

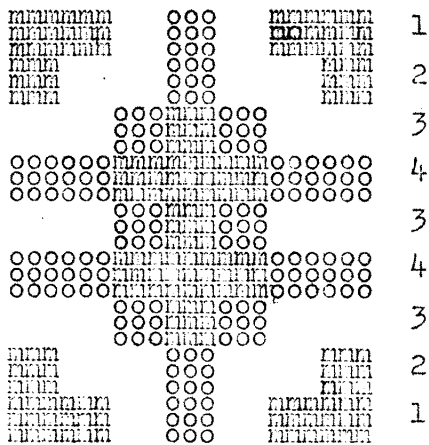
INFORMATION SERVICE

Patterns in Chenille.

Chenille (or twice woven cloth) is the fastest technique of producing pile fabrics, particularly rugs. Theoretically any pattern can be woven in this way. In practice however, unless we waste a lot of yarn, the pattern must be adapted to the method.

The requirements here are rather peculiar and to satisfy them we have to understand how a piece of chenille is produced. The first weaving gives us the weft, which in weaving lies parallel to the first warp. Then this weft is cut and woven into the second warp. Thus if we use different colours, they will form horizontal stripes in the first weaving and they will become vertical in the second.

For patterns the chenille weft is not woven in long strips, but in short pieces as long as the finished rug is going to be wide.



width 21"

Supposing that we are going to weave a rug as on the drawing with colours: black (m), red (o), and white (empty spaces) 21 by 27 inches, then we have to divide it into "blocks" first. The numbers on the right indicate the blocks. There are four of them, but each is repeated two or three times.

If there are about 4 shots of weft per inch, it will take 12 pieces of chenille weft for each block (of 3"). The width of the first warp will be equal to the depth of the pile, times two (pile on each side), times 12. If 1" pile is wanted, the width of the first warp is then $1 \times 2 \times 12 = 24$ inches.

After making the warp with 12 strands spaced 2 inches, we start weaving the

first block. It has 6 inches of black, 3" of white, 3" red 3" white and 6" black. In all 21" just the width of the rug. After finishing it we weave about 2 inches of plain tabby with a thin yarn, and repeat the operation (block no.1 is used twice). The second block has: 3" black, 6" white, 3" red, 6" white, and 3" black. It is repeated also. The third block (taken three times): 6" white, 3" red, 3" black, 3" red, and 6" white. The fourth block: 6" red, 9" black, and 6" red. Repeat.

Now we have all the weft needed to make the rug. The spaces in tabby between the blocks should be painted with size, or thin glue. After the glue is dry we cut the blocks one from another, and then the strips of chenille in each block. In all we shall have 108 strips.

The next step is to make the second warp, very open and 21" wide. The strips of weft are inserted one by one, adjusted very carefully in the shed, the pile combed up and down so that none will remain in the shed, and both ends of each strip (tabby with glue) tucked under into the next shed. Binder should be used in the same shed as the pattern weft.