

NET WEAVES

FIRST SAMPLER

We did not write for a while about Net Weaving, because so far we have got very little response. However for those who are interested we shall continue from time to time. Also when we shall develop a simple doup technique, we shall return to this subject again.

To make a sampler we must first make a warp. Any yarn or combination of yarns can be used. As an example we shall take cotton 10/2 set at 24 ends per inch. The threading can be either twill, or a texture weave. Among the traditional weaves the only suitable are: tabby, broken twill, and crepe. Besides these any irregular texture weave can be used (compound twills, texture crackle, mixed drafts, accidental drafts).

We shall need two wefts: one about the same as warp, and a rigid weft for the "pattern" sheds. The latter may be bamboo, wood strips, or bulrush stalks.

Wood strips can be made at home if we have necessary equipment, that is a power saw with a planing blade. It is real fun to make them. Different kinds of wood may be tried, then stained (oil stains only) to different colours. Whatever wood is used it must have straight grain. Wood strips are sold in sizes: 1/4" by 1/20" or 1/24" in several colours for about \$ 1 to 2 per pound.

Bamboo must be bought of course. It should be straight without any tendency to curl. It can be also stained at home.

Bulrushes should be collected rather late when they have low vitality, but before they actually dry out. In any case they have a tendency to mould. Some technique of sterilising them could be developed (immersion in boiling water, or hot steam, or gasolene).

Plastics should not be used for many reasons, one of them being that they produce cheap and vulgar effect.

We have now everything we need, and we can start with samples. First we shall weave a few inches of ground, for instance tabby.

Sample 1. Ten picks of tabby. Open the Net Shed (as described in the last article) with the comb. Insert one strip of wood (or what-

ever we use as rigid weft). Repeat this operation several times always trying to place the comb in exactly the same position as before. Beat very hard.

Sample 2. Ten picks of tabby followed by one strip of wood in the net shed. Then again ten picks of tabby. Then open a net shed but move first the comb $\frac{1}{2}$ " to the right (compared with the first position) Repeat several times.

Sample 3. Six picks of tabby. Insert a strip of wood in the next tabby shed. Again 6 picks of tabby. Open a Net shed; insert the picking stick; throw the shuttle with ground weft. Repeat several times.

Sample 4. Six pick of tabby. Insert a strip of wood in the next tabby shed; 6 picks of tabby. Open a Net shed and insert a second strip of wood. Repeat several times.

Sample 5. Start with 20 picks of tabby. A strip of wood in the next tabby shed; 6 picks of tabby; open a net shed, insert the picking stick, throw the shuttle, 6 picks of tabby, a strip of wood in the next tabby shed. Repeat several times.

Sample 6. Ten picks of tabby. Open a Net shed; insert a strip of wood. Open another Net shed with the points of the blades of the Net comb entering the warp exactly half way between the former positions. Insert the second strip. Return the comb to the first position and repeat

By this time you will have plenty of ideas as how to make more samples. For instance reverse the comb and twist the warp ends once in one and then in the other direction. Try to weave entirely without rigid weft and see what happens. Or use a very stiff yarn for the ground, and a very soft and heavy one for the Net sheds.

After this elementary sampler we shall probably wish we could use more advanced techniques. For instance doup Leno (gauze) for the ground, instead of tabby or a texture weave. Double weaves have here unlimited possibilities, particularly with two warps. When one warp is very slack we can weave a sort of venetian blinds with strips of wood hanging down on a background of a net. When both warps have the same tension we can weave nets lined with tabby. And all this on only 4 shafts.

We shall be glad to describe these higher techniques provided that we hear from you from time to time.
