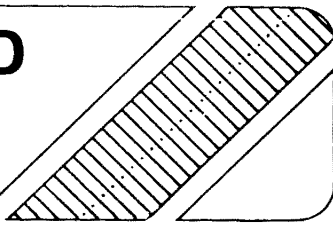


THE RIGID HEDDLE



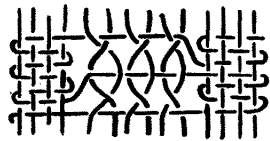
LENO WEAVES

by Karen Searle

The leno or crossed warp weaves are a very pleasing and versatile group of open work weaves. The crossings may be worked in isolated areas for small "window" designs, or they may be worked across the web for an all-over lacy effect.

The best yarns for leno work are strong, resilient yarns with very little elasticity. Linen, Linnay, perle or other firm cottons work well for table linens and wall hangings. Two-ply weaving wools are suitable for leno stoles, scarves and clothing items. Leno fabrics are especially interesting as window hangings or curtains where the light will emphasize the openness of the fabric.

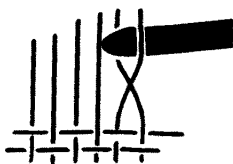
Warp tension should be loosened slightly when making leno crossings. This will help counteract the natural tendency to pull in at the edges that is characteristic of open work weaves. If desired, a small border may be kept in plain weave to keep the edges straight.



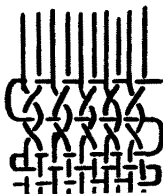
plain weave border

Leno crossings are made in an open shed. If the first warp thread in the heddle is in a hole, work in the upper shed. If the first warp is in a slot, work in the lower shed.

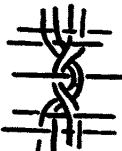
To cross the warps: lift up 1 bottom layer thread with a pickup stick and push down 1 top layer thread. (single leno)



Leno single



for double leno, lift up 2 bottom threads and push down 2 top threads. When all of the desired warps are crossed, turn the pickup stick on edge and pass the weft through this crossed shed.



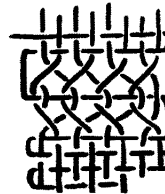
Leno double

Weave the next plain weave shed to uncross the warps. Leno crossings may be separated by one or any odd number of plain weave rows.

An all leno fabric may be woven more quickly by adding a string heddle to the loom on the crossed shed. This gauze fabric can be used as a ground for inlay or tapestry. (See references.)

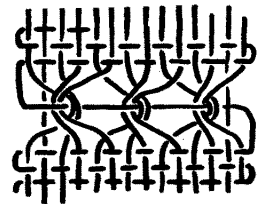
Crossing groups of three or more threads produces very bold open effects. Double leno and group leno may also be worked on a closed shed, crossing the right-hand threads of each pair or group over left-hand threads. This gives a slightly more defined open effect. Weave the next plain weave shed to uncross.

A leno variation called Mexican Lace has an extra crossing and appears even more lacy. To work Mexican Lace, work in an open shed as above. Pick up 2 bottom layer threads and push down 1 top thread; then cross 1 bottom over 1 top across ending with 1 over 2. (single Mexican Lace)



Mexican Lace single

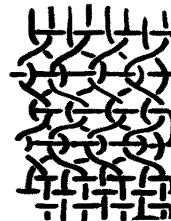
For double Mexican Lace, begin with 3 bottom threads over 2 top threads, then 2 over 2 across, ending with 2 over 3. Pass the weft through the crossed shed and weave the next plain weave row as in leno.



Mexican Lace double

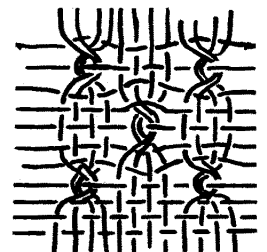
Design in Leno Weaves

Most of the variations in leno design come from the arrangement of open vs. solid areas. Leno pairs or groups may be divided and alternated on successive rows for greater openness and interest.

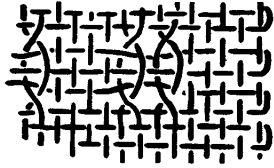


alternated leno

Alternating leno groups and plain weave groups within a row creates an interesting contrast, and, if alternated regularly, produces "bunches."



An interesting undulating effect is created by using the same leno cross more than once.



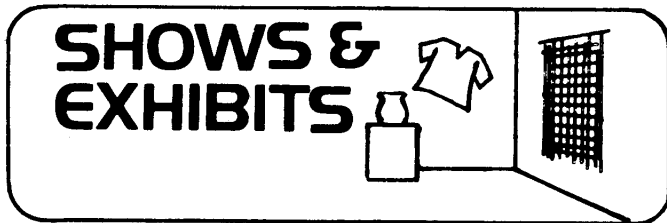
Variations in placement of leno are endless and it is fun to try a sampler with as many different configurations as you can think of. Try outlining shapes with it, or working it at random to distort the weft; try multiple twisting rather than merely crossing the warps; try crossings on one layer of warp only, try combinations of leno with other lace weaves—be adventurous and create a truly unique piece of weaving!

References on basic lace weaves:

- Creager, Clara Weaving
- Held, Shirley Weaving, a Handbook for Fiber Craftsmen
- Steedsman, Nell Patterns on a Plain Weave
- Temple, Mary Weaving Ideas for a Rigid Heddle Frame Loom
- Tidball, Harriet Two Harness Textiles: The Open Work Weaves
- Wilson, Jean Weaving is Creative

on leno as a ground for inlay and tapestry:

- Baizerman/Searle Latin American Brocades
- Nass, Ulla "Harness Lace, A New Leno Setup," Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot, Spring 1977



DEGREE SHOW by Bev Skoglund

Works by Bev Skoglund will be featured in a Degree show at the Tamarack Gallery in Stillwater, MN, April 23 through May 21. Works include functional and decorative fiber pieces, knitted and woven.

POLYCHROME DOUBLE WOVEN TEXTILES

A Master's Degree Exhibition by Jean Nordlund

You are cordially invited to attend an opening reception on Saturday, May 7, 7-9 p.m., at the Goldstein Gallery in McNeal Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.


Also on view: The Wonderful Magic, Drawings and Story by Anne Runyon.

Both exhibits will continue through May 25.

MARILYN HERMANN TO SHOW


An exhibit of 3-dimensional pieces by Marilyn Hermann will be featured at the West Lake Gallery, May 1-28. The show is titled "Coiled Images — Fiberworks."

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