

My Method of Finishing an Irregular Edge

by Gail Duclos Lapierre ©

Before beginning to hook a project, I do two rows of zigzag stitching close to the drawn outline on the backing. The first row goes right next to the outline and the second row goes just outside the first row of stitching. I size the zigzag stitch so that the width of the two rows of stitching is similar in width to the height the loops will be:



This stitching needs to be done before hooking the piece; I will not be able to stitch close enough, or into the corners after the rug is hooked.

Once I have completed my hooking, checked for and repaired holidays and steamed my rug, the fun begins.

I have never used weighted cord before, but I had this; it's the right size, and since this is a small mat, the extra weight will help it stay in place.



I then trim the backing close to the outer row of zigzag stitching, being careful to not cut into the stitching.



Using pins, going through the cord, into the hooking to hold the cord in place, I used a buttonhole stitch and regular sewing thread to baste the cord on.



This is how I thread my needle and knot the end of the yarn into my rug:

1. I put both ends of the yarn through the eye of the needle.
2. I put the needle into a couple of threads of backing.
3. When I get near the loop that was formed by putting both ends through the needle, I put the needle through the loop, forming an inconspicuous knot.



I like this method; it gives me a double strand of yarn, which is simple to manipulate when whipping. The yarn is now at the back of the work; I like to have my needle going into the front of the rug, it's easier to control the placement of the stitches.

I then whip as with any rug; close into the hooking, careful to cover the cording completely. As I get to the end of my yarn, I run it back into my whipping to secure it. This is how the front and back of the edge look:

