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Afghan Felt

Turcoman felt.

Felt is a fabric of matted, compressed fibers, such as wool or fur. They are first wetted then either trampled or tightly tied together. In Mongolia or eastern China the wet felt is sometimes tied around a tree and a horse pulls the ropes. It is a flexible, easy and fast process. Not only used as floorcovering and insulation but also to make hats or boots. In order to make patterns, dyed wool can be pressed into the main layer. Sometimes small pieces of coloured cloth is sewn on top of the felt.

The Turkmen tribes living in the northeastern Iranian province of Khorassan differ in many respects (language, dress, customs, ornamentation, etc.) from the country's other inhabitants.

For example, while saddle rugs and horse blankets from all other regions of the country are mostly knotted or woven, the Turkmen have a predilection for felt.

The sober ornamentation of blue and red tones contrasts with the rich workmanship of the other textiles they produce. This indicates that felt blankets are objects of primary utility that don't last long.