

# INFORMATION SERVICE

## What is Lappet Weave?

Lappet (or true embroidery weave) is unique in this respect that besides the warp and the weft there is a third thread or set of threads which weave the pattern. This third thread may be considered as warp in the same way as the Whip is part of the warp in Net Weaves, and it is sometimes wound on a separate warp beam.

In its classical form Lappet requires special equipment, rather difficult to make at home, and not to be found on the market.

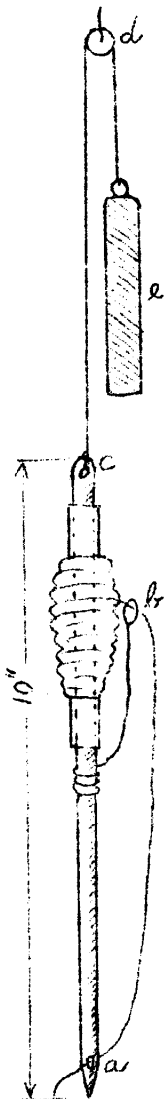
This equipment is indispensable for production, but may be replaced with simpler tools by an amateur who does not need to take into consideration the time element.

The only accessory which one has to make at home is a Lappet Needle (see fig.). It is made of 3/16 or 1/4 brass or iron rod. Both ends must be flattened and small holes (1/16) drilled in them. Then one end (a) is sharpened. A piece of No. 14 wire is wound around the middle of the needle and soldered. Then its end is bent as in the sketch and made into an eyelet, which will serve as a guide for the yarn. Now the needle should be polished with emery cloth, and it is finished.

A small quill with yarn is placed on the needle and the yarn passed first through the guide (b) and then through the lower hole in the needle (a). The needle must be hung above the batten and in the centre of its width, more or less. If we have a hanging batten a screw-eye may be driven in the rocking shaft; if not - in the ceiling. A length of string is tied to the upper end of the needle (c), passed through the screw-ye (d) and its other end tied to a sinker (e) slightly heavier than the needle.

Now we open a tabby shed, push the needle through the warp near the batten, so that its lower point penetrates below the shed, and throw the shuttle. Then lift the needle (which should remain suspended above the batten), beat, open the other tabby shed, insert the needle again not too far from the first place, lift the needle and beat. We shall have now a float nearly horizontal. Its length and position depends entirely on where the needle has been inserted, and its angle - on the number of shots of the ground made between two "stitches".

As a rule more than one needle must be used to get even a simple pattern. Each needle may be operated separately, or a row of them stuck in a strip of wood - thus making several identical patterns at the same time.



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