

“NOVEMBER”

New Twists on a Perennial Favorite

House of Price #1448 36” x 55”

Hooked by: Peggy Hannum, Lancaster, PA

Picture on front cover and inside front cover (p. 37-38)

Jane Flynn created a classic when she drew “November.” Many of us just had “to do it”, which has resulted in a great number of truly beautiful interpretations of this design, and they will continue to increase in number. With so many lovely versions of “November” out there, now that I’ve finally finished mine which I started many years ago, I feel compelled to share what makes this piece a bit different.

When I was deciding on my choice of rug to begin at Maryland Shores Workshop in 2005, it was, of course, “November.” I was signed up with Nancy Blood for the week. I decided I wanted to ‘dial down’ my stash of wool, so I send Nancy a large piece of paper to which I had attached a quantity of strips of fabric I hoped to use. Nancy created a dye plan using some of these hopefuls, among them a wild lipstick pink, and some Pendleton plaids. In the midst of a lovely color plan quietly entered an idea that ended up making this a unique rendition of the usual 8 value leaf. I had thought originally that a spot overdye of some of the plaids could be interesting, but Nancy had a different idea!

For the oak leaves, Nancy suggested doing two 8 value swatches, one over a plain colored wool and the other swatch over the light brown and beige Pendleton plaid using the same dye formula for each. Now, the idea was to shade one side of the leaf with the plain 8 value gold wool and the other side with the plaid 8 value gold swatch. If you look very closely at the rug, this creates an interesting version of the usual application of color using just an 8 value swatch. The same idea was repeated in the red maple leaf using plain camel colored wool and a red and beige Pendleton plaid both dyed with the same red formula.

Not to be forgotten is the electric pink which was overdyed with a deep red and used for the large oval leaves. The vague blush of pinkish red breaks up the other red maple leaves which were dyed over Dorr’s Red Grapefruit which then had a slight reddish orange tinge to the tips.

All in all, thanks to Nancy, we together that week created some wonderful nuances on an often hooked pattern.

Photos of “November” are by Bill Bishop of Impact Xpозures.