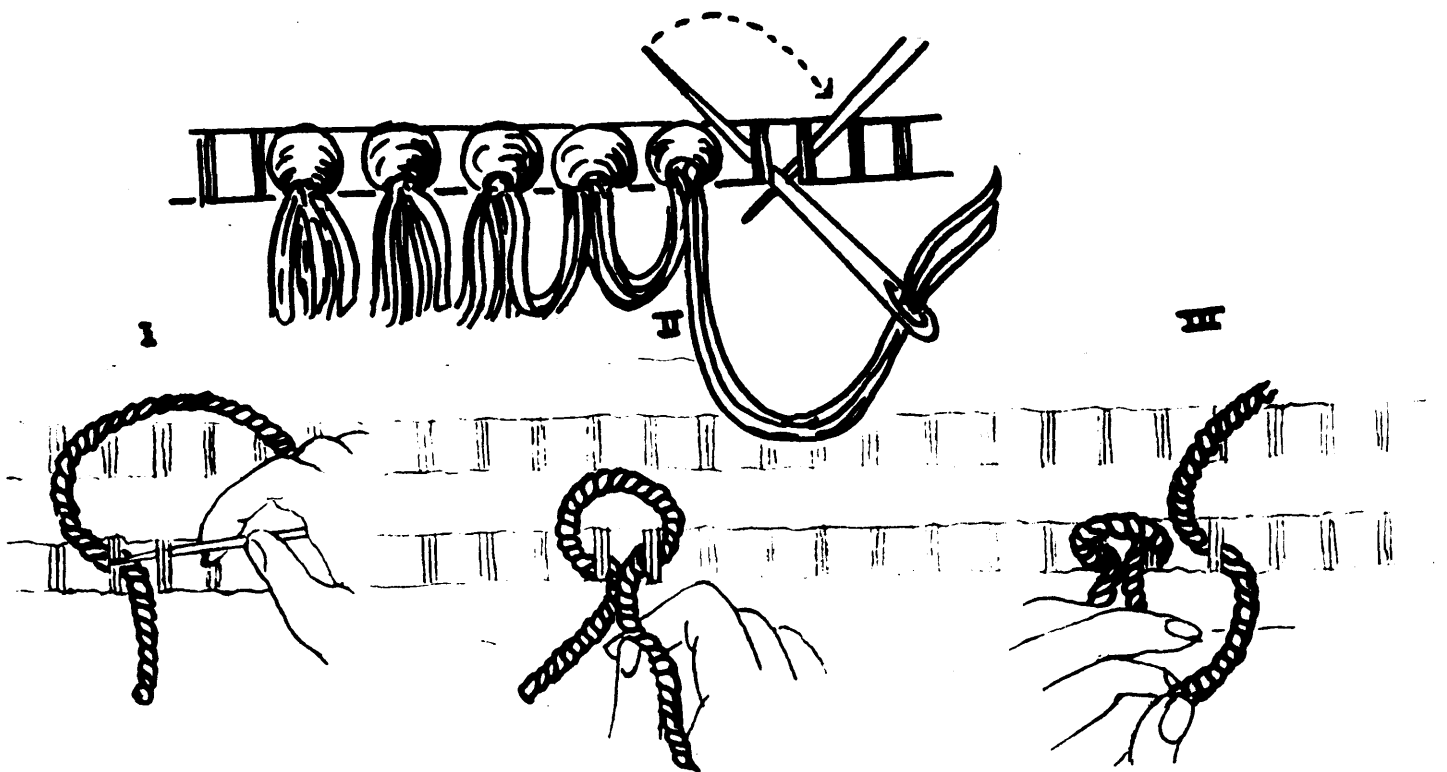
The design which you finally decide upon will help you to determine what will be the best size for your Rya. Rya bound backing comes in many standard sizes. It can also be bought by the yard in seven widths from 17" to 48". Very large rugs can be made by joining strips of the backing; high pile covers the joinings; the top and bottom of the backing are hemmed.

If your design is simple it can be drawn on the white woven backing with a dark pencil or waterproof magic marker. If the design is detailed, transfer it onto special Rya graph paper which is marked off in rectangles, each rectangle representing one knot. Sketch your design lightly in pencil, and when it looks right, go over the sketch with a heavy pen to the nearest rectangle. A curve in your design looks like a series of steps on the graph, but when worked up in wool pile transforms back into a curve. **REQUEST CHART TO ASSIST YOU IN DETERMINING AMOUNT OF ROWS AND KNOTS IN MARKING OFF SIZE OF FINISHED RYA.**

Now you can choose the yarn for each area of your design. There are two yarn weights: AFGAN (Persian type) for pillows and small hangings, and FROSTA (a heavier yarn) suitable for rugs and large hangings. There is a very wide range of colors and since you always work with three strands of wool in your needle, you can combine colors to get striking effects.

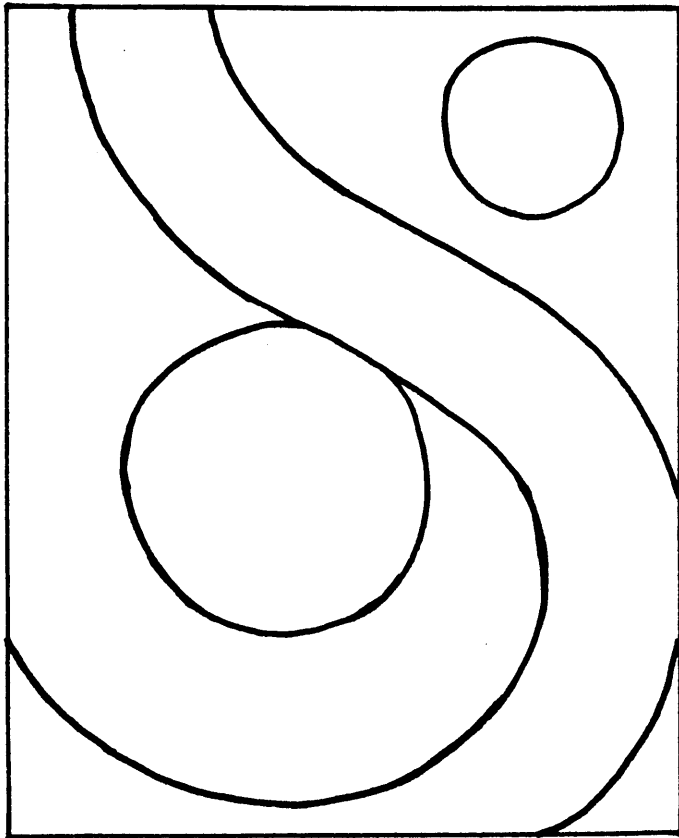
You can also achieve interesting effects by leaving the loops uncut or varying the length of the pile. The amount of yarn you need will depend on the height of the pile. You need not purchase the yarn all at once, and as you work on, you can determine how much more wool you will need.

REMEMBER: When you have finished, you will have a truly one-of-a-kind item — handsome, extremely useful, and admired by everyone!



GRAPHING AN ORIGINAL RYA

I

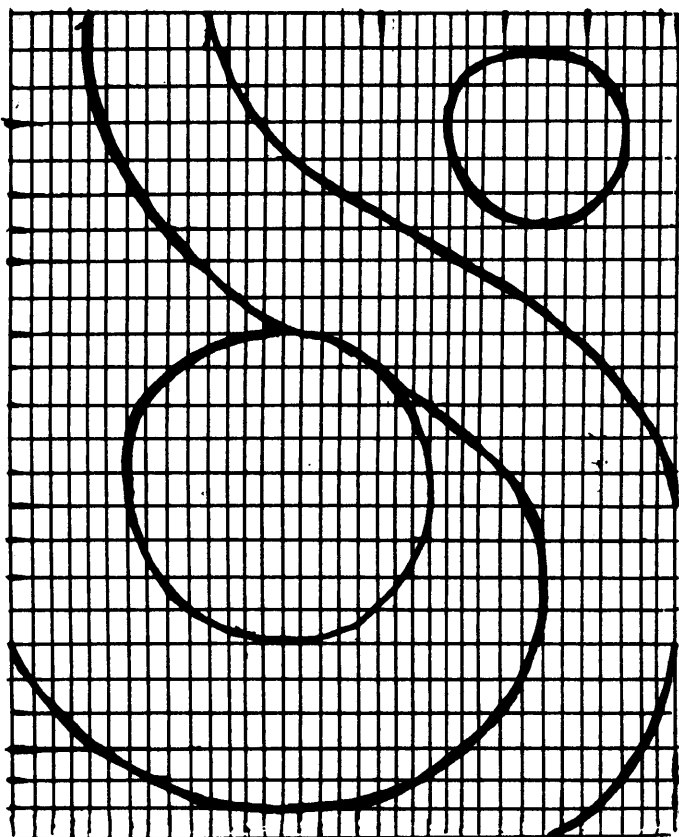


I Make a cartoon of your design in shape and proportions of finished RYA. Areas can be colored in with crayons or paint, but it is not necessary if you know what colors you prefer.

II On a sheet of special rectangular graph paper mark off number of rows and squares for size you want. (Our chart will tell you correct amount) Draw in your design lightly in pencil exactly like cartoon.

III With heavy pencil or pastel pen go over your penciled design on the graph paper to the nearest square. Curves won't look choppy when RYA knots are done. You can number separate areas for each color or combinations of colors you use.

II



III

