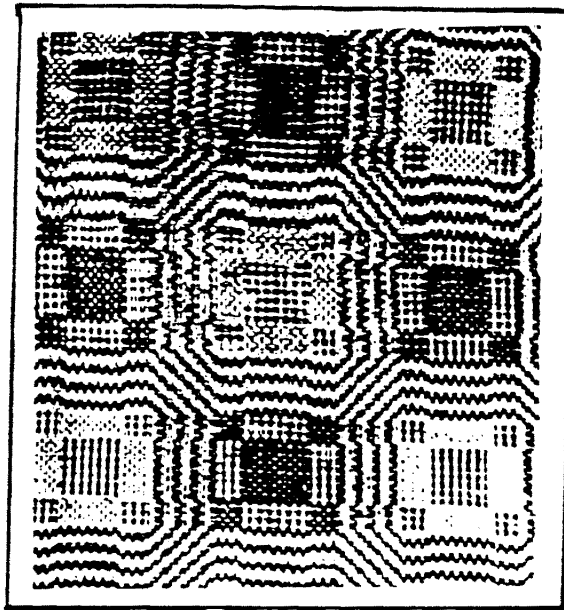
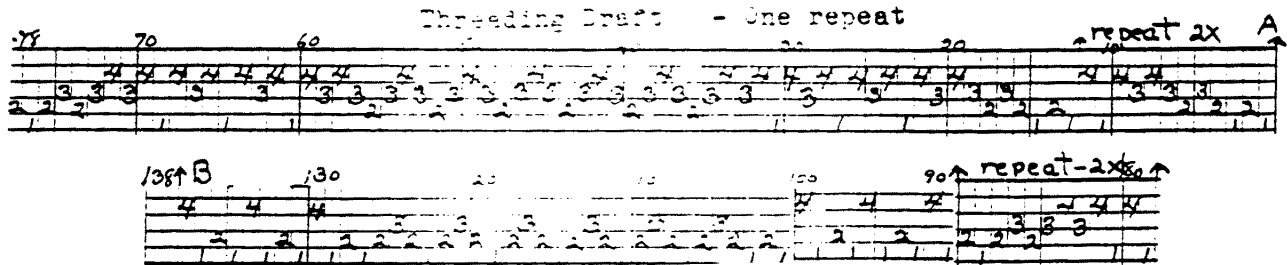


HANDWEAVING NEWS

Key Draft for this block "Twill and Squares"

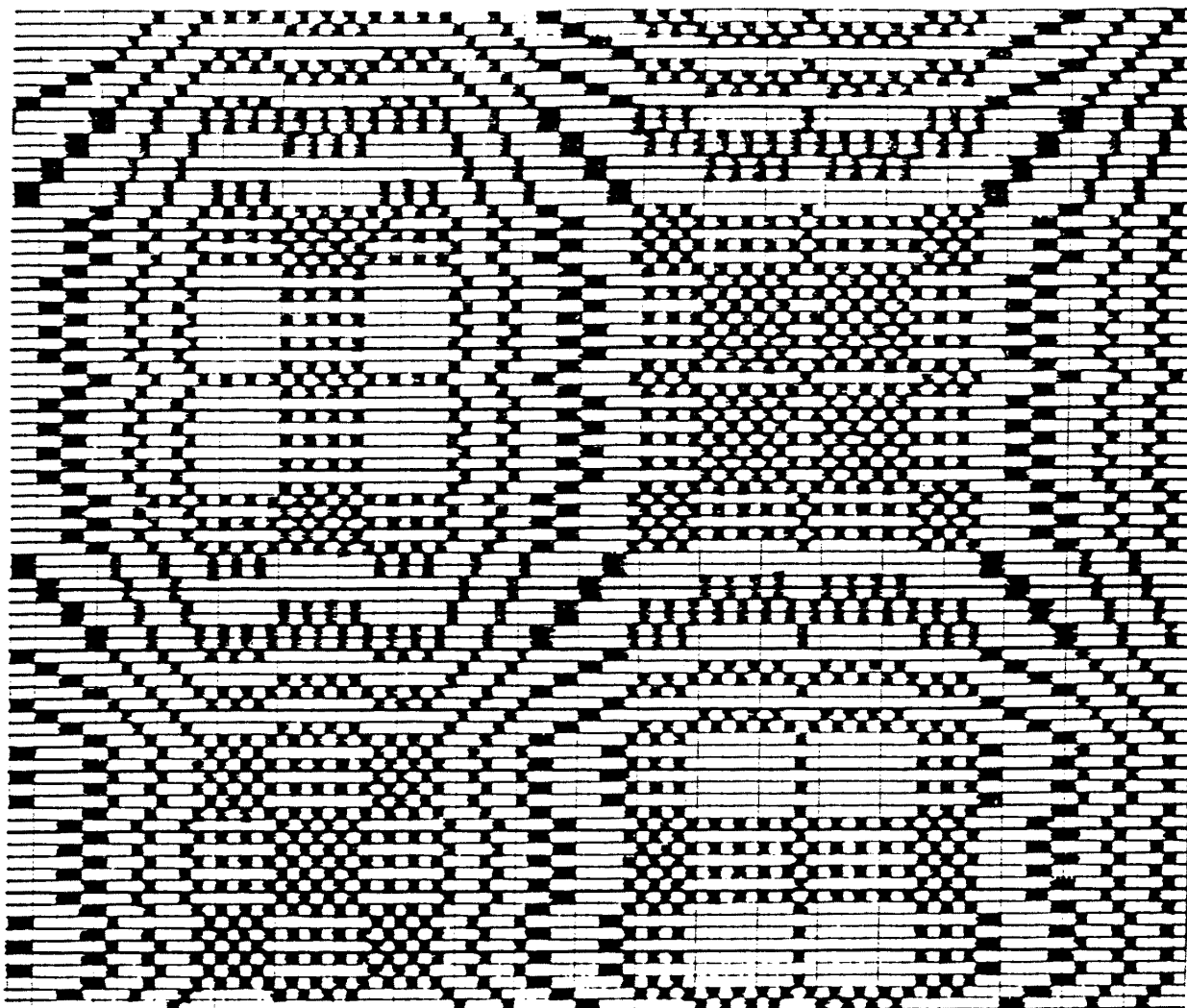
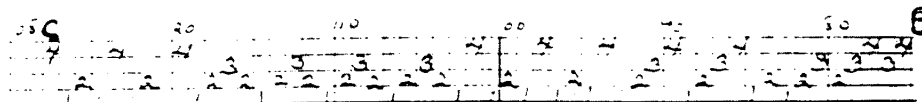
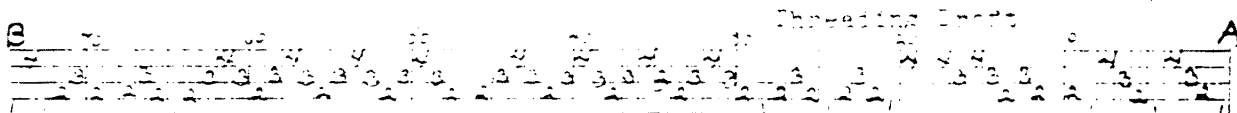
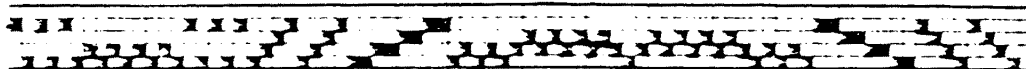


Designing Four Block Patterns based on "Twill and Squares"

The photograph above was taken of an ancient old coverlet loaned to me by Mrs. Stella Stocking. I have chosen to call it "Twill and Squares" due to the manner in which the pattern was built up. It was woven with alternate blocks of green and henna colored handspun yarn, and the plain weave tabby was light yellow. The key draft at the top of the page shows how the basic pattern was written. One repeat of the threading draft is given below this.

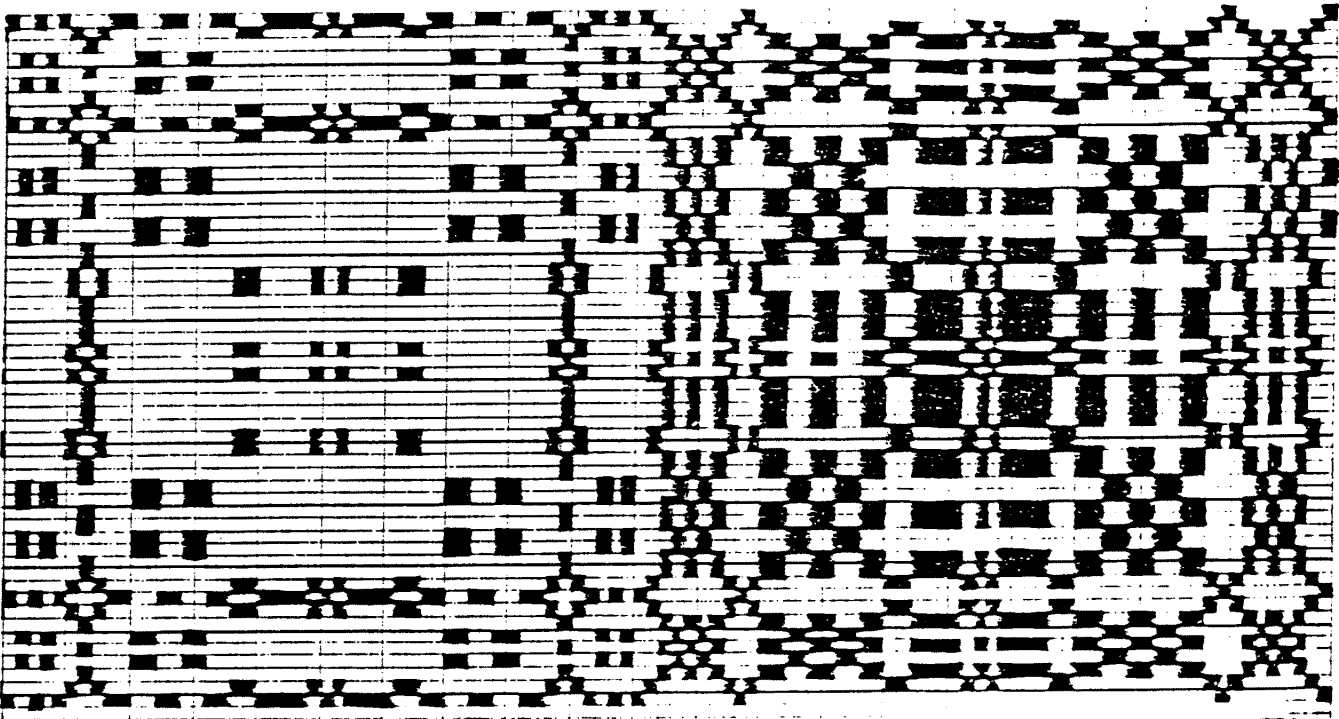
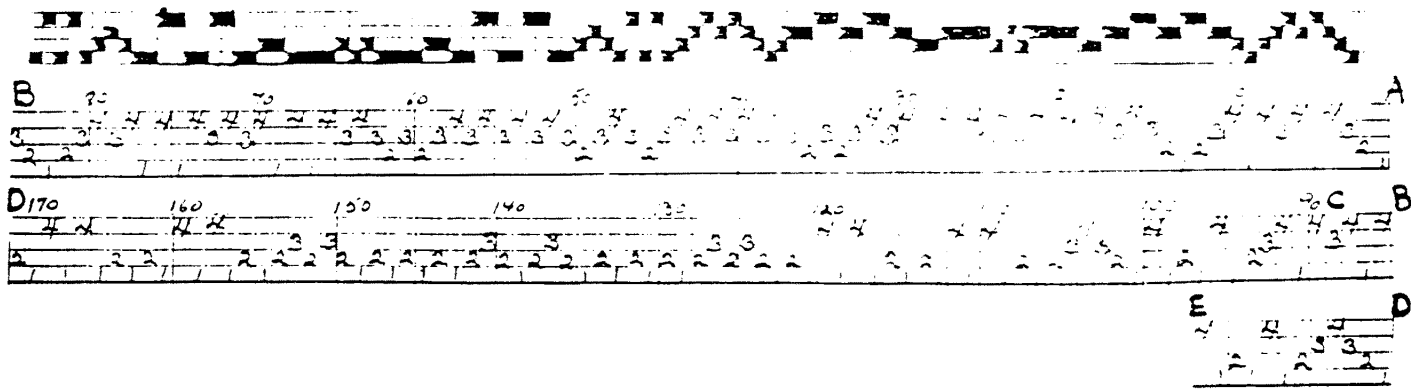
Let us analyze the key draft. First it is composed of twills, then the squares are composed of blocks which alternate so that they form over-lapping pattern blocks. Using two threads for each unit of this key draft, these over-lapping alternate blocks have to be written as three thread blocks. This makes the pattern skips very short. They can be written as large as desired, but will always be of an odd number of threads. Now study and compare the key draft with the threading draft. Note the order in which these blocks occur and over-lap. As we come up from the twill, there is a 2 unit block on the 3rd pattern block, then 4, 3, 4, 3, 4 with another 2 unit block on the 3rd pattern block, then the 2nd and 3rd pattern blocks alternate repeated enough times to make a fairly large square, then the 1st and 4th pattern blocks alternate again as the first time. Then the twills occur in reverse from the first ones. Then we have the 1st and 4th pattern blocks alternating to form another square, and then the 1st and 2nd blocks alternate for a larger square to be repeated. Many variations of this order can be used to design ones own patterns. The ones shown on the next page are an example.

Key Draft for "Twills and Squares" designed by Mrs. Helen Hall.



This pattern above on the "Twills and Squares" plan is quite a different arrangement from that of the original pattern draft, and is a good example of how other patterns may be designed. Study and compare both the two key drafts and the threading drafts so that you will see just what has been done. These are large threading drafts and can be used for aprons, upholstery material, and coverlets or couch covers. They are most effective when two shades of one color, or two colors, are used for the pattern weft with a hazy of another color. The particular pattern above has only a four thread warp so its largest, and this would make the pattern suitable to use for a large table cover, which could be woven in two strips and sewed together. For such a project I would suggest a 4/4 linen warp if you can get it, or a 4/4 mercerized natural cotton warp. For weft use all linen, or fine cotton or rayon thread. A dark linen color, natural, and pure white will give a strong contrast for the design.

Key Draft for "Twills and Squares" woven by Mrs. Hill's coverlet.



This pattern design is of quite a different character both from the original plan on Page 1 and from the design of Mrs. Hill's on Page 2. Again study and compare this key draft and the threading draft with the original plan. Some of the variations you will find are that the twills, instead of being of four thread pattern blocks, are composed of just the simple 1,2,3,4, twill order, and thus very small blocks. In a good contrast to these are the arrangements of the alternating over-lapping pattern blocks so that they are large skips which form a very bold pattern for the squares. Again this is different from the original pattern. But also note that this design does follow rather more closely than the pattern on Page 2, the order of the original plan on Page 1, but the sizes of the pattern blocks are very much different than the sizes of the pattern blocks in the Key draft at the top of Page 1. To those of you who are interested in planning and drafting four block patterns of your own this offers a new field for experiment which should be intriguing.

This is a bold pattern suitable for a coverlet or drapery material. For a coverlet the pattern should be woven in two strips and sewed together as is usual. For this plan to have the center of the coverlet come at C as marked on the threading draft. The piecing will show least here. An edge border for one side of the strip can be used by repeating from A to E, as is necessary in design 1-.

These patterns are being sent to you in answer to several requests for some new ideas for coverlets and large projects for winter. I hope you will find them of interest. Are you finding what you want in the New York Journal and can you write to me and tell me what you would like. Letters are all welcome and I return yours just as well as those of someone else.