

# practical weaving suggestions

VOL. 4-70



# Table Runners

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This issue of "Practical Weaving Suggestions" is devoted to a project that may be varied in many ways. The pattern, adapted from a piece of weaving brought from Finland may be wide or narrow, as for the table runners described here. They may be woven any length as required by the table size. Of course, standard size table mats may be made on this same threading. The mat showing pattern is illustrated on front cover.

Variation of the width depends on the number of times threading B to C is repeated. As each repeat contains 36 warp ends, and the sleying in a 12 dent reed is 36 ends to the inch, it is quite easy to figure changes in width. Threading of the borders remains the same; A to B — 6X, C to D — 7X.

The set of runners illustrated below at right is for a large rectangular table on which the two long runners are placed at the edge of the long sides, the short ones along the two narrow ends. The drawing showing the placing of these runners is of the table top, but does not picture the ten inch fall at each end of the runners. The threading was as shown in the draft for a total of 516 warp ends, or 14-1/3 inches in the reed.

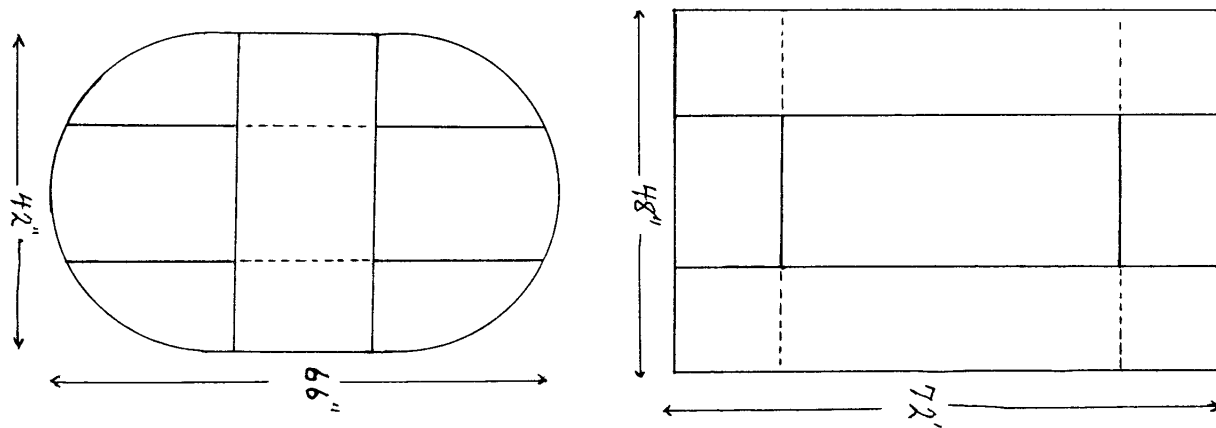
The drawing at the left shows two wide runners on an oval table. The long runner is placed down the center of the table, a shorter runner across the table. For longer oval tables six may be seated by using a second short runner across the table, and for eight places a third short one may be added. Again the ten inch fall is not shown in the drawing. For these wide runners on the oval table threading from B to C was repeated 14 times for a total of 660 warp ends, or 18-1/3 inches in the reed.

For place mats, tray cloths or a short piece for the center of the rectangular table, the 516 warp ends is suggested. If narrow pieces are desired the threading from B to C may be reduced by as many repeats as required, keeping in mind that each repeat provides one inch of warp in the reed.

To secure the required warp length for your project measure the length of the table, add 20 inches for a 10 inch fall at each end of the runner, multiply by the number of long runners required. Then repeat the above calculation for the width of the table. To the resulting total length of runners add 10% for shrinkage, plus one yard for loom loss.

Assuming that the warp is now beamed, this seems a good place to discuss the threading, sleying and tie-up, which may seem strange and unorthodox. We hope you will find it as satisfactory as the weaver of these pieces did. **Lily Art. 107, White Linen** size 20/2, was used for the warp, with the threading in pairs, but each end in its own heddle so they would lie flat in the weave. This threading is the beginning of an interesting warp-wise texture effect, which

**WARP:** Lily Art. 107, Linen, size 20/2, White  
**PATTERN WEFT:** Lily Art. 207, Linen, size 10/1, Oyster  
**Tabby:** Lily Art. 107, Linen, size 10/2, White





If a color is desired in a part cotton runner use the same linen warp and tabby but **Lily Art. 121 Six Strand Floss** for the pattern weft. This comes in a large selection of colors.

For an all cotton runner there are a number of possibilities. For all mercerized yarn, and in colors, use **Lily Art. 114**; **Pearl 20** for the warp, **Pearl 10** for the pattern weft, **Pearl 5** for the tabby.

Another combination could be **Lily Art. 314**, size 20/2 for the warp and size 10/2 for the tabby. For the pattern weft use either **Art. 121 Six Strand Floss**, or **Art. 114**, size Pearl 10. This combination of unmercerized background and mercerized pattern is quite effective in any weave.

Heavier yarns may be used by reducing the number of ends to the inch in a six or eight dent reed and adjusting the pattern repeats.

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### HEMSTITCHING ON THE LOOM

For those who have not tried hemstitching on the loom this is repeated from a previous issue of "Practical Weaving Suggestions."

The normal way of doing this is with 6 warp ends and 6 weft picks, but for these linen runners 6 **pairs** of warp ends were used to more nearly equal the bulk of the 6 tabby picks. The number of warp ends and weft picks may be varied according to the yarn being used, how tight the weave is, etc.

At the beginning of the piece leave a length of the weft yarn at the right selvage approximately 5 times the width of the warp. Then weave 6 picks, beating them in place at the top of the fringe allowance, then another to the left that is not beaten in. Place the shuttle out of the way on the shuttle race and begin the hemstitching on the right with the long end of tabby yarn threaded in a blunt tapestry needle.

The four steps in hemstitching are briefly as follows: away from the fringe end — around the warp ends above the 6 tabby picks — toward the fringe end — around the warp ends below the weft picks.

In detail these steps are as follows. To get started the length of weft yarn must be secured at the right selvage. Therefore, take it around the right warp end below the six weft picks and then just above them. This takes the place of the first step above for the first group only. Then go to the left under the 6 warp pairs to be drawn together, up to the top, right over these same warp pairs securing this first loop only with a half hitch. Then go diagonally under these warp pairs and the 6 weft picks coming to the top at the fringe side of the weft picks and to the left of the 6 warp pairs. Now draw the loop snug about the warp ends above the weft picks and hold it so with the thumb and first finger of the left hand (finger through the warp — thumb on top). The final loop is now made on the fringe side of the weft picks, by going right over the warp ends, left under them, up to the top and through the loop of the weft with which you are hemstitching. Draw this knot tight, and against the weft picks, to prevent any slippage as you go on to the next group.

The first step of the second and all succeeding groups is over the 6 weft picks from the fringe end and down between the group just completed and the next 6 warp ends. When hemstitching the other end of the piece the long weft end (5 times the width of the warp) will be an extension of the last pick, and at the right. To make this hemstitching balance that at the beginning of the piece, and have the knotted loop on the fringe side of the weft picks, just reverse the detailed instructions above as to direction.

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