

## Hooked Bouncing Jack

by Sally Van Nuys

How do you decorate for Halloween? You can create this fun Jack on a Spring in just a few hours using new or recycled wools. If you don't have an old rusty bed spring, mount him on an old candlestick or bobbin. He's not very scary, but oh so much fun!



### MATERIALS

- 17 x 11 inches loosely woven wool as hooking foundation\*\*
- 17 x 11 inches of same wool for back of Jack\*\*
- Hooking Wool\*\*
  - Fat 1/8 yd solid orange
  - Fat 1/8 yd orange plaid
  - Fat 1/16 dark plaid with black
  - Fat 1/16 yd olive green overdyed
- Scrap orange/green check
- Primitive rug hook\*
- Rug hooking frame\*
- Fabric transfer pen or red dot tracing fabric\*
- Wool strip cutter with 1/4-inch or 3/8-inch cutter head\*\*\* or rotary cutter and cutting mat
- Fiberfill stuffing or small snips of wool (I save my snippets and use those to stuff dimensional pieces.)
- Rusty bed spring or old candlestick†
- Scissors; straight pins; sewing needle & coordinating buttonhole thread; permanent marker; tracing paper; steam iron; press cloth; lint roller

\* Folk 'n' Fiber, Folk Art & Rug Hooking

\*\* Lacey Jane Primitives

\*\*\* W. Cushing Co.

† Second-hand store or flea market

### INSTRUCTIONS

Finished size about 9 x 6 inches

1. Wash wool in washing machine with hot water/cold rinse; use mild detergent (no fabric softener.) Wash dark and light colors separately.
2. Dry all wool in dryer with fabric softener sheet and thick towel.
3. Use a wool strip cutter, or rotary cutter and mat, to cut wool, parallel to selvedge edge, into either 1/4-inch or 3/8-inch wide strips.

**Note: Do not cut piece of wool intended for back of Jack into strips – just set aside.**

4. Lay tracing paper over pattern and trace with marker. Either trace pattern again with fabric transfer pen, or trace onto pattern transfer fabric, such as red dot tracer, with marker.
5. Lay traced pattern in center of hooking foundation wool, and then pin or tape to hold in place. Following manufacturer's directions for transfer method you choose, transfer all pattern lines to wool. Stretch drawn pattern on hooking frame.

**Note: Hooking is much easier if wool backing is tightly stretched on frame; wool will stretch more than traditional rug backing and might need adjusting on the frame more often.**

6. Use a primitive rug hook to pull loops from back to front of pattern; pull each loop about as high as the strip is wide. Hook pattern in the following order:

- Using both range wools, hook one row around outline of Jack's face.
- Using dark plaid wool, hook Jack's mouth and eyes.
- Using orange and green checked wool, hook Jack's nose.
- Using both orange wools, hook one row around features, and then fill remaining area of Jack's face.

7. Remove finished hooking from frame. Use lint roller to clean debris and threads from hooking. Use damp press cloth to steam press first the back, and then the front, of hooking; just hold and steam, then move iron – do not push down on iron. Allow to dry flat.

8. Lay hooked Jack right side up. Trim excess wool backing to about 2 inches all the way around. Press flat and smooth, if needed.

9. Position hooked Jack, face down, on piece of wool set aside for backing. Pin wools together close to hooked edge, and then trim backing wool to same size as Jack's wool edge.

10. Using the sewing needle and coordinating thread, whip stitch or backstitch Jack's hooked face to backing wool, sewing as close as possible to the last row of hooking. Since the backing wool and the wool you hooked through are the same, you don't have to worry about pulling the pieces extremely tight to hide the backing. Stitch all the way around, leaving about a 3-inch opening at the bottom for stuffing. Trim excess fabric to about ½ inch all the way around.

11. Remove pins and turn right-side-out. The bulk of the hooking makes turning a bit hard – just go slowly and take care not to pull out your stitching. Stuff Jack with stuffing of choice until he is nicely rounded without straining the seam.

12. To mount Jack:

- If you are using a bed spring to hold your Jack, completely close the bottom opening with a slip stitch. Poke the top of the spring into the back about 1 ½ inches up from the bottom and to the right-hand side of the back (see figure.) Turn the spring like a screw to insert the top of the spring securely into the stuffing inside Jack. Test how Jack stands and adjust spring until it supports Jack well. Use the needle and strong thread to secure the bottom-most area of the spring where it rests against Jack's back (see figure.)
- If you are mounting your Jack on a candlestick or bobbin, insert the top of the candlestick or bobbin securely into the stuffing. Test how Jack stands and adjust stand until it supports Jack well, and then use the needle and strong thread to close the opening securely around the candlestick or bobbin.

13. From olive green wool, cut two leaves and several long strips. To embellish Jack, sew leaves and strips to top of Jack. If your Jack is mounted on a candlestick or bobbin, you can also wrap several strips of olive green wool around the stand where it meets Jack's bottom.

14. Stand Jack among your Halloween decorations and enjoy your creation.

*To order rug hooking supplies & kits, visit my web site, Folk 'n' Fiber*

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### **SOURCES OF SUPPLY**

Folk 'n' Fiber, Folk Art & Rug Hooking  
*Rug hooking supplies, patterns and kits*  
www.folkandfiber.com  
(440) 233-6246

Lacey Jane Primitives  
*Rug Hooking Wool*  
www.laceyjanepimitives.com

W. Cushing Co.  
*Rug hooking wool cutters and cutter heads*  
www.wcushing.com  
(800) 626-7847