

# METRICS FOR WEAVERS

$$\begin{array}{r} 0 \\ -246 \\ 895+4 \end{array}$$

by Peggy Dokka

This month we shall see how figuring a warp in the metric system can save time and mental effort. Let us set up the loom for two sets of place mats—8 mats per set. We shall make them 30 cm. wide x 45 cm. long, and we shall allow 2.5 cm. at the end of each mat for fringe, making them 50 cm. in length. I really didn't pick those lengths to make it sound easier—it is actually easier to use metric measurements in even 10s because of the smaller size of the centimeter vs. the inch.

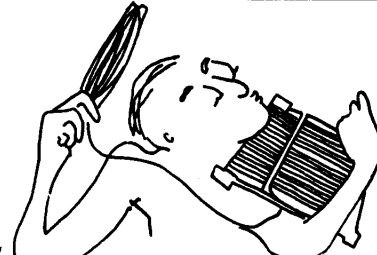
Fifty centimeters is 1/2 meter, so the total weaving warp will be 8 meters. Add one meter to the length for thrums and take-up and the total warp is 9 meters long. We shall use a 40 dent reed and double sley, making our warp 80 ends per decameter (about 20 e.p.i.). The 30 cm. width is the same as 3 dm. (decameters) so 3 x 80 = 240 ends in the warp. The number of ends times the length, as always, gives us the total amount of the warp; in this case 2160 meters.

The ease of figuring in metric is due to all conversions being in units of 10 or 100. There is never the necessity to divide by 36, for example, as when changing inches to yards.

Although conversions from metric to English system are seldom necessary in our field, (and they are always complicated) there is a gadget on the market to make such conversions easier if you feel you are likely to need it. This is called a

"Metric Converter" (logically) and is available from the Miles Kimball Co. of Oshkosh Wisc. I received one for Christmas and its really slick! It works on a slide rule principle, and one needs only to set the foot mark (for instance) at 22 and glance down at the position of the meter mark in this case at 7.05. It converts linear measurement, square, cubic liquid and weight with almost no effort at all.





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