

Vol. XVIII

Imprisoned Sequins

By Mary M. Atwater

Hand weavers enjoy an occasional bit of frivolity — a “matter of amazement” as an old-time weaver phrased it. The “imprisoned sequin” weave is such a trick of technique, and like so many other textile “amazements” is based on the double weave.

It consists in surprising a plain tabby fabric with occasional interwoven sequins, studs, buttons or other small extraneous adornments that are carried in small open-work double woven pockets. The effect is unusual and entertaining, and at the moment very fashionable, for stoles, bags, blouses, skirts, aprons and similar products.

Various materials and warp-settings may be used, the choice depending on the type of fabric desired and on the size of the sequins used. Obviously the pockets must be

of a suitable size to hold the ornaments used.

For example: the little apron shown in the illustration was woven of black Lily Pearl Cotton No. 20, Art. 114, the warp set at 36 ends to the inch, and the sequins are of the quarter inch size most commonly available in the shops. The button bag illustrated is of No. 3 Lily Pearl Cotton, Art. 114, at a setting of 15 ends to the inch, and buttons three eights inches in diameter were used for decoration. The sample, which might be used for a neck-piece, is of Lily's Art. 914, 20/6 soft-twist cotton, the warp set at 18 ends to the inch and the decoration in half-inch buttons. (By the way, I have seen it stated that this material is unsuitable for warp, but don't believe it. It makes



Lily 

Hand Weaving Yarns - - -

Lily Mercerized Pearl Cotton and Floss Art. 114 — always a popular hand weaving yarn, noted for the lustrous finish, the vibrant range of 70 colors, the smooth weaving, long wearing. One pound cones or two ounce tubes, in Pearl size 3, 5, 10 and 20 and Six Strand Floss.



ART. 914

Lily Six Strand Filler Art. 914 — Soft twist, size 20/6, in a range of 20 fast colors, in one pound cones or two ounce tubes.

ART. 114

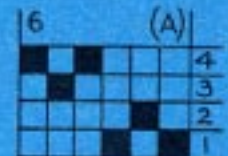


The "Imprisoned Sequin" Weave

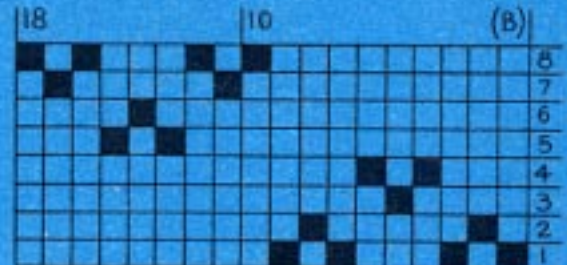
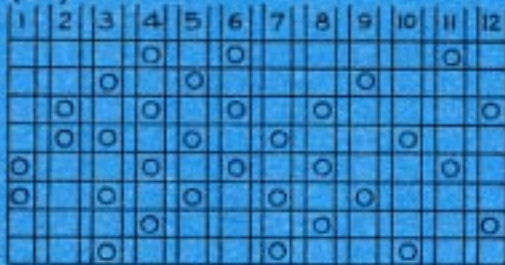
Rising



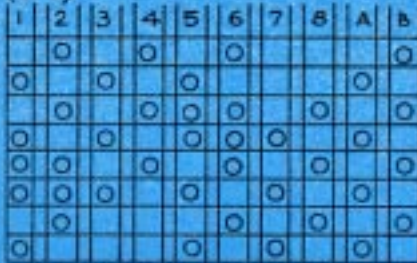
Sinking



(B-1)



(B-2)



(B-3)

IF FOURTEEN TREADLES ARE AVAILABLE
TIE: FIRST EIGHT TREADLES OF (B-2),
THEN LAST FOUR TREADLES OF (B-1),
END WITH 'A' AND 'B' OF (B-2).

a beautiful and entirely satisfactory warp, and when woven in weft of the same material produces a handsome fabric with a very pleasant texture.)

The weave can be produced most easily on an eight-harness loom, but is entirely practical on four harnesses if one uses that amazing tool, the pick-up stick. To weave on the four-harness threading given at (a) on the diagram, proceed as follows:

Rising shed tie-up

Treadle on 6, and take up on a light pick-up stick a group of three threads where the sequin is to be inserted. But do not take up adjoining groups. For a row all across take up alternate groups. With the stick in position treadle 1-3, and weave, 2-4 and weave, 1-3 and weave. It is advisable to weave with a flat shuttle and beat against the shuttle, left in the shed, after each change of shed. Take out the stick. Treadle on 2 and pick up the background, omitting the single

threads on either side of the first pick-up. Do not weave. Treadle 4 and weave. Take out the stick. Treadle on 1 and pick up the background omitting the pairs of threads on either side of the first pick-up. Do not weave. Treadle 3 and weave. Treadle 2 again and, as before, weave on 4. Treadle 6 and make the first pick-up. As before, treadle and weave 1-3, 2-4, 1-3 under the stick. Now with treadle 6 still down, inset the sequins. For this a pair of tweezers is a handy tool. Weave three shots of plain tabby — or more if desired, — and repeat. This sounds far more complicated than it is in practice, and an advantage of using the pick-up technique is that sequins may be placed to form patterns, and may be as close together or as far apart as desired.

To save space, the sinking shed treadling is omitted. Simply treadle as given, using the opposite sheds. Instead of treadle 6 use treadle 5; for treadle 1 use 2-6, for treadle 2, use 1-6; for treadle 3, 4-5, and so on.

For the eight-harness threading at (b) on the diagram three tie-ups are given. On a loom equipped with twelve treadles the tie-up at (b-1) is the most convenient, but necessitates using two treadles together for most of the sheds. If one does not plan to use pick-up or to weave the rows for shirring, the ten-thread tie-up at (b-2) is, perhaps, better. If fourteen treadles are available use tie-up (b-3).

To weave on tie-up (b-1): for tabby treadle on 3 and 4. For a row of sequins all across treadle and weave, 1-3, 1-4, 1-3, 1-6, 1-5, 1-6, 1-3, 1-4, 1-3. To insert the sequins, keep the treadle 1 shed open, and put in the sequins. A pair of tweezers is a useful tool for the purpose. Weave three tabby shots, 4,3,4. For the second row of sequins, treadle and weave, 2-3, 2-4, 2-3, 2-8, 2-7, 2-8, 2-3, 2-4, 2-3. With the treadle 2 shed open insert the sequins. Weave 4,3,4, and repeat.

For pick-up patterns on this threading and tie-up, treadle 1 and take up on the stick groups of three threads at the points where sequins are desired. Weave 3,4,3, under the stick. It is advisable to use a flat shuttle and beat against the shuttle — left in the shed, — after each change of shed. Treadle 11 and pick up the background, omitting the pairs of threads on either side of the first pick-up. Do not weave. Treadle 12 and weave. Treadle 10 and pick up the background. Do not weave. Treadle 9 and weave. Treadle 11 and make pick-ups as before, weaving on 12. Treadle 1 as before and weave 4,3,4. For the next row make the first pick-up on treadle 2, and the following pick-ups and treadlings as for the first pick-up.

For the shirring shown at the top of the apron shown in the illustration treadle and weave: 9, 10, 3-11, 3-12, and repeat as may be required. With the treadle 3 shed open weave a cord or strand of coarse material. Weave several rows of tabby 4,3,4, as desired, and repeat. After the piece is off the

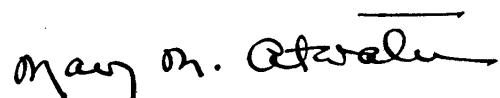
loom draw up the cords to produce the shirring.

To produce the shirring on the four-harness set-up, — rising shed tie-up — weave and treadle 1, 3, 1-6, 3-5 and repeat. On the sinking shed tie-up treadle and weave: 2-6, 4-5, 2, 4, and repeat.

The use of sequins for linen pieces is not advised, as the sequins do not stand up to severe washing such as is required for linen. For pieces requiring repeated washings it is better to use shells or small buttons. In washing sequined pieces rinse quickly in cool water to which a strong dose of salt has been added. It is, however, desirable to press sequined pieces after they come from the loom. This treatment serves to attach the sequins in place and curb their tendency to slip out of the pockets. Spread the piece — dry — on a dry cloth, face down. Cover with a damp cloth and press.

An occasional rhinestone set in the ends of a stole or similar piece is very decorative.

Other variations of the weave will suggest themselves to the inventive weaver. Those who enjoy novelty and a touch of "amazement" will enjoy this weave. "Honey-sucklers," however, would be wise to refrain.

Mary M. Atwater

Note: I have found the best source of supply for sequins of various sizes and for small shells, rhinestones, and similar materials to be: SHELART STUDIOS, 3202 Sixth Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida.