

NET WEAVES

## WHIP NET

This time we shall concentrate on details. If you have tried already the methods suggested in the last issue, you must have noticed that working with doups is not as easy as in the case of plain gauze. This is because a doup must go around three warp ends instead of one.

The loom is set up as for Gauze with standards or without them, but since we need only three shafts, we might as well use the remaining one for standards. We must remind here that the advantage of having standards is that the doups do not tangle in the shed. Otherwise there is no difference, and the size of the shed is the same in both cases. The draft is as follows:

|       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |                  |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|------------------|
|       | X | X | X | X | X | X | 0 | 0    | plain heddles    |
|       | X | X | X | X | X | X | 0 | 0    | plain heddles    |
|       | o | o | o | o | o | o | 0 | 0    | gauze doups      |
|       | X | X | X | X | X | X | 0 | 0    | standard heddles |
| reed: | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2, 1 |                  |
|       | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |   |      | net heddles      |

Treadling: tabby - 1,2; gauze - 2,3; whip net - 2, net doups.

As we can see from this draft we can (theoretically) weave tabby, gauze, and whip net, and we shall do it when experimenting. In practice it is hardly worth while to try tabby or gauze alone on this set-up, because the shed 2 used in all cases is rather difficult to open. It is of course as difficult when weaving net, but then the reward is that nets have very few picks per inch and the weaving is comparatively fast. Thus for net weaving we do not need treadles 1 and 3, but they come handy when we make experiments, and when we combine net and gauze in the same fabric.

Now to start from the beginning: the warp should be threaded as for gauze and the tie-up adjusted first of all. The ties in the tie-up are all for sinking sheds, but they are not all of the same length. Only experiment will show how long each of them must be. Then a jack-type loom is out of the question. It must be a counterbalanced one with a shed-regulator, or a double-tie-up one. In any case "o"

in the tie-up means always a sinking shed, and all doups are hung from above.

When the loom is ready for weaving gauze, i.e. the warp threaded, sleyed, and tied-in, the tie-up adjusted etc., we make the net doups in front of the batten. It is easier to tie a doup around a warp end, than to make the doups first and then to thread the warp for the second time. The exact length of the Net doups does not matter. They may be of the same size as the Gauze doups or much longer. The right kind of thread or yarn is very important. It must be strong but very pliable. We may suggest mercerized cotton, hard twist No. 20/2, or sewing thread of about the same weight.

All doups must be of exactly the same length, and they are all tied to a stick or rod slightly longer than the width of warp. Instead of making individual doups, we can use a continuous thread going under a warp end, then over the rod, under the next warp end, and over the rod again.

We shift the Net doups back to about two inches from the batten, at the same time pressing lightly treadle 1. Then we release the treadle and lift the doup stick as high as it will go. This will open a small shed which must be enlarged with a picking stick if we use a shuttle. For rigid weft there is no necessity of enlarging the shed. And this is our first Net shed.

The second shed is a headache! We press on treadle 2, and nothing happens. This is because the Net doups must go around 3 warp ends, and they won't do it of their own accord. To help them we pass the tip of a finger (or the tip of the picking stick) across the warp just below the doups several times there and back. The shed slowly opens. If we do it long enough the shed may open to its full size, but it is easier to stop as soon as we can pass the picking stick through the shed. Then proceed as usual, i.e. turn the stick on edge and throw the shuttle.

Another difficulty in this type of weaving is the terrific take-up in weft. If we try to make a very open Net (and all Nets are very open) and we stretch it along the warp to get a good shed, the fabric will shrink to practically nothing in width after a short time. Thus we must use templets (stretchers). Even with rigid weft there is quite a lot of pulling-in at the edges.

We shall write soon about the templets; it is a chapter of the weaving lore which has been neglected for a long while.

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. From the fact that we need only one treadle to weave the Whip Net, and that shafts 1,2, and 3 are tied to this treadle, one should not jump to the conclusion that the whole weaving could be done on two shafts plus Net doups. This is only a theoretical possibility, because there should be a certain distance between shafts 1,2 and 3,4, and the larger this distance the better. Thus if we have an 8 shaft loom, we should use shafts 1, and 2 for standards and doups, and shafts 7 and 8 for tabby. But it is true that Net alone can be woven on a primitive loom. We shall come back to this subject.

Considering all these difficulties we are of the opinion that it would not do any good, if we rushed with further information about more complicated Net Weaves. We shall concentrate on the Whip Net and its variations for a while.

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## TERMINOLOGY .

One of the reasons why we have published our "Encyclopaedia of Handweaving" is the utter confusion of weaving terms in different parts of the English speaking world. But this confusion is at least limited to the handweavers. But what happens when an outsider starts writing about weaving simply defies description. We have at hand several books about the history of weaving written by presumably professional historians. We find there: "laze rods" instead of lease rods, "shed rods" (one more expression for shaft), "rod heddle" (same thing), "beater-in" (batten), "women's handgrip loom" (tapestry loom), "warp-spacer" (raddle), "sword" (batten). In at least one case the weft for no reason at all is called "warp", and the warp: "pseudo-warp", when the pile in warp is "weft". We have also "heddle-leashes of spiral form" (doups) - obviously the scientist who wrote this forgot his high school geometry. "Warp lifter" is another term for picking stick. "Counter shed" will remain a mystery, but it is a part of "Fipa" loom, and obviously anything can happen in a fipa loom. We may also learn that in Mortlake (?) there were "quasi weavers" who developed their own "Quasi Weavers' Comb" (tapestry fork). Probably the longest term to designate a heddle is "cord-heddle-for-raising-pattern-warp", and the shortest for a blade in a reed: "slat". But the poor historians could retort that after all in one of the quite recent catalogs of weaving supplies a batten was listed as a "bottom beater", and one feels that this piece of equipment we need very badly.

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