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LOOPS AND LESSONS: RING IN THE HOLIDAYS WITH A JOLLY, FUN SANTA FACE!

Everyone has a Santa pattern in their stash of patterns. Why? Because most of us feel that the Santa face has to be shaded, or we fear that Santa will end up looking like anything but Santa!

Well, being no different from every other red-blooded hooker, this Santa pattern was in my stash. With the help of some great textures, mixed media and a few simple tricks — Santa was hooked in plenty of time for Christmas.

To make it easier, I started hooking from the outside in so that the tones of flesh chosen for Santa's face worked with what was around his face. It also builds confidence to work this way.

For his hat and fur cuff, I used vintage paisley, red plaid and Angora goat yarn which

was spun in a thick and thin method and is from South Africa. The red plaid was used as a highlight line after hooking the angora yarn. The paisley, which contained many colors was hand cut to add texture and nostalgia.

Santa's eyebrows, moustache and beard were fun . . . jolly good fun! I used three light textures and one dark texture. The eyebrows and moustache were pulled in high loops. Then the high loops were trimmed in a mock "Waldoboro" style to create dimension and texture for a great effect. The dark texture for Santa's beard was hooked first and then the remaining textures were hooked "as they came out of the basket." By using this technique Santa's beard has depth and texture.

Now, on to Santa's face! The first thing I



Santa's eyebrows and moustache have raised loops that are clipped in a mock Waldoboro style. Lisanne used textures for Santa's beard, moustache and eyebrows.



hooked was the outline of the eye in dark brown (black is too drastic) and the center of the eye also in dark brown. Next I hooked a dark blue/purple around the brown, and finally a cream to finish the eye.

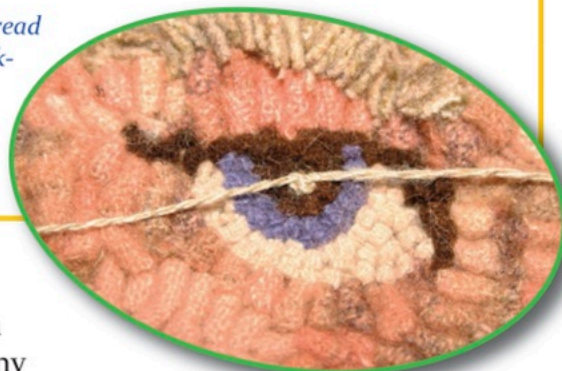


The materials Lisanne used were a vintage paisley, red plaid and Angora goat yarn from South Africa.



Lisanne hooked Santa's eyes using dark brown for the outline and pupil and dark purple/blue for the iris. She used a cream colored wool for the whites of the eyes.

She used a warp thread from her excess backing to put the glints in Santa's eyes.

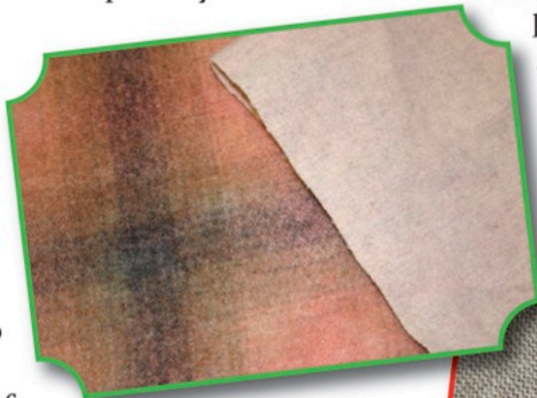


The next thing I did was go to my tub where I keep all my "flesh tones."

The two textures that I chose are shown.

The plaid was used to hook the main part of the face and the solid was used for the cheeks. The dark part of the plaid was used to highlight the nose and cheeks. The light part of the texture was used as the main part of the face.

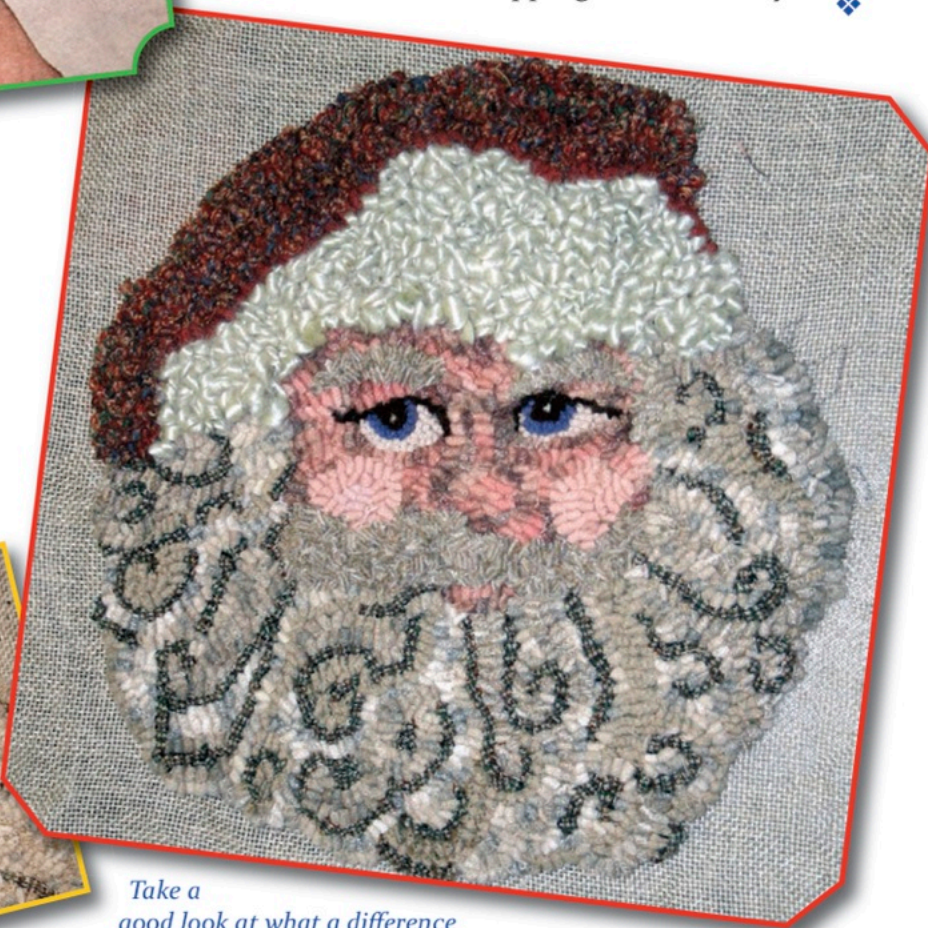
Texture adds dimension and highlights to the face without being overpowering. Santa's face was easy to hook and has a ruddy glow!



The final touch is the glint in Santa's eye. Using a piece of my linen, I tied several knots in the string of until it was even with the hooking. I then clipped

the linen and used the point of my scissors to push the ends down.

Finally—Santa is hooked! Now if only my Christmas shopping were this easy.



Take a good look at what a difference that adding the eye glint makes!