



## Handicraft

Penny rugs have their roots in the Civil War era. Because resources were scarce, homemakers had to find innovative ways to use what they had. This led to the creation of penny rugs using scraps of wool or felt from old clothing. The process involved cutting these scraps into different-sized circles and stacking them from largest to smallest.

Women would use actual pennies (which were larger in those days) as templates to cut out circles. And sometimes, they would sew actual pennies into the bottom layer to weigh them down and keep them flat. If you ever come across a vintage penny rug at an antique store or estate sale, be sure to check for hidden coins!

For our handicraft, we will create a penny rug coaster.

*"I've filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him skill and know-how and expertise in every kind of craft to create designs ... he's an all-around craftsman."*

~ Exodus 31:3-5

Handicraft Lesson

# Penny Rug Coaster



These coasters were designed and created by Jane Currie-Wile of All About Ewe Wool Shop. We have been graciously allowed to use her pattern in this curriculum volume. I highly recommend their shop: [www.allaboutewewoolshop.com](http://www.allaboutewewoolshop.com) to purchase supplies, kits, and patterns. You will love her designs!



## Supplies

- Felted wool (or craft felt) in your choice of colors
- Embroidery thread
- Embroidery needle
- Circle template (included) or use silver dollars, half dollars, quarters, etc.
- Scissors



## Directions

1. For each coaster you want to create, cut out 7 - 1 ½" circles for backs and 7 of the same size for the tops. (These are both black in photo, but you could do different colors.)

2. Cut out 7 - 1" circles in various colors for the penny tops.



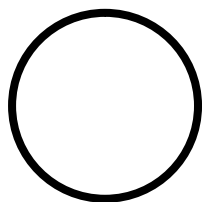
3. Appliqué stitch a 1" circle to the top center of a 1 ½" circle - then blanket stitch a 1 ½" circle to the back - these finished pieces will now be referred to as pennies.

4. Stitch all pennies in this manner.

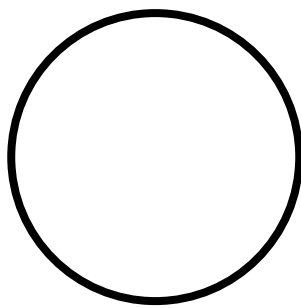


5. Arrange the stitched pennies as shown (bottom left) to your liking. Turn them over and stitch them together on the back side where they touch each other with small stitches to join them together.

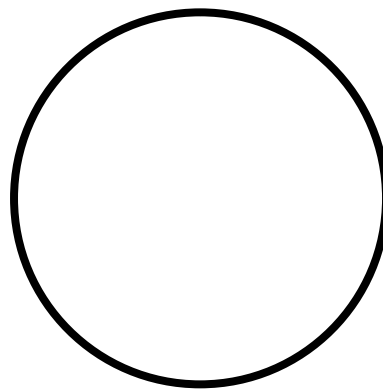
**Please Note:** For instructions on the appliqué and blanket stitches, we are including a download of *Handbook of Embroidery* on our website.



1-inch



1½-inch



2-inch