

Warp Pattern Belts on the Heddle Loom.

There are a number of different ways in which interesting belts can be made on the simple heddle belt loom, with the pattern all in the warp. In this kind of weaving the weft does not show at all, and is generally much coarser than the warp. And the warp is set much closer together than for regular weaving. If the warp is all of one color no pattern is possible, so at least two colors must be used for the warp.

Equipment;- A small heddle made with holes and slots. I can furnish these heddles in three sizes, 10" for \$1.75, 12" for 2.75, and 20" for \$3.75. The description of other forms of weaving which can be made with these heddles was given in both the August 1936 and 1937 numbers of Handweaving News. Four flat leash sticks 1 1/8" x 14" in length, a flat shuttle preferably a black one similar to a netting shuttle, and a needle and fine thread with which to thread the heddle are all the tools that are necessary for this loom. If anyone desires a black shuttle, I have these in 14" size and 20" size, at 65¢ and 85¢ respectively. These black shuttles are a great help for almost any kind of pick-up weaving, and to my mind a rather necessary piece of equipment no matter what kind of weaving one is doing. In this type of weaving the shuttle carries the weft and also serves as a beater to push the weft into place, as the heddle just raises and lowers the thread to form the sheds, and is never used to push the weft into place as it is in the regular form of plain weaving. It is possible to tie this heddle with its warp, one end to the belt or chair in which the weaver works and the other end to any stationary object as a door knob or table leg. But many people prefer to tie the whole apparatus into a frame of some sort. A frame such as hooked rugs are made one is useful, or one such as is used for the picture frame loom may be used. If any one desires a frame, I can furnish one 24" x 30" for \$1.00, plus the postage.

Materials;- For the first project in this form of weaving, it is best to use carpet warp in at least two colors. Or the knitting cottons which are to be found in most ten cent stores now, can be used if desired. But almost any kind of material may be used after a little practise in handling the loom has been acquired. Mercerized cotton #5 or #8, or even No. 20 mercerized used double, fine silks used double, as well as worsted yarns such as "Fabri" or Saxony and Iceland, while coarse linens combined with art silks may all be used effectively. The only kind of material which it is well to avoid is soft yarn which would tend to be rough or fuzzy, or material which has nubs or lumps in it such as some of the rayons and novelty yarns.

### Threading the Heddle.

1. Simple belts. Thread the heddle one thread in a hole and one in a slit all across the width. Use a number of colors in the warp. These different colors arranged in the warp make the pattern. A number of arrangements are given below. The weft is entirely covered, and is best of the same color as the edge warp threads. It can be used singly, but the weaving progresses faster if the weft thread is of two threads or even four. Thread the heddle and tie it into a frame, and then weave pulling in the weft thread tightly as it goes across so it pulls the warp threads close together and makes a narrow braid. The width of the weaving should be less than half the width of the warp threads in the heddle. Keep this width even. The weaving process is as follows, - Raise the heddle, and pass the shuttle through the shed. Depress the heddle, push first weft in place with the shuttle, and then pull the weft through this shed. Repeat for required length desired. Do not beat the weft into place with the heddle, it is used only to raise and lower the warp threads. A heavy netting shuttle is an excellent tool to use for carrying the weft thread and to push it into place. I have these at 65¢ each in either a 9" or 14" size. This shuttle is useful for many other types of weaving as well.

Patterns for belts, -

No.1 Use double threads in both slots and holes. Thread as follows, - 5 brown, 2 orange, 5 green, 2 orange, 2 blue, 2 orange, 1 brown center, reverse back to beginning. Total of 38 warp threads required.

No.2. Thread singly one thread in a slot and one in a hole, - 5 black, 2 rose, 2 blue, 1 orchid, 2 blue, 2 rose, 7 black, 1 purple, 2 orchid, 1 rose, 2 orchid, 1 purple, 1 L green, 1 D green, 1 L green, 1 D green, 1 L green, 1 purple, 1 rose, center, repeat back to beginning in same order. Total of 69 threads required.

No.3 Thread singly one thread in a slot and one in a hole, - 3 yellow, 3 brown, 1 yellow, 5 brown, 1 yellow, 1 brown, 1 yellow, then alternate 1 blue and 1 yellow 8 times, then 2 blue, 2 red, 1 blue, 1 red, 1 blue, 1 red, center, repeat back in same order. Total of 67 warp threads required.

No.4. Thread singly one thread in a slot and one in a hole, - 5 D brown, 1 L green, 1 tan, 1 brown, 1 tan, 7 brown, 1 tan, 1 L green, 1 orange, 1 tan, 1 brown, 2 tan, 1 brown, 1 tan, 1 L green, 1 orange, 2 L green, 7 red orange, 4 L green, 3 orange, 1 red orange, center, repeat back to beginning. Total of 87 warp threads required. This is a very handsome wide belt. Pull in to about 3½" width.

The above method is a very simple way in which colorful weaving may be obtained, and it is as fascinating to adults as well as to children. Many other threadings can be invented, and much pleasure gained in putting together different color arrangements.

2. There are many different ways in which warp pattern can be made with the use of the heddle. And it gives me much pleasure to show you another method of weaving warp pattern which I have worked out for myself. The description may sound a bit complicated, but in order to make it clear I have gone into much detail. This is exceedingly interesting, as the designs can easily be planned out on cross section paper as at Diagram No.1 (A) and (B) on the next page. We will plan to use pattern (A) for the first attempt.

Cross section paper pattern design (A) is 19 units wide. Warp 1 red thread and 2 blue warp threads for each unit of the pattern design, so make a warp of 19 red threads and 38 blue threads. Thread as follows; - The first blue thread through a hole, red through a slit, blue through a hole, blue through a slit, skip a hole, red thread through the next slit, skip the next hole, blue through next slit. Repeat this all across width of the warp. Thus one repeat will use 6 warp threads, or two red and four blue threads. As soon as the loom heddle is threaded, tie the warp threads to a stick in front of the heddle, and tie the stick either to a frame or to the weaver's belt, and the other ends of the warp to the frame or a stationary object and the heddle is ready to weave. It is easier to use a frame for the heddle, but if this is not available, it can be tied up without, to the weaver's belt and a solid object.

Wind a shuttle with blue weft, and weave about an inch or so just raising the heddle and then depressing it. Pull the weft thread tightly so the warp threads are close together, and the width of the weaving only about 2" or so wide. Use the shuttle to push the weft thread into place, do not use the heddle except to raise and lower the warp threads.

The red threads are the pattern threads. With the warp flat, use a black pick-up stick to pick up the red warp threads as follows, - Begin at A on Diagram No.1 (A) which shows the design we will follow. Go over the first 3 threads, pick up the next 3, over 3, pick up 1, over 3, pick up 3, and over 3. Leave this pick up stick as it is, this is the upper pick up stick. Study the design carefully and note that the pick up stick goes over the spaces, blue threads, of the design, and picks up on the top of the stick the X's, or red threads. Pick up only the red threads, and do not let any blue threads get caught in on either the top or the bottom pick-up stick. Always pick up the threads on a flat warp, do not raise or lower the heddle. Now put in the bottom pick-up stick which holds down the red threads opposite the ones on the row just picked up with the first pick-up stick. Proceed as follows, - Underneath the flat warp threads, pick up on a second pick-up stick, the first 3 warp threads, under the next 3, pick-up 3, under one, pick-up 3, under 3, pick-up 3. In other words, hold down with the second pick-up stick, the opposite warp threads from the ones picked up on the upper pick-up stick. Now turn the first or the upper pick-up stick on edge, raise the heddle, and insert the blue weft thread through the shed as shown at Diagram No.2 from right to left. Push the weft thread right up close to the previous row with the weft shuttle. If this cannot be done, some of the blue warp threads have been caught in under the lower pick-up stick. Next turn the lower or bottom pick-up stick on edge, depress the heddle and insert the weft shuttle from left to right in the shed as shown at Diagram No.3. Push the weft close as before. Note that the upper pick-up stick is always above all of the blue warp threads, and the lower pick-up stick is always below all of the blue warp threads. Remove both pick up sticks, raise heddle and throw a shot of blue weft, then pick up the next row of the pattern, with both pick up sticks as before, but the second row of X's on the pattern design, as follows; - The upper pick-up stick picks up the first thread, then over 3, pick-up 1, over 3, pick-up 3, over 3, pick-up 1, over 3, pick-up 1; and the lower stick picks up the opposite red threads. Then throw two shots of weft, pull out the pick up sticks and depress the heddle and weave a plain row. It is not necessary to put in a plain row of weaving between each of the picked up rows unless you wish to do so. Continue in the same way as far as desired. This weave has many possibilities, and many different pattern designs can be woven on the same piece if the same number of units in width are kept. Pattern (B) is also effective when woven. Please write me if you have any questions concerning this type of weaving.

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*Willie Sargent Johnson*

December 1938.

DIAGRAMS FOR WARP PATTERN ON THE HEDDLE BELT LOOM.

Diagram No.1 Cross section paper pattern for 19 warp threads.

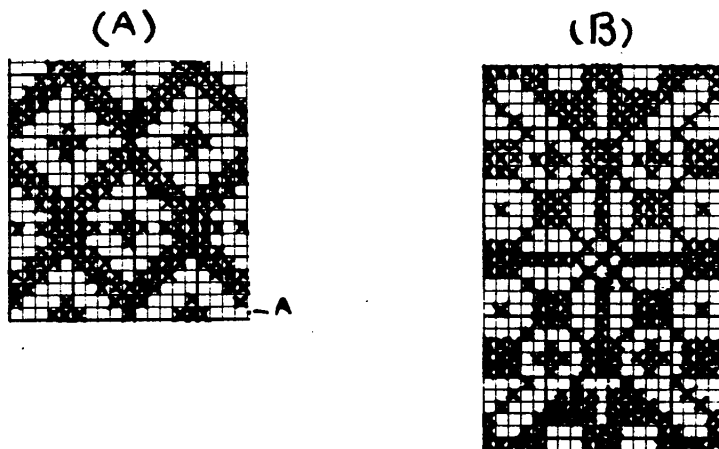


Diagram No.2 Raise heddle and pass weft through

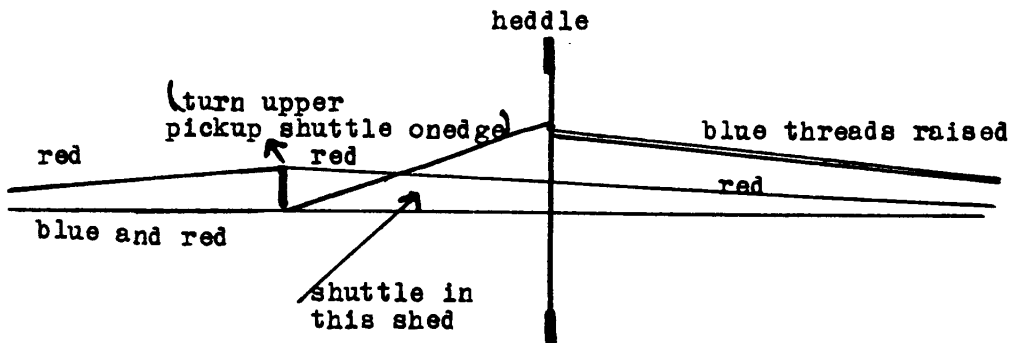


Diagram No.3 Heddle depressed.

