

# HANDWEAVING NEWS

Figure No.1

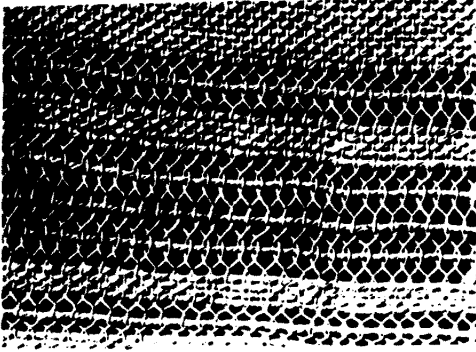
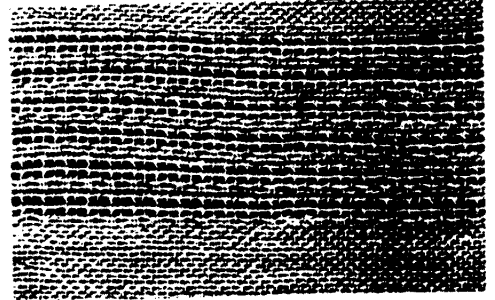


Figure No.2



GAUZE OR LENO WEAVE.

For those who have never tried leno or gauze weave, we are going to suggest that you make a sampler of some variations which we have found to be a good way to practise this interesting free weaving technique. For there are many ways it may be used.

Handweaving News for October and November 1939 contained some material on this same kind of weaving, and both of these leaflets contain valuable material which you may also like to have before the supply is exhausted.

Equipment for this weave. Any loom which will give you a plain weave shed can be used for this weaving. Thus a 2 harness loom of any kind may be used. We find the new small 13" heddle loom especially nice for the first time you try the technique. The metal heddle has about 8 warp threads to the inch, thus 108 threads of warp for the full width. This new loom is built of solid maple. It has metal ratchets and handles, is strong, durable and will give long lasting service. Price \$12.50 plus a packing charge, if it is to be shipped, of \$1.00 extra. A plastic netting shuttle is a great help for this technique. We have one 14" long for 75¢ each, if you wish one, also a 26" pickup stick for the same price.

Threads to use for this weave. For this sampler, you can use a carpet warp, or a 10/2 grey linen is also excellent to use on the above mentioned loom. For weft you can use the so called "Sugar and Cream" or Enterprise cotton over the carpet warp, or a 10/5 linen over the 10/2 linen warp. This linen combination is excellent for heavy place mats on this small loom. Of course finer warp can be used too on any other loom you wish, but you will find it much easier to learn how to do this, if you use a coarse warp and weft, at least until you are perfectly familiar with the technique.

April 1950 Nellie Sargent Johnson

SINGLE STITCH.

After warping and threading the loom, weave a 2 inch heading of plain weave or tabby. End this heading so that for the next shed to be used, the edge warp thread on the right side of the loom will be up, when the shed is open. This is important, if you are going to come out right with the weave.

Now we are ready to do the Single stitch as shown at Figure No.1 above. With the fingers, pull the right edge warp thread that is raised when the shed is open, to the left. Pick up on the flat pickup stick, the first 2 warp threads in the lower part of the shed. Bring these to the top, as the top warp thread is held to the left. Now allow one top warp thread to lie next to the 2 picked up from the lower shed. Then pick up one warp in the lower shed again on the stick. Let one of the top warp threads slip to the right. Then pick up another warp in the lower shed, and let one of the top warp threads slip to the right. Do this for the width of the loom. This brings each warp thread picked up 2 threads away, and this is correct.

Now turn the pickup stick on its edge. Pass the weft through the shed thus made, from right to left side of the loom. Change shed and pass shuttle from left to right side of the loom. Now you can put in as many rows of plain weave as desired between each row picked up for the leno weave. But you must always end this plain weave so the next shed where the leno begins has the edge warp up on the right side of the loom. Then pick up the leno row as described above.

When passing the weft thread through the picked up weft rows, be sure and let the weft lie very loosely, or the edges of the weaving

12489 Mendota Ave. Detroit 4, Mich.

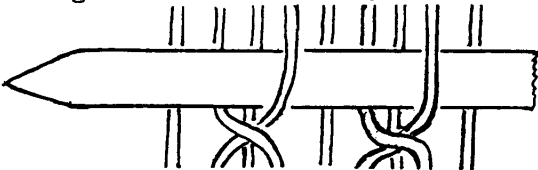
will pull in very badly. So watch this. If Much leno is to be woven, you can make this leno shed and tie it to a heddle rod. When you wish the shed, it is simple to just raise the extra heddle rod for the leno shed, and pass the weft shuttle through.

#### SINGLE STITCH ON TOP SHED ONLY.

At Figure No.2, we have another variation of this single stitch which is interesting. This is worked the same way, except that the "cross" is made with the top warp threads which are raised when the shed is open. The lower warp threads that are down when the shed is open are not used.

Open the shed. Have the first warp on the right edge up. Pull the first warp thread of the top shed slightly to the left with the left hand. Pick up the second warp thread of this same top shed on the pickup stick. Let the first warp thread slip so the first and second top warp threads cross. Do this all across the width of the loom. Turn pickup stick on edge and pass weft through shed thus made, from right to left side of the loom. Change shed and pass weft shuttle from left to right. Push this weft row down with the weft shuttle or pickup stick to get it down in place close to the picked up row. Now put in two more plain weave shots. Then repeat the picked up row again. Note that this makes the crossed group come right over the first row of picked up threads. Figure No.3 shows how the threads look as they are being picked up with the pickup stick. The single thread on this drawing is the warp thread in the shed that is down, and is not used.

Figure No.3  
Diagram of Threads being picked up.



#### STAGGERED SINGLE LENO ON TOP WARP.

If you look carefully at Figure No.2, you can see the third row of the crossed threads are staggered above the first two rows. And this is a good variation too, it adds interest.

To do this, you end the plain weave as described before, so you have the shed open with the right edge warp thread up. Pull 2 of the top warp threads to the left; pick up the 3rd on the pickup stick. Then pick up one and one for the rest of the width of the loom. This staggers the row and makes the threads just opposite the ones of the first picked up rows.

April 1950

Nellie Sargent Johnson

#### SINGLE LENO WITH SPANISH WEAVE.

Figure No.4 is an example of leno combined with spanish weave. This particular piece is of fine silk, and the border of the veil of my Roumenian costume.

Figure No.5 shows the same stitch in a modern border for a towel, on a 40/2 linen warp. In this several threads are crossed instead of just a single thread.

This technique was described for the first time in this country in Handweaving News for September 1942. And if anyone wishes exact details of this, the above News is still available, as given on the list of back issues.

Figure No.4  
Leno and Spanish Weave Border

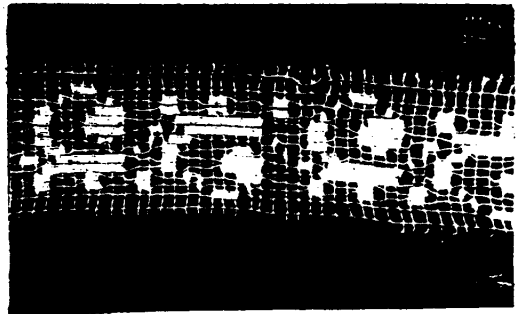
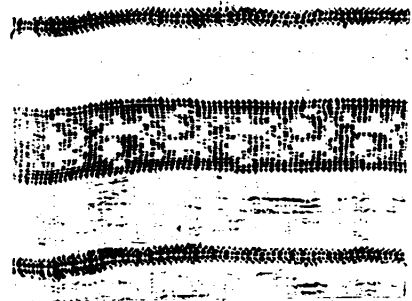
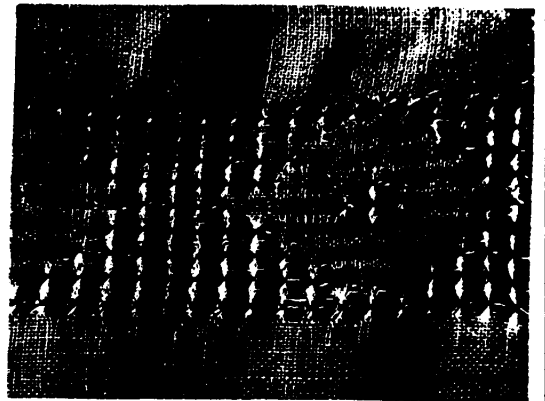


Figure No.5  
Border for a Towel in Leno



12489 Mendota Ave. Detroit 4, Mich.