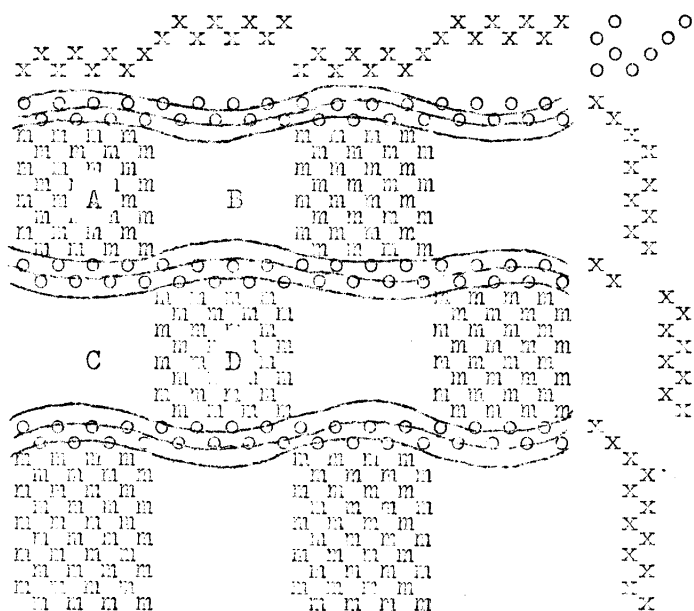


HÄLKIRUS

or Gagneffkrus, or Spotsväv, or Lacey Weave, or Honeycomb.

Strangely enough this weave with so many names, has none in English. In colonial times it has been called Honey Comb. Since then however the industrial weaving adopted Honeycomb as a synonym of Waffle. So if we want to call Halkrus by the name of honeycomb, we must add Colonial, or nobody will know what we are talking about. The Lacey Weave has been proposed about 15 years ago, but so far nobody accepted it.

Halkrus belongs to the class of "distorted weft". We had already one example of this kind of weaving in the Cannelé (IR/ 11). In this group of weaves the weft follows a more or less wavy line, although it runs straight on the draw-down. In Cannelé the weft is pulled in two different directions by alternate floats in warp. In the halkrus the pattern weft is pushed to one side or the other. In Cannelé the ground is uniform, in halkrus the ground is distorted.



What is the origin of this distortion. Let's have a look at a typical halkrus draft (fig.1). Each repeat can be divided into four approximately square areas. Two of these quarters (A and D) are woven in tabby, and the other two (B and C) - not woven at all.

When we beat, the tabby areas offer a resistance to the batten but the other areas so to speak - collapse. Thus the heavy weft (on tabby treadles) will be always pushed toward the center of C and B and away from the center of A and D.

Fig.1

The draft on fig.1 has only two blocks of pattern. but four blocks can be woven as well (fig.2). In case of four blocks we shall have three different textures of the fabric: tabby (A), unwoven (D), and partly woven (C). The curve of the pattern weft will be much more irregular than in the first case.

The classical way of weaving halkrus requires two shots of pattern weft - one in each tabby shed. This weft is much heavier than the weft for the ground. It may be of the same colour as the rest of the fabric or of a contrasting one. The blocks of pattern may be squared one after another, thus giving a pattern similar to the corresponding pattern in overshot. Of course any overshot draft may be used for weaving halkrus, provided that the tie-up is changed.

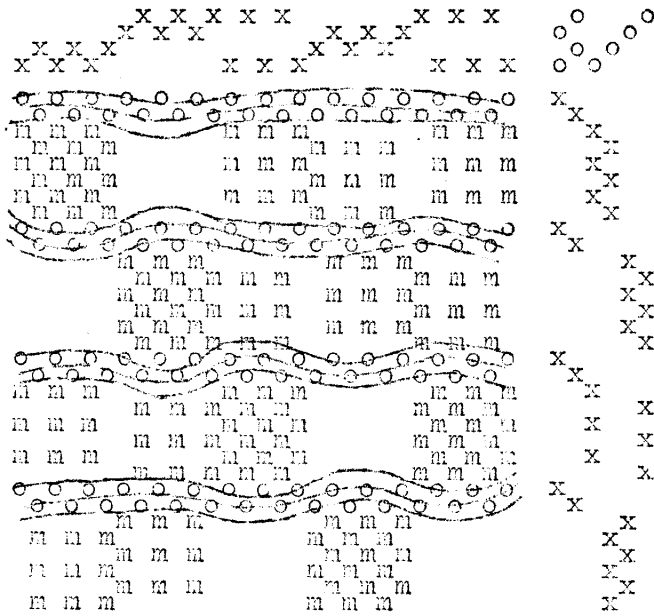


Fig. 2

Modern treatment of the same weave is slightly different. First of all we do not try to square the pattern. For that matter we do not try to show the pattern at all. The blocks will be used more or less at random, or always in the same order.

Then we shall use only one shot of very heavy pattern weft, always in the same tabby shed. Fig. 3 shows an example of a modern version of halkrus.

As threading draft can serve any large overshot draft, but still better is to design a special draft, with the four blocks of very different sizes

All fabrics woven in halkrus can be used only on one side, as long as the blocks of pattern are fairly large. This is because the weft will have long floats at the back of the fabric.

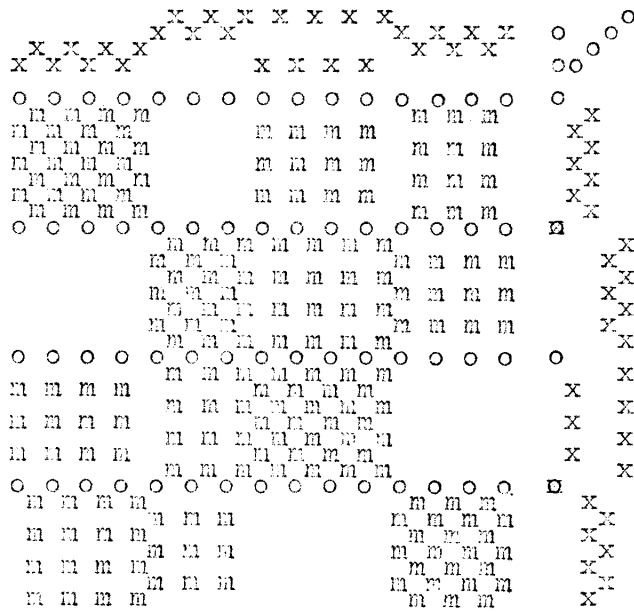


Fig. 3

When very fine texture is required halkrus may be woven on plain twill threading (fig. 4 and 5). The weft used on tabby sheds should not be very heavy - it may be the same as used for the ground.

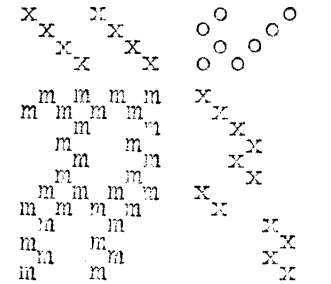


Fig. 4

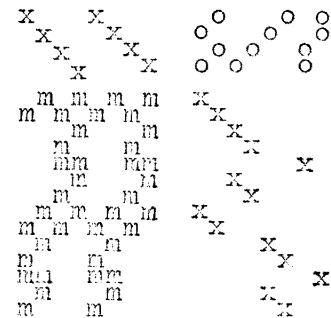


Fig. 5