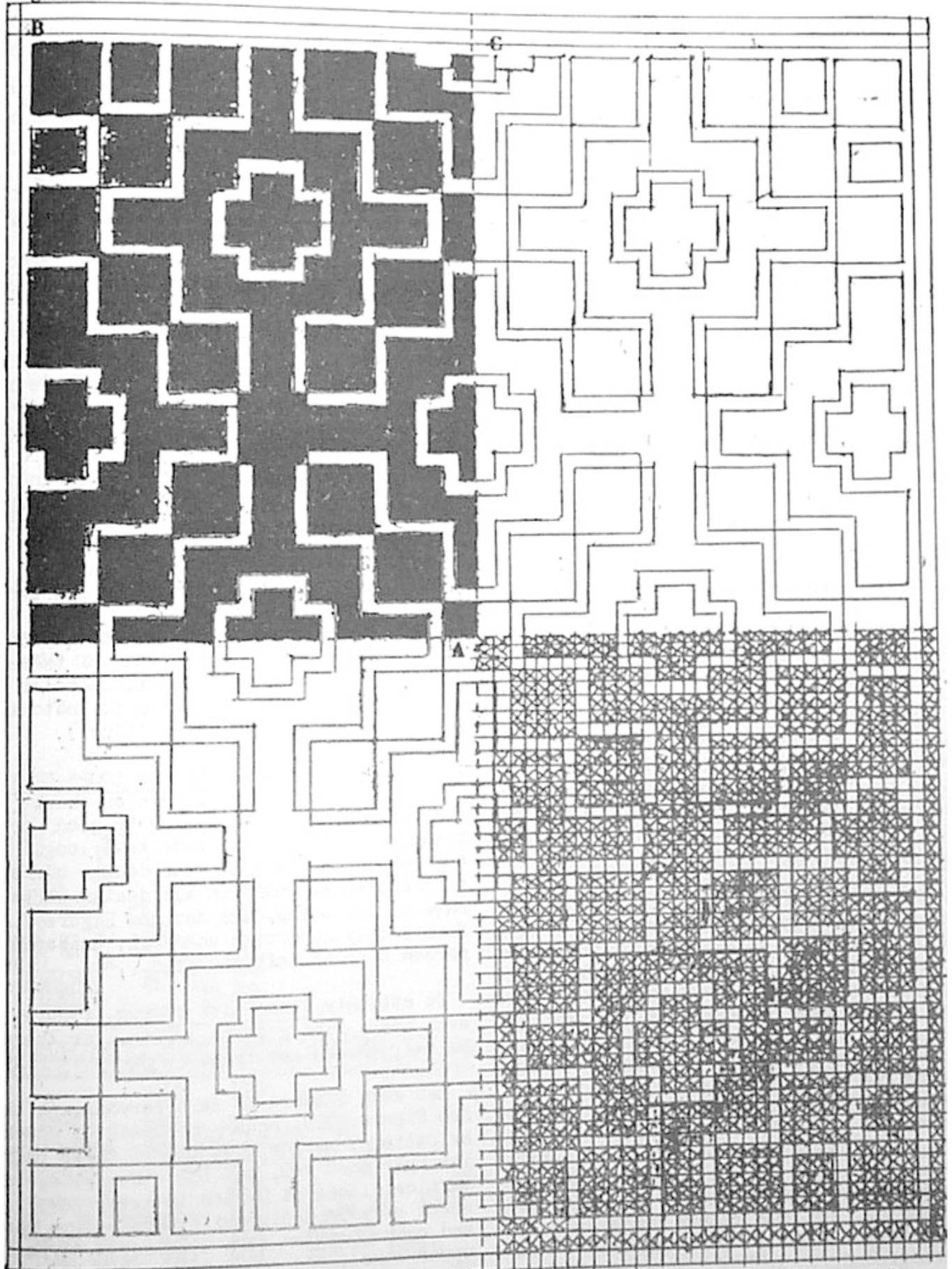


BOUTONE' RUGS  
A TUFTED TECHNIQUE

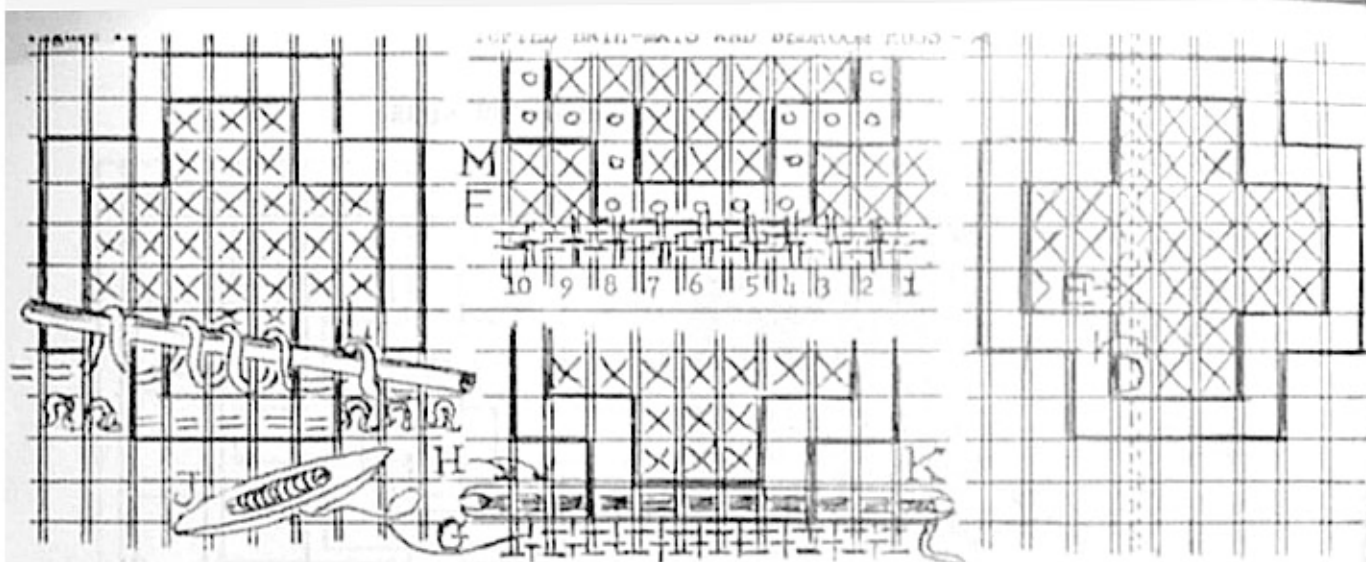
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# TUFTED BATHMATS AND BEDROOM RUGS

Figure 1



Designed by David H. Brown, Godair Memorial Home, Elmhurst, Ill., Creative Crafts, Guernsey, Penna.



Here is a semi-tufted rug made in pleasing color tones of wool or cotton yarn, with the design parts raised in tufts against a plain-weave tabby background. One of its most welcome features is that it can be made on any kind of rug frame, as well as on a 2- or 4-harness loom. A square frame of four boards, crossing at right angles, like a picture frame serve as a good support on which to stretch the warp threads. Regular looms can be threaded to any pattern that will produce tabby.

In the design shown in Figure 1, the light unshaded portions form the background, or un-tufted portion, and against these, in clear relief, the shaded or design portions stand out, also marked with checks. These are tufted with heavy colored yarn. This type of rug is soft to the feet, serviceable, and most attractive in its texture. Many other useful articles may be made by following the method shown, - soft sofa cushions, fluffy knitting bags and seat mats for hard chairs.

#### TYPES OF DESIGN:

We have given a typical conventional design, Figure 1, that forms an all-over pattern surface. The tufts may be all of one color, or a second color may be used as an accent in the rosette forms. This of course is only one type of design and you can develop any number on check paper. Any cross-stitch design, if adjusted to rug proportions, will serve. Symmetrical designs like those shown, are intriguing and there are hundreds of variations possible. The rug maker can also create original motifs in free design, lay these out on a piece of smooth wrapping paper the shape and size of the final rug, and plan to use suitable color harmonies for the tufted parts against a neutral background. It is best to start with a simple figure, and learn how to perfect the tufting method, then adapt this to any design. The one essential is that all designs be arranged in squares on check paper.

#### MATERIALS TO USE AND WARP SETTINGS:

The foundation or un-tufted parts are made of carpet warp or grocery string doubled. Tufts can be either of wool or cotton rug yarn.

**WARP:** Carpet Warp, 8/4 Cotton set at 8 pr. per inch. A warp of 16 ends per inch can be rethreaded in pairs, 2 thds. per heddle and 2 thds. in every other dent of a 16-dent reed.

**WEFT:** Tabby: Pairs of Carpet Warp; or a single strand of 4-strand filler; or tufting cotton.

Tufts: Wool Rug Yarn (Bernat) or Rug-weave Yarn (Lily). Both of these have a wide range of beautiful color tones. (Send sample of color for matching, and order through this office.)

#### ADAPTING THE CHECK PATTERN TO LOOPS OF RUG.

In working out your pattern on check paper, make an outline of final rug in good proportions, such as 2 parts wide to 3 long. Make any curved portions of your design correspond to the checks. Shade in all design parts for ease of following. See design, Figure 1, A, one fourth only of design shaded, B; unshaded parts marked C to be left un-tufted.

To estimate final size of rug, figure that each check will measure  $1/4$  in., or there will be four checks per inch.

Let each 2 pairs of warp threads, (4 threads. See Figure II, D, equal one check of check paper pattern. Notice that one of these pairs are in upper shed row, and the other pair, dotted vertical lines at D, are in lower level. Each check of your design will thus become one loop and occur between each 2 pairs of warps in the upper level, and occur right over the pair in the lower level. If working on a frame without a weaving shed, each loop will occur over every other pair of warps. At background places of your design, marked with circles in Figure II, F, there will be no loops. Just plain weaving.

**HOW TO PUT IN A ROW OF LOOPS**

First of all, for the end of mat, to fringe or hem, weave one or two inches tabby using carpet warp double or single strand of 4-ply. Next locate the even numbered pairs and the odd numbered pairs in between them. Name the shed in which the odd pairs are up, i.e. Nos 1, 3, 5, 7, etc., Shed No.1; and that in which the even pairs, Nos 2, 4, 6, 8, etc. are up, Shed no.2. Finish the last row of tabby, before beginning to weave a row of loops, with Shed No. 1, odd pairs up, even pairs down. This binds down the even pairs, before they become the framework of the tufts, see F, G. The tufting is always done on Shed No.2, even pairs up, H.

After finishing the last tabby row, shown in detail at O, drop the tabby weft on Shuttle, J. Now take up tufting weft on Shuttle K. Weave through, as shown at Figure II, K, carrying the heavy tufting weft from side to side, on Shed 2.

Next take a pick-up stick, L, either a flat stick about 1/2 in. high; or a 3/8 in. dowel, and following the direction of tufting weft, from right to left in this case, pick up loops of weft, as at L, wherever there is a cross, i.e. a shaded check of design. Where there are no checks, simply skip over with pick-up rod.

If rug is wide use two sticks. After row is finished, leave sticks in, drop Shuttle K with

the tufting weft, and weave 3 rows of Tabby on Sheds 1, 2, 1. This finishes one complete row of loops on Shed 2, and tabby on 1, 2, 1.

You are now ready for the next row of the design, marked Row M in Figure II. Proceed as just described, weave through with heavy weft, pick up loops, leave sticks in, follow with 3 rows of tabby. Keep repeating.

It is a good idea to number the checks or loops, as shown here at F. In row F, for instance, checks 1, 2, 3 of 1st row, have loops, checks 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 do not have loops, (circles) and checks 9 and 10 have loops.

**FINISHING RUG**

When you have finished all loops of design, your rug will have its design surfaces raised in fluffy relief texture against a flat background of plain weave preferably of neutral color. You need not clip the loops, they are soft in texture and all of the same height. In choosing your pick-up rod, you can estimate how deep a "pile" or loop you will wish.

At both ends of mat weave at least 1 inch of plain weave against which to tie fringe, - and if a hem is desired, weave 2 inches.

Notes: If weaving on a frame, simply pass in and out of alternate warps to get Sheds 1 & 2.

(For further methods of weaving on frames, see Joy of Handweaving)

*Creative Crafts, Gurney, Pa.*

Left: Free Rug Design

Right: Simple Oblong form a pleasing pattern when in relief.

