

Instructions For
The Use Of The
“Hearthside” Loom

by

Nellie Sargent Johnson

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The "Hearthside" loom was designed to meet the need for a simple practical hand loom on which articles approximately 27 inches wide may be woven. It is firm and strong, simple to operate, easily portable, and takes up but little space when not in use. This loom is equipped with a heddle frame which serves as the harness and beater, making it simple and easy to thread and use. There are strong warp and cloth beams equipped with aprons and ratchets. And the loom is sold warped and threaded with enough Superior Maysville Carpet Warp already to start at once to weave approximately five yards of finished carpet or rugs.

Selection of Yarns and Threads for Handweaving. Handwoven textiles are lasting durable fabrics, and the proper choice of yarns and threads is important. The thread must be suitable for the kind of fabric to be woven and to its use and purpose. It must be of the right kind and size to produce a suitable texture, and also be well adapted to the kind of weaving technique to be used on the loom for the finished article. For rugs, we suggest that Maysville Rug Filler be used for weft in any desired color combination, and directions for the weaving of three rugs using this material for the weft will follow. Maysville Home-craft yarn used double as weft may also be used for rugs, or if used single is suitable for weft for runners, bags, pillow-tops, luncheon sets, etc. Also carpet warp either like the warp or in colors may be used double as weft for curtains, luncheon sets, etc. Many other suitable materials with which to weave can be found in every home. But it is best to purchase the warp. Worn or discarded garments of all sorts can be cut up into strips about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide and sewed together as at Figure No. 2 A. Or they may be knotted together as at Figure No. 2 B. The width to cut these weft strips depends on how heavy or light you wish the cloth to be when finished. Try some out on the loom if in doubt. Stockings, regardless of runs, can be cut in loops and joined together as at Figures Nos. 3 A and B. Here again the width to cut them depends on how heavy or how fine the finished material is to be. For rugs, try cutting the loops about 2" in width. If using light and heavy weight stockings, try to vary the widths cut so as to keep the weft size about the same throughout.

Test the tension of the groups of warp threads tied to the cloth beam before beginning to weave. Pass the hands over the warp pressing down on it to feel whether there are any loose threads or groups of threads. Re-tie again any loose threads or loose groups so all will be the same tension. This is shown in four steps 1), 2), 3) and 4) of Figure No. 4 below.

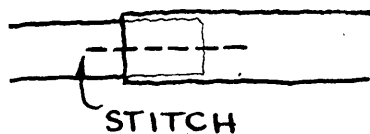


Figure No. 2 A
How to Sew Rags.

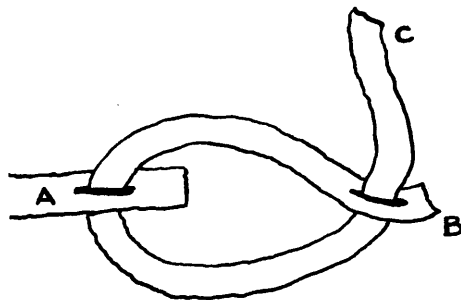


Figure No. 2 B
How to Knot Rags.

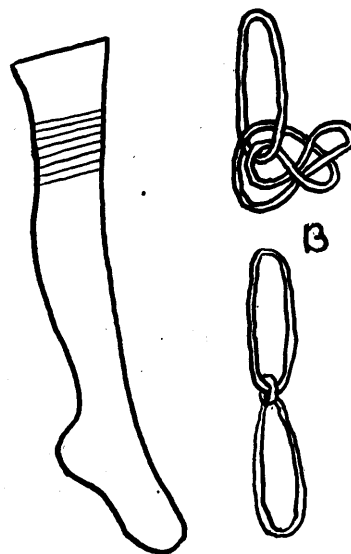


Figure No. 3

How to Cut and Loop
Stockings.

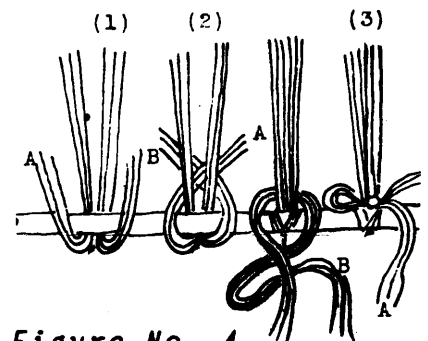
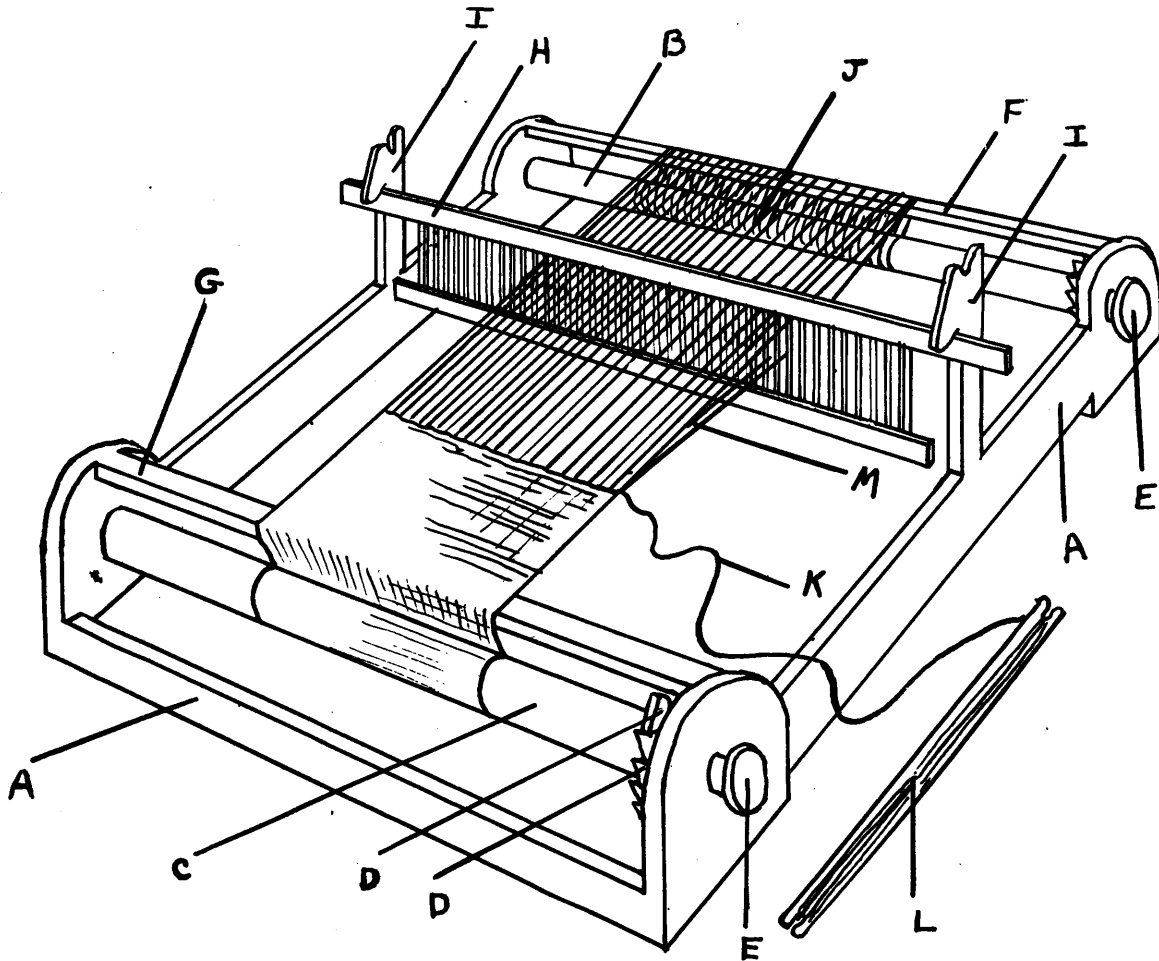


Figure No. 4

How to Tie Warp Threads
to cloth and warp
beams.

Figure No. 1

Diagram of "Hearthside" Loom



NAMES OF THE PARTS OF THE "HEARTH-SIDE" LOOM.

Before starting to weave learn the parts of the loom,- Refer to Figure No. 1

- A. Loom Frame.
- B. Warp Beam, the roller on which the warp threads are wound.
- C. Cloth Beam, the roller in front on which the finished weaving is wound up.
- D. Ratchet and Dog on cloth beam and warp beam of the loom.
- E. Handle to turn rollers of the cloth and warp beams.
- F. Back Brace above the warp beam. Warp threads always pass over this brace.
- G. Breast Beam above the cloth beam. Finished weaving or cloth passes over this.
- H. Heddle frame composed of holes and slits through which the warp threads are threaded from the warp beam and tied to the cloth beam. This heddle is also used to beat the weft thread into place. When not in use, it is important to keep this in a position as shown at Figure No. 1, so it will not get warped or bent out of shape. Take good care of the heddle.
- I. Heddle Support or Holder, top and lower notch, to keep the heddle in place.
- J. Warp threads are the threads stretched from the warp to the cloth beam.
- K. Weft thread,- the thread which crosses the warp threads to form the cloth.
- L. Shuttle, the tool on which the weft thread is wound.
- M. Shed, the opening between alternate warp threads through which the shuttle passes wound with weft thread. The upper shed is formed by raising the heddle on top of the heddle support, and the lower or opposite shed is formed by depressing the heddle and resting it under the lower notch of the heddle support.
- O. Leash sticks, two sticks placed in the first two sheds to help bring the warp threads together, and also used for making warps.

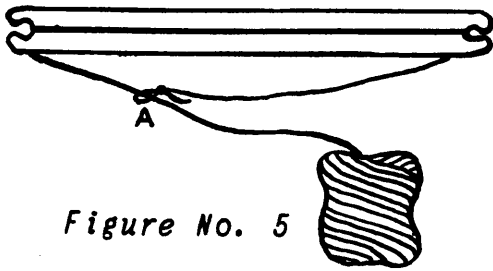


Figure No. 5

How to Wind a Shuttle.

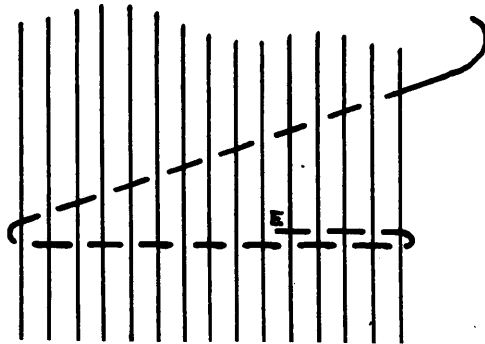


Figure No. 6

How to Put In the Weft Threads.

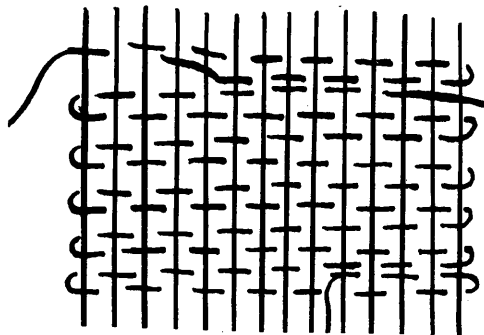


Figure No. 7

How to Add a New Weft.

Heading of a Rug. There are two ways to finish the ends of a rug, one is to hem it and the other is to fringe the warp ends by tying them together in groups. A heading of plain weave using carpet warp for the weft is generally woven first before the body of the rug is begun. This heading needs to be only $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide if the rug is to be fringed, or 2 inches wide if it is to be hemmed. It is possible to start to weave without the carpet warp heading, if desired.

DIRECTIONS FOR WEAVING RUG NO. 1

Materials for Weft,— If a heading is to be used, purchase one tube of natural Maysville Superior Carpet warp. For the body of the rug, buy 2 skeins dark blue Maysville Rug Filler, and one skein of light blue Rug Filler or any other color combination you desire.

Wind the shuttle with 8 lengths of natural carpet warp, tying the weft on the shuttle at the beginning as shown at Figure No. 5 with a slip knot. This is for the heading of carpet warp.

Starting to Weave. Depress the heddle frame under the lower notch of the heddle holder. The opening thus made between alternate warp threads is called the shed. Starting at the right side of the loom, push the shuttle wound with the weft through this opening toward the left side of the loom. Bring it out on the left, pull the weft thread out of the shed just enough to leave an end about 3 inches long on the right where it went into the shed. Now lay the shuttle down and with both hands pull the heddle frame straight toward you to bring the weft thread close to the two leash sticks which have been put into the first two sheds previously. Do not wag the heddle frame back and forth on the edges of the warp, bring it up evenly to keep the weaving as straight across the width of the loom as possible. Now raise the heddle frame on top of the heddle support. This brings up the opposite warp threads for the second shed of the plain weave or tabby weave, as it is often called. Turn the little 3 inch end of beginning weft on the right side of the loom back into this shed to fasten it as shown at E of Figure No. 6. Then carry the shuttle from the left to the right side through the shed. Pull up the weft thread just enough so there is no loop of weft on the left edge. Always be sure the weft thread lies loosely on a slant in the shed as at Figure No. 6. Lay the shuttle down again and with both hands, pull the heddle frame toward you to beat the second weft thread up as close as possible to the first one which was put in. Do not pull the weft tightly or the edge warp threads will pull in too much, and not only make the finished weaving much narrower than it should be, but if pulled in too much the edge warp threads will cut through and break the holes in the heddle frame and spoil it. Be very careful of this. Most beginners have a tendency to pull the

weft thread too tight. Do not do this. It is better to let the weft thread even loop a little on the edges than to pull it too tight. Practise to try to get a good straight edge if you have never woven before.

Every time the shuttle carrying the weft passes through the shed, it is called a shot or pick of weft. When the shuttle of carpet warp has been put through the sheds alternately so there are 8 shots or picks of weft, the heading is finished. End the carpet warp at the edge by cutting it off, leaving an end about 2 inches long. Turn this little end back around an edge warp thread and into the same shed again, to fasten it so it will not pull out. Now wind the shuttle with dark blue Rug Filler for weft for the body of the rug. Do not wind the shuttle too full.

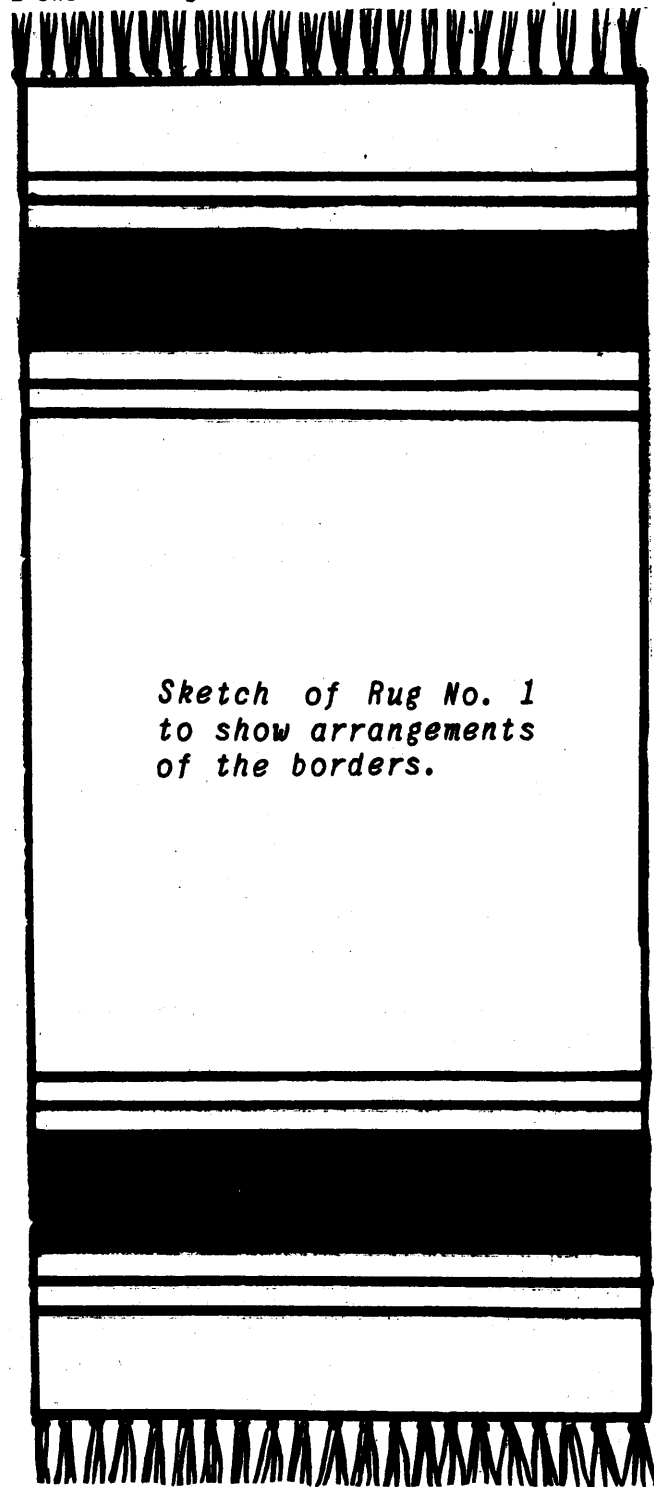
WEAVING OF RUG NO. 1 Continued,- Start the dark blue weft by fastening the end in the same way as at the beginning of the carpet warp heading. When each new color of weft is changed, fasten the ends in this way. Weave 18 shots of the dark blue Rug Filler weft which will be approximately four inches.

Light Blue Border. Now wind the shuttle with the Light Blue Rug Filler. Alternate the colors as indicated below,-

2 shots light blue
3 shots dark blue
2 shots light blue
7 shots dark blue
26 shots of light blue
7 shots of dark blue
2 shots of light blue
3 shots of dark blue
2 shots of light blue

(Width of this border is about 13 inches.)

(Note the arrangement of this border on the diagram of the rug at the left below.)



*Sketch of Rug No. 1
to show arrangements
of the borders.*

Now weave 27 inches for the center of the rug with dark blue Rug Filler, then repeat the same border on the opposite end of the rug, and finish with the heading of carpet warp as at the beginning.

Adding a New Weft. When the weft on the shuttle runs out, tie on another new weft and wind the shuttle again. Let the end of the old weft lie in the shed where it ends. Bring the shuttle through the shed and let the end of the new weft over-lap the end of the old weft by about 2 inches, as at Figure No. 7. Continue weaving as before. The old weft can end anywhere in the shed, and the new one begin where the old one leaves off.

How to Roll Up the Finished Weaving. When the weaving is about 4 or 5 inches from the heddle frame supports, it is hard to raise the heddle, and the finished weaving should be rolled up on the front cloth beam. To do this, turn the back handle of the warp beam away from you a little to release the tension of the warp on the back ratchet. Lift the ratchet dog and let the warp threads from the warp beam roll forward. Wind up this by turning the handle of the cloth beam until the weaving is about 4 inches from the breast beam. Do not wind up too much of the cloth, or it is hard to beat up the weft well when beginning to weave again.

After the cloth has been wound up, tighten the tension on the warp threads again. They should be just tight enough for the heddle frame to raise and depress easily without too much effort, and for the shuttle to pass easily through the sheds without catching up warp threads as it goes through. Always pass the shuttle through the shed close to the heddle frame to have the benefit of as wide an opening as possible. It is better not to unwind the rug until it is finished, as it is hard to get the cloth back on the cloth beam evenly. So when weaving a border keep track of the number of shots of the different colors so the border can be repeated on the opposite end.

FINISHING OF RUGS.

Another rug can be woven after the first one is finished by continuing right on from the end of the first rug, without removing it from the loom. If the first and second rugs are to be hemmed, weave about 5 inches of the plain weave with the carpet warp weft, which is enough for the two hems and a few shots extra. Later when the rugs are removed from the loom, stitch twice across the width of the rug through the center of this 5 inches on the sewing machine. Cut the two rugs apart by cutting between these two rows of stitching.

This prevents the weft from unraveling and makes it easier to hem the rug heading. If the rugs are to be fringed instead of hemmed, allow 10 inches of unwoven warp at the end of the first rug. A strip of heavy paper 10 inches wide and 28 inches long can be put into the shed, and the first row of the heading for the second rug brought right up close to this.

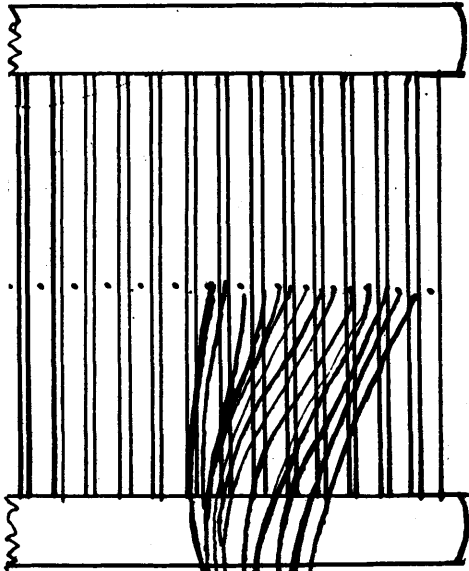
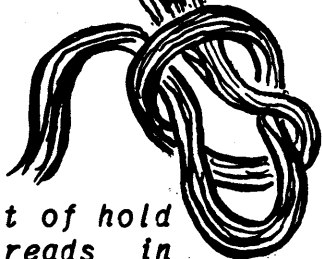


Figure No. 8



Loop knot of hold warp threads in heddle after cutting.

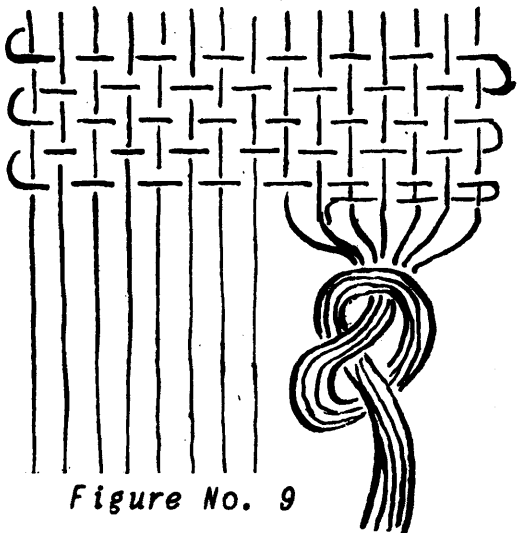


Figure No. 9

How to Tie a Fringe.

To Remove the Rugs from the Loom. First loosen the tension of the warp threads by releasing the back ratchet a little. Pull the heddle frame toward the back of the loom, then cut right across the width of the warp threads in front of the heddle frame. Do not let the warp unthread unless the warp has been used up. Tie the warp threads in groups close to the heddle as shown at Figure No. 8. Now take firm hold of the finished weaving, pull it off the front cloth beam. Untie the groups of warp threads that were tied to the front cloth beam all the way across the width of the loom. And the rug is now ready to either be hemmed or fringed.

To Tie a Simple Fringe. Tie about 5 or 6 warp threads together as at Figure No. 9 in a common knot. Push this knot close to the first row of the weaving. Then cut the warp threads into an even length fringe after they are tied all the way across the rug.

DIRECTIONS FOR WEAVING RUG NO. 2

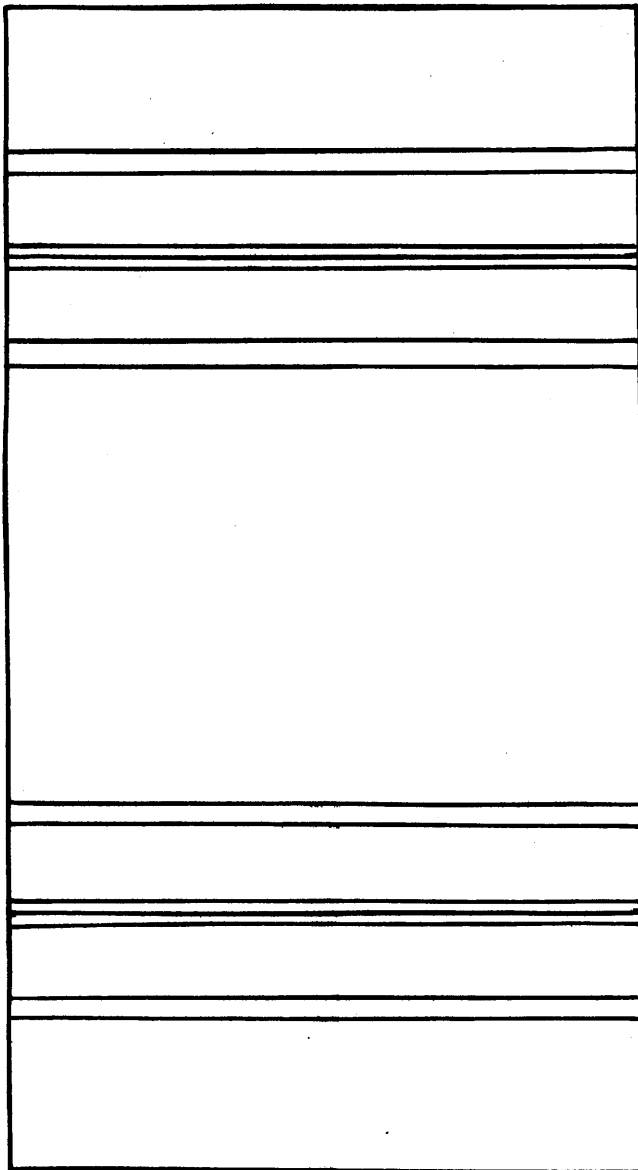
Materials Needed. This rug is woven of three colors. Two skeins of dark brown Maysville Rug Filler, one skein of medium brown, and one skein of tan were used for this rug. Of course other colors may be used if desired. Sketch of this rug is shown at Figure No. 10. Weave the heading with 8 shots of carpet warp weft, allowing warp for the fringe, or weave a heading 2 inches wide if the rug is to be hemmed.

Then wind the shuttle with dark brown Rug Filler and weave 6½ inches with this. Weave the border,-
5 shots of tan Rug Filler
16 shots of medium brown Rug Filler
2 shots of dark brown Rug Filler
1 shot of tan Rug Filler
2 shots of dark brown Rug Filler
16 shots of medium brown Rug Filler
5 shots of tan Rug Filler

For the center of the rug, weave 18 inches with dark brown. This makes a rug about 48 inches long without the fringes. For a longer rug, increase the amount of dark brown for the center. Then repeat the same border for the opposite end of the rug.

DIRECTIONS FOR WEAVING RUG NO. 3 BLUE AND WHITE ARROW-HEAD RUG

Materials Needed. For this rug, purchase 2 skeins dark blue Maysville Rug Filler and one skein of white Rug Filler. This rug is not sketched but is easy to do. Weave 10 shots of plain weave with carpet warp for weft for the heading of the rug. Wind the shuttle with enough dark blue Rug Filler, and weave 18 shots with this. Measure off 1½ yards of white Rug Filler. Unwind the blue shuttle for this length, and wind both threads together on the shuttle. Pass the shuttle through the shed. Fasten the end of the white weft at edge around a warp thread. Hold the blue and white wefts together at the edges of the warp, and twist them together over and over through the shed. Twist the white around the blue as evenly as possible. Push the twists into place in the shed with the fingers where you wish them. Then bring up the heddle frame and beat these twisted wefts into place close to the previous row. Change shed, beat again. If the weft is beaten up after the shed is changed, before the next weft is put in, it is easier to get the wefts closer together. Pass the shuttle through this shed, and twist wefts together again. Beat up close. Cut off and fasten white weft around an edge warp thread. Change shed, weave 3 shots of plain weave alone. Now measure off about 9 yards of white Rug Filler. Wind on the shuttle with same amount of blue Rug Filler. Now pass the blue and white weft through the next shed. Twist the wefts together around each other as before. Beat up, change shed, and put the shuttle through this shed.



Continue in this way until 11 rows of the twisted blue and white wefts have been put through the sheds. Weave 3 shots of plain dark blue weft. Then two more twisted blue and white. This completes the border for the rug. Weave 25 inches for the center of plain weave with dark blue weft. Repeat the border on the other end of the rug in the same way as the first border was woven. This rug will be approximately 48 inches long without the fringes. Many other color combinations are of course possible, and there are many ways of weaving these borders too other than the arrangements given here.

The directions given above, if followed step by step carefully, will show the beginning weaver how to weave three rugs on the warp furnished with the loom.

Position When Using the Loom. The "Hearthside" Loom may be used on a table flat, and the weaver can stand to weave. Or if desired the loom frame can rest against the edge of a table. Let the frame come out from the table on a long slant with the front of the loom frame in the weaver's lap as she sits in a chair. The weaver should sit far enough back from the table to be in a comfortable position while weaving.

Other Possibilities for This Loom. Directions in this leaflet have been given for three rugs, but the "Hearthside" Loom has many other uses. It is possible to weave bags, wool caps and scarves, table runners and pillow-tops, curtains, luncheon sets and breakfast sets, etc., on this loom. It is fascinating and fun to weave. And after some skill has been acquired with the use of the loom, it may be a source of profit as well. Everyone likes attractive well designed hand-woven articles, and one can learn to do laid-in, brocading, tapestry techniques, gauze weaves, rug knots, etc., on the "Hearthside" loom. We hope you will enjoy using it.

Figure No. 10

Sketch of Brown and Tan Rug No. 2.