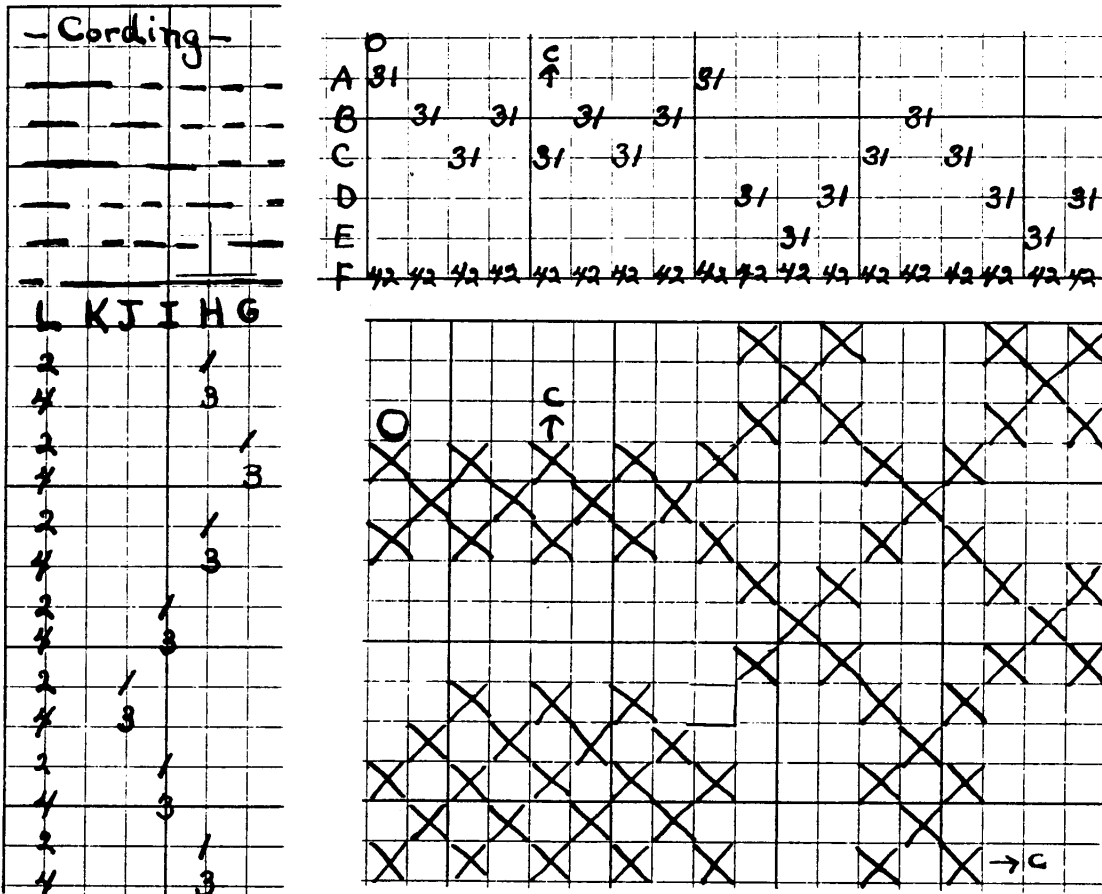


# HANDWEAVING NEWS

Pattern No.25 "Rose and Compass" Diaper from Bronson Book.



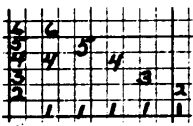
Some Old "Bronson" Weaves.

The drawing above is pattern No.25 "Rose and Compass" Diaper from the old weaving book called "Domestic Manufacturer's Assistant and Family Directory in the Arts of Weaving and Dyeing," by J.&R. Bronson, Utica, N.Y. 1817. This old book is to be found in the library of the Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia. It has directions for dyeing wool and other types of drafts as well as the one shown above.

Explanation of the nomenclature of the book. In this book the harnesses of the loom are called "wings". These are shown above at A, B, C, D, E and F, or 6 harnesses, A is the back harness on the loom. The 31 on line D and the 42 on line F, represent one thread on harness D, the next on harness F, the next on harness D, the next on F, and so on throughout the threading draft. C marks the center of the pattern, and the O the end of one repeat. The old book says, "The draft represents the figure as being drawn once over. There is on it 18 changes, 4 figures or threads to a change, as 1, 2, 3, 4, The 4 figures or threads, when drawn, make one block, and 18 blocks from the right, which extend only to O on the plate, is all of the draft the harness represents." The tie-up as we know it is called the "cording" in this old book and there are two sets of lamms, the long and the short set. In the figure above the letters L, K, J, I, H, G, represent the treadles of the loom, and the figures below represent the order in which these treadles are used. Thus from the old book, "The first tread is on treadle H, figure 1, next on L, figure 2, next H, L, G, L, G, L, and so on until the tread is through as directed, being in the whole 72 treads. While you are weaving the left foot is always on the left hand treadle L which makes the plain part of the cloth, while the rest forms the flower." Only a small part of this treading order is shown above.

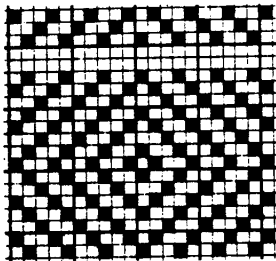
**Structure of the Weave.** Note that this pattern consists of two figures of alternating blocks, which is one method of writing these drafts. Half of the warp threads are on one harness, and the rest of the threads are on the pattern harnesses. This treadle L on the tie-up draft is the treadle which makes the plain weave between the pattern shots. And one tabby will be tied to harness F alone, and the other tabby or A tabby, as we know it, will be tied B, C, D, E, F. Although in the old draft only one tabby was used with two shots of the pattern. The weave is made up of small pattern blocks, and can be written with 2, 4, or 6 threads for one pattern block unit as desired. The ancient draft on Page 1 has 4 threads for each pattern unit. This weave has a weft skip on one side and a warp skip on the other side. There are no half tone areas as in over-shot weave, and this is especially suited for fine linens, dress materials, or anything where fine close weave is desired. And it can be woven with just one shuttle.

**Tie-up**



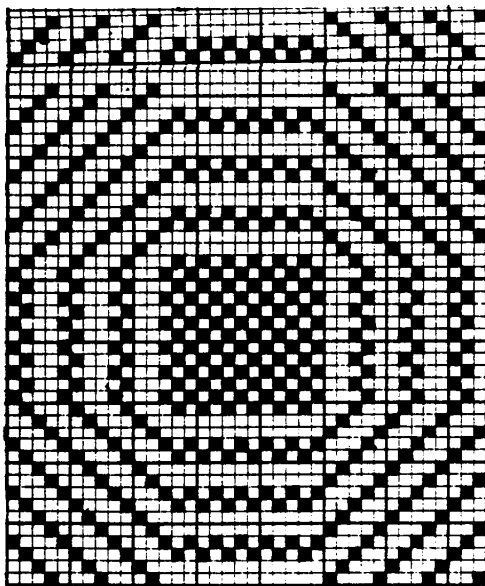
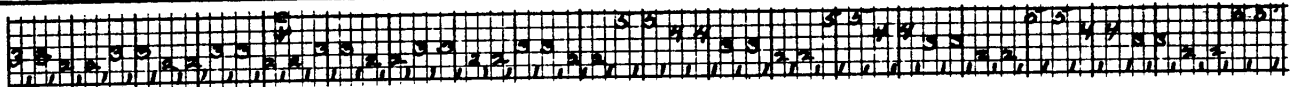
The tie-up at the left is the same as the cording on Page 1, but is written for modern use. 1 is F, 2 is E, 3 is D, 4 is C, 5 is B, 6 is A. It is easier when weaving, if the weft skip is on the top side of the fabric. If your loom brings the weft skip on the wrong side, tie up the spaces of this tie-up draft.

**Threading draft for 4 harness - 3 block "Bronson" Weave.**



This pattern which is one taken from an old linen sample which I have is very simple. It makes an interesting all over design excellent for linens. To weave use 1&2-2x with B tabby between; 1&3-2x, B tabby; 1&4-2x, B tabby; repeat 3 times, then 1&2-2x, B tabby between; reverse back to the beginning, then 1&4-2x, B tabby; now repeat over and over from beginning as before for length desired. Only part of the over effect is shown in the drawing on the left at Figure No.2. It will be noted that the key draft above figure No.2 is a three block pattern. Any key draft can be planned out in this way, and the threading draft written out as this one is. Those of you who have written three block patterns may find this of interest to do. Most of the old patterns are written for more than four harnesses, many of them for five and six harnesses. One repeat of the above pattern is 80 threads.

**Threading Draft for 5 harness - 4 block pattern Bronson Weave. One repeat 152 threads**



This pattern is made up of twills with a figure on alternating pattern blocks. The pattern blocks are 1&2, 1&3, 1&4, and 1&5. The loom is tied to weave each of these pattern blocks. One tabby is 1 alone, and the other is 2, 3, 4, 5, . Alternate tabby was not used on the old pieces I have, but only one tabby after each pattern shot. The pattern blocks can however be woven square as in over-shot if desired, and both A and B tabby may be used, alternating these after each time the pattern weft goes through the shed.

To weave this pattern, use B tabby between pattern shots, all through. Then 1&5-2x; \* 1&2-2x, 1&3- 2x; 1&4- 2x; 1&5- 2x; \* repeat from \* to \* 3x. Now use 1&2- 2x, 1&3 -2x, repeat 6x. Then 1&2-2x, which makes the alternating blocks. Beginning with 1&5-2x, 1&4-2x, 1&3-2x, 1&2-2x, repeat this 3 times for the full repeat of the pattern, then start over again at the beginning. The warp for these weaves should be of fine material, such as 20/2 mercerized cotton woven with the same or fine rayon. For all linen use 40/2 linen for warp and for weft, set at 30 threads to 1".

Figure No.3

Threading Draft for 5 harness Bronson Weave - 4 block Pattern  
One Repeat- 152 threads.

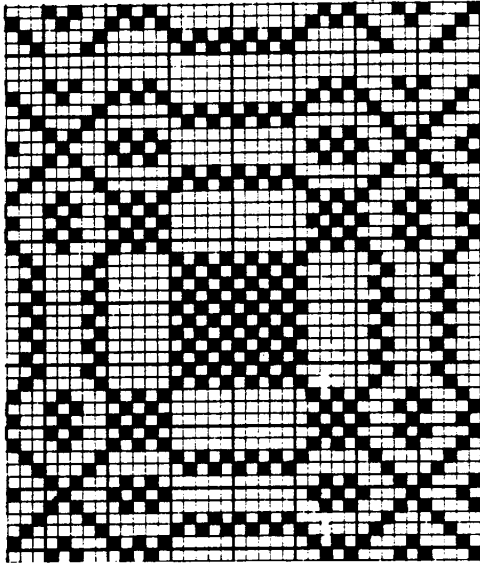
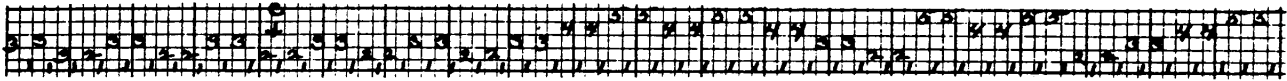


Figure No.4

This is another draft of one of the old samples of Bronson weave which I have, and a very interesting one also. It is woven the same as the ones given on the previous pages. Follow the order of the pattern blocks as given on the threading draft. Weave 2 shots on each pattern block, with plain weave between.

The tie-up is 1&5, 1&4, 1&3, 1&2. One tabby is 1 alone and the other is 2, 3, 4, 5.

For linens set the warp threads 30 threads to the inch. This is a very good pattern for towels or for a large cloth. Weave with linen as fine or even finer than the warp.

Threading Draft for 6 harness Bronson Weave - 5 block Pattern

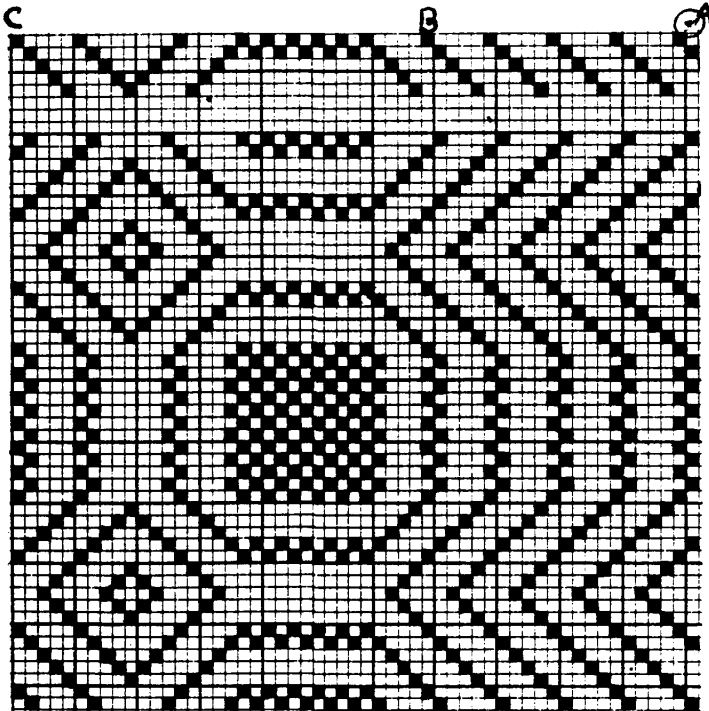
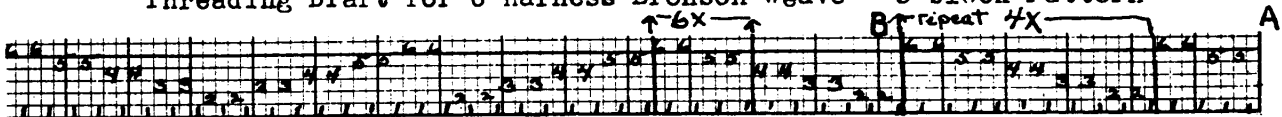


Figure No.5

This pattern is written with a twill border. It was taken from a piece of an old table cloth. From A to C on the threading draft is one-half of the repeat; C being the center of the repeat. This piece was woven with a very fine warp, and the weft thread was somewhat coarser, with only one shot of the pattern on each pattern block with a shot of plain weave between. The tie-up is 1&6, 1&5, 1&4, 1&3, 1&2, 1 alone for one tabby, and 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, for the other tabby.

These pattern drafts were sent out in answer to a request for some old drafts of Bronson weaves. We are making some modern variations of this technique which some of you may find interesting, and if you wish to have some of these, write me and they will be written up in the News.