

Questions and Answers

by MARY M. ATWATER

Question: What is the best way to use a drawing-in-hook?

Answer: In my opinion the best thing to do with a drawing-in-hook is to throw it away. The quickest and easiest way to thread the warp through the heddles is as follows: If the warp is already in the beam, take up a position on the right-hand side of the loom opposite the ends of the heddle frames. Push the heddles away from you along the frames, to make a working space. With the left hand select the heddle to be threaded and draw it forward; with the right hand select the thread to be threaded. Double the thread over and thrust it through the eye of the heddle as in threading a darning needle.

If the warp is being put on from the front of the loom, thread from the left-hand side of the loom.

In slewing through the reed use an ordinary kitchen knife instead of the hook. The hook sometimes catches in a soft warp, the knife never does.

Question: What are the best materials for a "Colonial" coverlet and how much material is required?

Answer: To answer this question intelligently it is necessary to know what type of coverlet is in question, — what size, what weave. For a coverlet in overshot weaving most people prefer a warp and tabby of Egyptian cotton in "natural," the warp set at 30 ends to the inch. Pattern weft homespun wool yarn or Shetland worsted yarn, in dark blue, or "Colonial" blue, or madder rose, or brown and tan. Bright red is also sometimes used, and black, dark green and light yellow also appear occasionally, in combination with other colors. For a

full-sized coverlet three yards long, and 84" wide—two 42" strips—about 3½ pounds of cotton for warp and tabby will be required, and about 4 pounds of wool yarn for the pattern.

For a coverlet in "summer and winter" weave, same size as above, Egyptian cotton 24/3 may also be used for warp, but the tabby should be a finer cotton, and the pattern weft should be Bernat's "Fabri" or a similar yarn. Quantities: 2 lbs. warp-cotton; 1½ lbs. fine cotton for tabby; 2½ lbs. Fabri yarn, or a similar yarn, for the pattern.

It is not possible to estimate the quantity of weft material with exactness as weavers differ greatly in the matter of beat. A coverlet should be well beaten up and firm.

Question: What kinds of weaving can be done on a two-harness loom?

Answer: Fabrics in plain weave such as linens, dress-fabrics, rugs and so on, in plaid patterns, checks, stripes, the "Log Cabin" pattern, etc., the patterns being produced by various arrangements of colors in warp and weft. Two-block patterns in Swedish "matta," rugs in the "twice-woven" technique, rugs in tufted weaving or Swedish "flossa," in patterns as elaborate as one chooses; linens in Spanish lace-weave; warp-face fabrics with picked up patterns in the primitive manner; tapestry—Swedish type, French type; Kiz-Killim, Navajo rug weaving, etc., etc.. No doubt there are others. More skill is required for most of the two-harness weaves than for simple pattern weaving on four to eight harnesses.

Book Review

"*First Steps In Weaving*" by Ella Victoria Dobbs, for many years, professor of Applied Arts at the University of Missouri, is offered "to those persons, young or otherwise, who wish to gain practical experience in the fascinating processes of weaving but know nothing of its terms, its tools or its procedures." The book is confined to the needs of beginners because other books are available for those who have passed the first stages of the craft. The book is profusely illustrated with photographs of samples of weaving and diagrammatic drawings which illustrate various processes. The directions are so clear and practical that the reader is immediately stimulated to try them out.

The processes outlined include the common weaving frame, the two harness and the four harness looms. Simple directions are given for setting up each type of apparatus, followed by procedures in weaving on each and suggesting pattern vari-

ations. A number of standard threading patterns for the four harness loom are given.

In addition, for the benefit of those unable to purchase a commercial loom, simple directions are given for making one's own out of a goods box, a broom stick, a few old boards, and a little ingenuity.

Emphasis is also given to looms built to hold the warp in a vertical position for convenience in bedside occupations by patients unable to sit up.

Common weaving terms are explained in the order they are met by the beginner and followed by an alphabetized reference list.

The book opens with a brief historical background and closes with usable suggestions for practical weaving projects.

This book is available from Emile Bernat & Sons, Co., Jamaica Plain, Mass. Price \$1.00 per copy.