

“Oak Scrollings”

#1033 — 24" x 36" — Jane McGown Flynn

Submitted by Peggy Hannum, PA
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Inspiration is all around us. The genius is in being open and aware enough to take it in. Too often I'm one of those who needs to be hit on the head before that obviously great idea sinks in. So it was with “Oak Scrollings.”

Several years ago on a trip to Naples, on a visit to one of the many museums, I walked into a room of tapestries—one of those displays of woven beauty that covers wall to (30 foot) ceiling. There were four pieces of a group, one on each wall. It was one of those “wow” minutes. All were woven in red, blue, green and gold—a magnificent display! When I moved in for a closer look, I realized that the basic threads were all a camel tan overdye with values of three basic colors: red, blue and green. At that moment, I knew that when I came home, I needed to translate this rather basic technique into my next rug.

I was scheduled to do a workshop with Nancy Blood, my longtime teacher and mentor. I called Nancy and told her what I wanted to do and asked if she had any pattern suggestions. “Oak Scrollings” was a great choice for all three colors in variations to be dyed over one wool: Woolrich Camel 857. Nancy provided the formulas, and I began dyeing immediately. The results were just what I had envisioned—deep colors moving out to tan and color-tinted tips. The rug was on burlap and hooked on a 3-cut.

One of the most interesting hooking techniques came to light in that the pattern contains both leaves and scrolls. The leaves are hooked from the inside vein to the outer edge, dark to light, allowing for a good display of the darker more intense values moving out to the lighter tips kissed with the swatch color of red, blue, green or brown. The scrolls on the other hand, in order to provide for an effective display of the lighter shades, are hooked from the outside toward the center, allowing for a greater control of the lighter shades.

Leaves and scrolls went quickly, but as you notice, there are many, many, many acorns, one of those rug motifs that you begin to count; then assign yourself so many per day! Once again, Nancy to the rescue. Nancy's technique for the acorns hooked relatively fast as well as using the swatch economically (important when planning any rug). I have taught this method many times since with my students. Put a small flame shaped spot in the center of the pod, fill in with value 1 and work out to 4 or 5. Redraw cross hatchings in the cap so that there are only 2 lines in each direction. Hook these lines in the spot and fill in with values 4 and 5.

“Oak Scrollings” has been one of my favorite rugs, winning several awards and being featured in *Rug Hooking Magazine*, January-February, 2003, and January-February, 2005. Each of

Nancy's formulas contain various amounts of all three colors, therefore ensuring that the colors all blend beautifully with each other. Good close-ups can be found on my website.

Formulas

All formulas over Woolrich Camel 857 using Cushing dyes

Background = Abrash Method – this needs to be very dark, over 1 yard of Woolrich Camel
1/2 Cardinal + 1/2 Royal Blue + 1/2 Dark Green.

I did this a 2nd time to make it darker: 1/4 Cardinal + 1/2 Royal Blue + 1/2 Dark Green

All 8-value swatches; use spooning 1/2 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 5 - 9 - 14 - Rest of 1 CBW

Red = 1/2 Cardinal + 1/16 Royal Blue + 1/16 Dark Green

Blue = 1/2 Royal Blue + 1/16 Dark Green + 1/16 Cardinal

Green = 1/2 Dark Green + 1/16 Cardinal + 1/16 Royal Blue

Brown = 1/4 Cardinal + 1/4 Dark Green + 1/4 Royal Blue

Vein Spot = over 1/2 yard of Woolrich Camel 857

1/4 Cardinal

1/4 Royal Blue

1/4 Dark Green