

“Gay Nineties”

36” x 62” — Pearl K. McGown

Submitted by Peggy Hannum, PA

Photo on Page 75

I enjoy seeking out one of the beautiful old patterns, especially one that hasn't been seen or done for a long time. Even though “Gay Nineties” wasn't featured in their catalogue, the good ladies at Cushing dug deep and found it! I had it put on linen for use with 3- and 4-cuts.

I wanted a dark background and elegant, bright colors reminiscent of the Moulin Rouge and Parisian nights. For my Maryland Shores Workshop in 2009, Nancy Blood, my teacher for the week, who had suggested this pattern, came through with glorious colors. When dyeing my color plan—which for me is “almost” more fun than hooking—I realized we needed a red in the scrolls to echo the brilliance of the roses. Easy. Just do the scroll formula over red.

The most difficult issue with “Gay Nineties” is that it is asymmetrical, and not just a bit different on each side. It sports three huge roses—in this case very red roses on one side—and none on the other. Nancy's color plan deals with this beautifully. The reds needed to be moved all around the rug which is achieved by incorporating many smaller red areas on the opposite side.

The hooking went quickly for me, and I finished it within the year. I attribute this to the fact that the motifs are asymmetrical. I find it exciting to just keep going—to see how a rug evolves. I tend to bog down when I am confronted by a big rug with four identical corners. After I have finished one corner, the rest is repetition. Knowing this and having some “, albeit unfinished” Orientals, etc., etc., I try to choose patterns that grow rather than repeat.

Color Plan

Background = Nancy's Color Beauties Spot 34 “Plum Duff” over 1 yard Dorr 1042
(needed 3 yards)

Spot = Nancy's Color Beauties Spot 235 “Pineapple” over 1 yard Dorr 163

Motifs =

- White = Color Flow 21 (1 1/2 times the formula) over Dorr 163 (all in I CBW)
 - Spoon for this swatch: 1/4 - 1/2 - 1 - 2 - 4 - 8 - 16 - Remainder of Cup
 - Spoon following swatches: 1/2 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 5 - 9 - 14 - Remainder of Cup
- Red 1 = Family 10 TOD 30 (half formula) over Woolrich Scarlet 401 (4 swatches)
- Red 2 = Same as above – full strength (4 swatches)
- Yellow = Family 10 TOD 32 over Woolrich Lemon 385 (4 swatches)
- Blues: = Family 36 TOD 116 over Woolrich Lavender 631 (4 swatches)
 - Family 36 TOD 116 over Woolrich Light Blue 205 (4 swatches)

Leaves and Scrolls = 1/2 Jade + 1/4 Dark Green + 1/16 Plum + 1/16 Navy (all in one cup)

Formula will do 4 swatches

Four swatches each over Dorr 101

Woolrich Light Blue 205

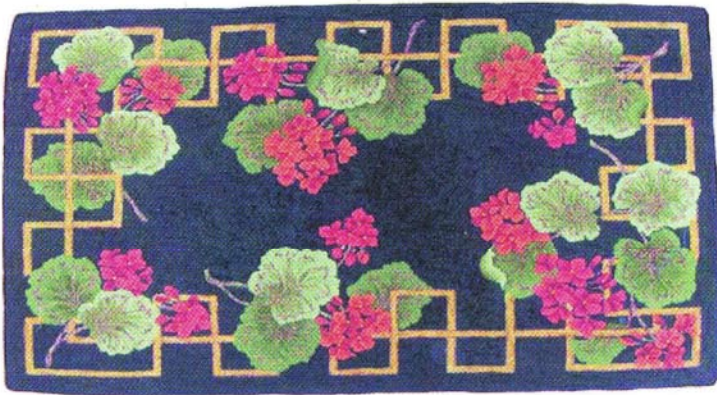
Woolrich Lemon 385

Woolrich Lavender 631

Woolrich Pink 416

Woolrich Old Ivory 894

Woolrich Scarlet 401



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