

practical weaving suggestions

VOL. 1-69



SIX VARIATIONS ON A PLAIN-WEAVE WARP

Mildred Dexter

In these days of more leisure time, spectator sports, and television, there is a great need for creative activity among people who have little space for hobby equipment. The Lily two-harness table loom can be very helpful. Two-harness weaves can be stimulating, and many find them, in their manifold forms, adequate for a lifetime of weaving. As an Adult Education teacher who uses a number of these looms along with others of more complexity, I am always trying out ideas for using them in interesting ways.

This project will consist of six mats with varying decorations, woven on a single warp. The basis is plain-weave, and Danish Medallion, Brooks Bouquet, color blocks, and wrapped warps will add interest. Four of the beautiful shades of blue and green provided by Lily Mills form the warp and weft. Designing will proceed from this color variation, and from open spaces left between the color stripes, which give some texture change. In designing, one should utilize materials, colors and form as an integrated whole. One can take a known technique and try to use it in many ways.

WARPING DIRECTIONS: The warp in six mats is less than four yards, but it is best to wind a warp $4\frac{1}{2}$ or 5 yards long, and you will have a little extra for experimentation. The warp is Lily's Pearl 3.

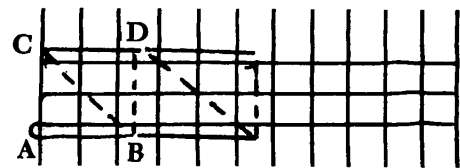
Warp: Lily Art. 114, Mercerized Pearl Cotton, size 3.

Warping Order: No. 501 Jade	42 ends
No. 1448 Light Jade	40 ends
No. 475 Aqua	40 ends
No. 1411 Tarragon Green	42 ends
The total is 164 ends	

We will leave 6 dents empty, 2 after each color stripe, making the warp 170 dents wide, the exact number found in the reed. The threading schedule is 1,2, plain weave. The loom is made with about twice as many heddles as you will be using, so leave one empty heddle after each filled heddle, in order to avoid a build-up of empty heddles at the ends of the harnesses. The sleying is 1 per dent in the 12-dent reed, with the exception that after the first, second, and third color-stripes you will leave two dents empty. These will later be filled with chartreuse ends, for the last two mats. Tie on your warp and you are ready to weave.

END-FINISHES: Two end-finishes are used, both done on the loom. For the first three mats we will do a form of hemstitching, and for the last three mats a simple overcasting.

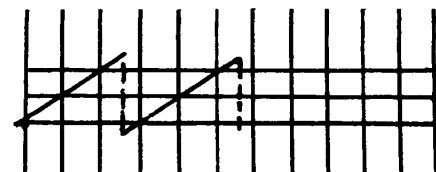
A. Hemstitching for Mats 1, 2, 3. Begin weaving from left to right, leaving a long end, four times as long as the width of the loom. Weave three picks. Thread the end into a needle, and begin hemstitching over the three rows of weaving. Insert the needle between the third and fourth warp ends, at the lower edge (B in the diagram), pointing diagonally to the left, bringing the needle out at the top edge of the web at the left selvage (C on the diagram). Carry the thread across the top of the warp ends (D on the diagram), and insert it between the 3rd and 4th warp ends, pointing it directly down and bringing it out again at B, ready to proceed to the next three warp ends.



Hemstitched End

In the diagram solid lines represent thread on the surface, and dotted lines are thread underneath.

B. Overcasting for mats 4, 5, 6. Begin weaving from the left, leaving a long end, 3 times as long as the width of the loom. Weave three picks. Thread the long end into a needle. Overcast over the three woven picks, crossing three warp ends each time. In the diagram, solid lines are on the surface, and dotted lines underneath. At the second end of the mat, be sure to allow three picks of weaving for the end-finish.



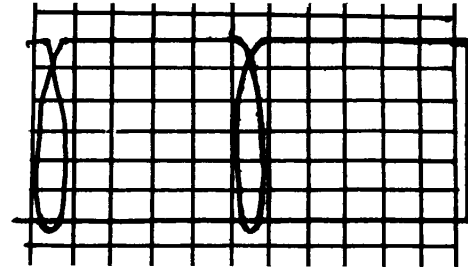
Overcast End

MAT 1 - DANISH MEDALLION

Shown on Cover Right Center

Weft: Lily Art. 114, Mercerized Pearl Cotton, size 3 Aqua 475 and Jade 501 doubled on the bobbin for Medallions. Hemstitch the end according to directions A on opposite page. Then weave 7 picks of aqua, ending at the left. Weave 1 pick of Jade from left to right in the next shed. Weave 5 picks of aqua, always alternating sheds.

To Make Medallions: Open the next shed, and insert the doubled jade at the right. Bring the shuttle out between the 6th and 7th warp ends of the upper half of the shed. Insert a crochet hook below the first pick of jade, exactly below the place the shuttle came out, and "capture" the jade thread, bringing it up in a loop to the surface. Extend the loop until it is long enough for the shuttle to go through it. Now adjust the loop to the space, leaving it as a decoration. The following medallions are made over 5 warp ends rather than 6, until you come to the left selvage. This is because the two color stripes at the edges each have an extra thread in the warp. After completing the row of medallions, weave 6 picks aqua. Repeat the first row of medallions. The border should now be measured (mine was 3¼ inches). Add the same amount for the second border, subtract from a completed size of 19 inches, and the center should be woven in plain weave to fit.



Danish Medallion

MAT 2 - DANISH MEDALLION

Shown on Cover Top Left

Weft: Lily Art. 114, Mercerized Pearl Cotton, size 3 Aqua 475. Weft is a one shuttle weave. Hemstitch the end, according to directions at A, on opposite page. Weave 7 picks. Make medallions of the same aqua thread at the three open spaces between color stripes, and only there, over 4 picks of weft. Repeat after each 4 wefts, for the entire length of the mat, or about 19 inches. Weaving 6 picks after the last medallion, using the last 3 for hemstitching. Eyelets will be formed between the medallions.

MAT 3 - DANISH MEDALLION

Shown on Cover Bottom Left

Weft: Lily Art. 114, Mercerized Pearl Cotton, size 3 Aqua 475 or any of the 4 warp colors. Weft is a one shuttle weave. Weave three picks, and hemstitch, as at A on opposite page. Weave 16 picks, using the last 5 picks for the center of the medallions. The next pick is used to make the loops of the medallions, of the same thread. Three medallions will be used in each color-stripe, and one in each open area — 15 in all. Use your Arithmetic to space these symmetrically. Weave 9 picks, using the last 5 of them for the centers of the medallions. Repeat the medallions a third time, after weaving 9 picks. These three rows of medallions form the border. For the center, weave 15 picks, make a medallion in each open area between color stripes, over 4 weft picks. Do this 7 times in all. Weave 20 picks, and make three rows of medallions, as for the first border. Weave 19 picks, using the last three of them for hemstitching.

MAT 4 - BROOKS BOUQUET

Shown on Cover Bottom Right

Use all 4 of the warp colors as weft and decoration, in the following order: 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 3.

Color 1 is Tarragon Green,

Color 2 is Aqua,

Color 3 is Light Jade and

Color 4 is Jade

Weave 3 picks in Color 2 and overcast over 3 warp ends, as in directions B, opposite page. (End-finishes). Weave 3 inches of Color 2. Make one row of Brooks Bouquet, with the color of the block you just wove.

To make Brooks Bouquet: Open the shed, and work from right to left. Weave with shuttle, and bring it to the surface after 3 warp ends. Wrap the shuttle around the 3 warp ends, carry it along in the shed past 3 additional warp ends, wrap it around the latest 3 ends; repeat. Draw the wrappings firmly, to gather the warp ends into small "bouquets". Continue across the row. Beating firmly. Change to the next color, (1), and repeat as for the first block. Repeat for each of the colors as listed above (6 blocks in all), always dividing them with Brooks Bouquet, but not after the 6th block. Finish the second end like the first. After removal from the loom, the open areas were filled in with a needle and thread to resemble Brooks Bouquet. From the wrong side, I wrapped 3 wefts, skipped 1 weft, wrapped the next 3. Continue, making adjustments at each intersection between blocks.

MAT 5 - SUPPLEMENTARY WARP IN OPEN AREAS

Shown on Cover Top Right

This is a block pattern, and woven in all 4 warp colors, in the same order as given for Mat number 4. Two ends of Lily Pearl 3 Chartreuse No. 1462 were added in each of the three open areas which occur between the color-stripes.

To add Supplementary Warp: Measure and cut 6 ends of Chartreuse, each 2 yards in length. For each stripe, wind 2 ends on a large quill, adjusting the length needed, and fastening it so it will not unwind too much. Suspend from the back of the loom. Thread the two ends through two heddles which were left empty between two color-stripes, being sure to keep the proper rotation of Harnesses 1 and 2. Sley through the corresponding two empty dents in the reed and pin securely to the mat previously woven. Attach two spring-clip clothespins to the quill for added tension. Repeat for the two other open areas. The mat was woven in plain weave, in 3 inch color blocks in the order given under Mat number 4, the divisions between them being two weft picks of Chartreuse. The second end is finished like the first.

MAT 6 - WRAPPED WARPS

Shown on Cover Left Center

Weft: Lily Art. 114, Mercerized Pearl Cotton, size 3, Tarragon Green 1411. The Chartreuse warp stripes were used as in Mat 5, and this color was also used as decoration. Weave 3 picks, and over-cast as in B on page 2. Weave 8 picks in Tarragon. Weave 2 picks in Chartreuse. Weave 4 picks in Tarragon. Make a butterfly of Chartreuse, using a thread 10 times as long as the width of the loom. Begin the wrapped-warp insertion from the right, by weaving the butterfly into the first 2 warp ends, and bring it to the surface. Close the shed. Wrap the butterfly neatly around 4 warp ends, going around 6 times, securing it with a half-hitch the 6th time. Repeat across the web, finishing the second selvage by weaving in the shed, as at the first selvage. Weave 4 picks Tarragon. Weave 2 picks Chartreuse. Weave the center in plain weave of Tarragon, and weave the second border in reverse of the first.

This is only a beginning in the wonderful possibilities of Two-Harness weaving, and I hope you will use it as a point of departure in creative designing.

I would refer you to Harriet Tidball's Monographs Numbers 20 and 21, for more ideas. Also to "Opening a Door to Two Harness Techniques" by Irene Francisco, published by Lily Mills Co.

4

Order All Your Weaving Supplies From

The Handweavers Headquarters

LILY MILLS COMPANY • Shelby, N. C. 28150