

Hand Crochet at Home with Your Hands

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History: According to the article by James Hardy on Historycooperative.org, crochet patterns were first dated to 1824. However, the art of it can be traced back hundreds of more years. Mr. Hardy states that crocheting is the process by which yarn or other materials are hooked into many loops, creating a variety of items such as blankets, purses, and even lace. He also states that crochet is derived from the French word croche, which actually means to hook.

Throughout history, there has been no evidence that the type of materials used to crochet were limited to only yarn or thread. For many centuries crocheting has been passed from one friend/family member to another, just as my own mother did when I was younger.

Today, I'm going to teach you how to create a snuffle mat for your pet, playmat, or bathmat out of t-shirts. You will not need a crochet hook, because your fingers will be the hook.

The Filson Historical Society's collection has two scrapbooks made by a Mary W. Mason in 1890. The personal scrapbooks made by her contain news and magazine clippings that include crochet patterns as well as tips for other yarn crafts such as rugs. To access this item while visiting our library please see this link for the call number

<http://filsonhistorical.org/vcc/card/?id=7b8959b65d65c45d2f0e4d94a805a4b9>.

Supplies

Adult t-shirts (two for a snuffle mat, three for a playmat, and four for a bathmat).

Scissors

Instructions

Step 1: Cut your t-shirts. To create a continuous strip of fabric, cut off the sleeves, and cut down the side seams. Then start at the bottom of the shirt on one of the side seams and cut spherically around the shirt until you reach the sleeves. Cut off your strip just below the sleeves with about 1-2" width. Don't cut into strips unless you want ends sticking out.

Please click attached video link for demonstration: [Watch How to Get Started](#)



Please click attached video link for demonstration of Step 2-6: [Watch Steps 4-6](#)

Step 2: Make a slip knot.



Step 3: Put two fingers through slip knot and pull rest of shirt through until another loop is made. Create as many loops as you need to get your mat to the length you have chosen. I did 10 loops for my snuffle mat.



Step 4: When you get to end of chain, take the final loop and grab the top of loop before that final loop and pull through to make a stitch.



Step 5: You have made your first crochet stitch! Proceed to finish the line of stitches. At the end, pull one more loop through before you complete this line of stitches.



Step 6: Flip the mat over and do the same as step 4.



Step 7: Complete until you have the width of the mat you want. Tie off the ends and tuck all loose ends into the mat. Congrats! You're finished!



Please see attached video link for final product: [Watch Final Product](#)

Optional: For a snuffle mat, tuck dog treats into the chain and let your pupper have fun! Please share your photos of your snuffle mat with me at sarah@filsonhistorical.org and let us know if your cat finds this nearly as entertaining!



Reference: James Hardy, "A History of Crochet Patterns", History Cooperative, August 29, 2014, <https://historycooperative.org/a-history-of-crochet-patterns/>. Accessed April 16, 2020