

Some New Ideas for Two Harness Weaving.

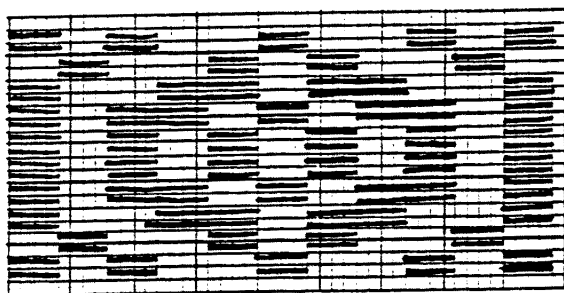
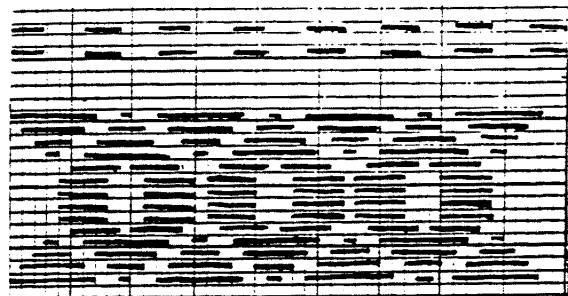
Many subscribers to Handweaving News are using two Harness looms, and in answer to a number of requests for material for this sort of weaving, I am presenting some of the things which members of my classes at Wayne University have worked out. The two harness loom is a simple tool and many people do not seem to realize that it has many real possibilities for interesting and unusual weaving. Because it is simple the weaver has to have more knowledge concerning its use, to produce fabrics of good design, texture, and color.

For the benefit of those who wish more ideas as to what may be done on two harness looms, I will refer them to the new compilation of back numbers of Handweaving News, which have been assembled into Volume II, and which sells at \$3.50 a copy. It contains much that is useful for the advanced weaver as well as for the beginner. Those of you who are using either the heddle loom or a regular two harness loom of any sort will find this volume of especial help and interest.

The threads and yarns used for all of the weaving described this month were the Maysville line purchased from Sears & Roebuck Co. - namely carpet warp, fast color; Maysville Rug Filler, and Maysville Home-craft Soft Cotton yarn. Warp was set about 8 threads to the inch on a 30" new heddle loom, though a regular loom of any sort might also be used if desired.

Directions will first be given for two simple rugs. Purchase 2 balls of dark blue carpet warp to make a warp about 5 yards long 27" in width, and 2 skeins of Maysville Rug Filler dark blue, and one skein of light blue or cream white for the stripes. This is a very simple rug, easy and quick to make. After the loom has been warped and tied up so that all of the warp threads are even in tension, wind a shuttle with some of the dark blue warp thread to weave a plain weave heading about an inch wide. If the rug is to be fringed, this width is enough, but if it is to be hemmed, make this heading about 2 inches wide to allow enough to cut and to turn a good hem. After the heading is finished, wind the shuttle with the dark blue rug filler, and weave 4 inches, about 18 shots of the plain dark blue. Now put in 2 shots of the light blue, then 3 shots of dark blue, 2 shots of light blue, 7 shots of 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. This completes the weaving of the striped border which will measure about 13" wide. Now with the dark blue weave 27" for the center of the rug with dark blue weft, and repeat the border above for the opposite end of the rug in reverse. Then weave the plain weave heading for the other end like the first. If a fringe is to be left allow about 5" of warp where there is no weaving. And for another rug allow another 5" at least, before starting to weave again. Wind up the first rug on the front cloth beam as is necessary. If desired the flat leash sticks can be placed in the shed, before the actual weaving begins again, but this is not needed if care is used to keep the weaving straight.

Figure No.1 Brocaded Borders



A At Figure No.1 are two brocaded borders for rugs. Each square of cross section paper represents one warp thread. Find the center of the width of the weaving. Start from the center of the pattern, and with the warp threads flat go over then under the required pattern, toward the edge. Then in the same way pick up the other side of the center toward the edge. It is better to stop the brocade pick up so as to leave a few warp threads of plain weave on each edge. Turn the pick-up stick on edge and pass the weft through the picked up shed across the full width of the loom. Then put in a row of plain weave. Pick up another row of the pattern all across from edge to edge, turn the pickup stick on edge and pass the pattern weft through the shed. Then pass the plain weave shuttle through the alternate plain weave shed. Always alternate a row of plain weave between the picked up pattern rows. Two rugs can be made with the borders given here. Weave a plain weave heading of carpet warp, about an inch or so, then with dark red Rug Filler, weave 16 rows of plain weave. With

Home-Craft Soft Cotton in cream color, weave the plain weave back of the red which will be used for the pattern weft. One shot of the cream, then pick up over three and under three all across the width, which is shown at the top of the borders. Weave this with the dark red filler, then a row of cream plain weave, then pick up another row of over 3 and under 3 warp threads for the width, and end with a row of the cream weft. Then 4 rows of the dark red plain weave filler. Then start the wide border as shown at B, and pick up according to the pattern, alternating with the plain weave. When this border is finished, weave the over 3 and under 3 border again. Then plain weave with dark red for the center of the rug for the desired length and repeat all three of the same borders on the other end of the rug in the same way. This is a very handsome rug and the border will measure about 6-in on each end. For this rug get two skeins of rug filler and one skein of Home-craft Soft Cotton in cream. The border at C may be used in the same way and of course any combination of color can be used as desired.

Suggestions for Curtain Materials. It is very easy to plan excellent heavy glass curtains using carpet warp. On the heddle loom, thread the slits with double thread and the holes with a single thread for the width of the heddle. A regular loom would have one heddle threaded double and the next single, and sleyed the same, 8 threads to the inch, counting the double threads as one. For a warp of 314 warp threads, 4 spools of carpet warp with approx 800 yds to the spool will be needed to make a ten yard warp. About the same amount, possibly a little less will be needed for the weft if it is also of carpet warp, and it can be. On an all white or natural warp, weave with grey, beat the weft up very lightly to leave it somewhat open, and plan a simple design in a geometric figure for a repeat, of laid-in technique. For this laid-in figure, use cream color Soft Cotton, Home-craft. This can be very modern in effect and is excellent material to use this way. Another plan is to use a warp made of two threads of tan warp threaded double, and one thread of white threaded single. It can be woven with all white carpet warp; with alternate shots of double tan and single white; or bands all of tan, and all of white. An effective and quick way to weave this warp is to leave bands of open warp where there is not weaving at all. For this weave about 12" of plain weave, leave 1-in of warp free, weave 1-in, leave 6-in free, weave 1-in, leave 1-in free, weave 6-in, *. Repeat from * to * 4 times in all, then weave 12-in for top of curtain. This will make the curtain about 2½ yds long when finished. Where there is no weaving, insert strips of folded paper, the exact measurement of the free strip, in the shed. When weaving is removed from the loom stitch on each side of the free strips to keep the weft in place before removing the paper strips. Also mark a piece of narrow tape at the exact place where the open and woven stripes occur so all of the stripes of the curtain will come at the same place when they are hung. This is important. These are simple and quick to do, and will be durable and satisfactory curtains.

Figure No.2 New Way of
Using Tufting Technique.



At Figure No.2 is a new way of using the tufting technique designed by Thaddeus Clotek, one of my weaving students at Wayne University. This can be effectively used for bags, pillow tops and such things; or even for a heavy drape if desired. Material used was tan carpet warp; pale yellow Home-craft Soft Spun cotton, and rust color for the tufting thread. Weave 6 shots of plain weave with the yellow weft. Then throw a shot of the rust color all across the width. Take a stick, about an inch wide. Pull up over this a loop of the rust color, leaving 7 warp threads between each loop pulled up over the stick. Do this for the full width of the weaving. Leave the stick in and weave 6 shots more of the yellow. Pull the stick out of the first row of rust and a row of loops will stand up. Throw another shot of rust and pick up loops of this, 7 warp threads apart as in the first row. Be sure the loops are directly above each other, or the lengthwise rows of loops will not be straight. Then weave 6 shots of the yellow and pick up another row of loops as before. After several rows of the rust loops have been made, slip the first row of loops one at a time into the second row, then the second into the third row and so on. On the last row, throw a shot of rust through the shed, and as the shuttle goes through catch the loop of the previous row down. On this last row no loops are picked up on the stick and this will fasten all of the loops down. At A of Figure No.2 is shown a cross section of the warp threads, and B a sketch of the method of working. Almost any arrangement of the loops can be made, but be sure there is the right relationship between the height of the loops and the number of weft shots between the loop rows so the material does not pull. I am always glad when I can send out new ideas like this one in the News and would be very much interested to hear from those of you who try this out. I hope the method of working is clear. It could be used in many other materials even in fine weaving.

Colored Warp Spaced Far Apart. Warp carpet warp in the following Past Colors, two dark gray, 2 light gray, one brown, one pale yellow, one brown, 2 light gray, and 2 dark gray. Thread the loom singly, one thread in a slit and one in a hole as given for the colors in the order above. Then skip two holes and 2 slits, repeat the colors as above, then skip two holes and two slits. Do this for the width of the loom. For heavy drapery material weave with natural cream color Home-Craft Soft Spun cotton. This gives a lengthwise stripe of color alternating with a plain stripe where the color of the weft thread is predominating. For very heavy material use the soft spun cotton double on the shuttle. Used single as weft, the material would make interesting luncheon sets or breakfast sets, or plain simple bag material. Woven with carpet warp for weft either in the same colors as the warp or all of gray weft, and the same size spaces left while weaving as left for the warp spaces, excellent curtain material can be woven. This plan was worked out by Clara Stone, another of my Wayne students.

Luncheon Sets and Breakfast Sets. 1. Tan Warp 120 threads, threaded one in a hole and one in a slit. Weft Corn shucks, striped into narrow strips. Place a thick end against a thin end of the shuck as they are laid in the shed. And alternate a row of the shucks with a row of tan carpet warp for the weft. The natural colors of the shucks after standing in the field are very lovely. They can be dyed as one would dye cotton if colored borders are desired. Dark brown and yellow are the most effective dyes to my mind. These can be worked in as end borders with the natural colored shucks. 2. Warp of the same material or of gray carpet warp with wefts of fine cut colored percales or knit underwear make excellent place mats and runners. Cut the pieces very narrow, about one fourth inch if light weight fabric is desired. Sometimes the colors work themselves out in attractive woven patterns when colored percales are used. Contrasting borders are always effective too if desired. 3. Silk stockings cut fine and looped together are nice. A recent very modern looking luncheon set was made by bleaching silk stockings so they were very pale yellow, tan, some of them even came out a pale pink, others a grey purple very pale. These were cut in loops about one half inch wide, looped together and used as weft. They made a stunning set for a Swedish Modern China. Many other ideas are possible.