

# Are You Ready to Take a Photograph? By Suzanne Chaddock

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It is a proud moment to see your finished piece on display whether in person, in a virtual display or in a publication. You've taken workshops on how to hook rugs, in many categories, but no one explains how to take a photograph.

You do not need a high-end camera or a camera of any kind. For the most part, we all have a cell phone or a tablet, both of which take excellent photographs. Or our friend does.

Following these few “dos and don'ts” will turn you into a photographer, and more importantly, produce photographs of excellent quality to showcase your piece.



Figure 1

**Do** ensure you have a neutral background. It could be a wooden floor, a piece of white foam core board, a neutral-coloured wall or a neutral bed sheet that can be placed on the floor. Make sure the sheet is pressed. Take two photos, one on the wooden floor and one on the foam board for comparison. In the photo examples, the foam board has shadows and the floor does not. Fig. 1, 2

**Do** make sure your piece is straight on the background you choose. Use a ruler or level to ensure a straight line.

**Do** take your photograph on the same plane of the piece, or flat above the piece. If it is on the wall, make sure your device is centred with the piece. If it is on the floor, make sure you are over the piece, so it is flat. You may need to get imaginative and lay on a deck or use a small step ladder.

**Do** use natural light: the ideal time is between 10 am and noon on a sunny day.

**Do** make sure there is nothing in the photograph except your piece on the background you choose.



Figure 2



Figure 3

**Do not** include your socks, shoes, toes, cords, a multi-coloured or busy background, or your pet. We love to see your pet but keep that for social media. Figs. 3, 4, 5

**Do not** take the photo at an angle. The piece must be flat and include all four corners. Fig. 6, 7

**Do not** take photos with shadows from sunshine or overhead lights. Fig. 8



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

OK, so now we know how to take great photos. What's the best way to save or share them?



Figure 7

If you are emailing the photos to yourself or a friend using a cell phone or tablet, make sure you choose the largest format offered which usually is "actual size". Most of our devices can email up to 15MB (that's a lot of photos) so don't be afraid to choose the largest format and choose multiple photographs for one email. Your device will tell you if you have gone over the limit.

Photographs submitted to the OHCG newsletter must be a minimum of 800 KB in size for the best print quality. If you always choose "actual size" it will be the highest quality. Always submit your photograph the way you want the piece displayed so there is no question which way is up.

As you are reading this you might be thinking Deanne Fitzpatrick shares photos showing her shoes and toes and yes, she does. She will share that she is showing off new shoes or showing the rug can go on the floor and be walked on. These photographs are for social media not for display purposes.



Figure 8

The 2021 virtual display from Northumberland Branch was noteworthy from my point of view. The background for all pieces was the same and the photos were taken on the same plane. They held a “photo bee” or tailgate party to take the photographs. A great idea for a branch to enjoy. [Here's a link to their description of the event.](#)

You have worked hard on your piece, putting in many hours and many dollars. Finish the process by taking the best photograph possible. Then proudly share your photographs to display, for a publication or for judging.

\*Pattern is called Blueberries, designed by Iris Simpson, Teacher Jayne Nevins, hooked by Suzanne Chaddock