

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Thoughts are such slender threads, and are so easily broken. And yet the destiny of individuals and nations hang upon them.

It is in recognition of these facts that the masters of old instructed their followers in the art of first setting up the objective which they desired to achieve. "The spirit of the goal supplies the means."

And while the "means" or supporting thoughts are being supplied, it requires continual cultivation to preserve the desired thoughts from the encroachments of millions of other spirits demanding attention.

Pythagoras, in the beginnings of history, is quoted as saying, "Seek well thy aim by keen nightly introspection. What hast thou said that should have been left unsaid, what hast thou done that should have been left undone, study well each thought, word and deed. This vigil will never cease to lead to happiness and to peace."

A later teacher said, "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things."

While a modern mountain woman is reported as saying, "The disturbing thoughts, I just give them no mind."

All of which is timely today when courage is a prime requisite in selecting the positive goal of peace and happiness for our every day living.

In an old volume of "Crown Jewels" published in 1887 is a 15 verse poem, "The Weavers" by Hannah More.

"As at their work two weavers sat, Beguiling time with friendly chat, They touched upon the price of meat, So high, a weaver scarce could eat."

Dick goes on to say that with his brats and sickly wife he is almost tired of life. He envies the rich man's state and feels that heaven is unjust. In spite of the teachings of the parson and the Scripture he feels that the world is ruled extremely wrong.

His friend John tells him that it is only because of ignorance that we blame the Maker's laws and because we can see only part of His ways.

"See'st thou that carpet, only half done Which thou, dear Dick, hast well begun? Behold the wild confusion there, So rude the mass it makes one stare!

A stranger, ignorant of the trade, Would say, no meaning's there conveyed; For where's the middle? Where's the border? Thy carpet now is all disorder."

Quoth Dick, "My work is yet in bits, But still in every part it fits; Besides, you reason like a lout - Why, man, that carpet's inside out."

John tells him that the world is like a carpet inside out and we cannot see the beautiful upper side or know what the finished design will be. It is all a scheme of God and seems without plan, pattern or proportion.

"But when we reach that world of light And view those works of God aright, Then shall we see the whole design, And own the workman is divine."

What now seem random strokes will there All order and design appear; Then shall we praise what we have spurned, For then the carpet shall be turned."

Thou'rt right, quoth Dick, No more I'll grumble That this sad world's so strange a jumble; My impious doubts are put to flight For my own carpet sets me right."

* * * * *

In the same volume is found this verse by Eugene J. Hall. Our Grandmothers long have reposed in the tomb; With a strong, healthy race they have peopled the land; They worked with the spindle, They toiled at the loom, Nor lazily brought up their babies by hand.

RIPPLING WATERS

This month's sample is especially suitable for August and vacation time. Imagine yourself resting in a boat just a few feet from the shore of a quiet lake in the North woods. It is just before the sunset hour and the straight white trunks of the birch trees show a pleasing accent among the countless shades of green in the forest. Even though the reflections in the rippling waters are constantly changing, there is a pleasing smoothness and rhythm that goes on and on. This is the scene we are painting on our loom.

THREADING

0	xx	xxxx	xxx	xx	x	0	4
0	0	xxx	xx	xxx	xx	0	3
0	0	xxx	xx	xxx	xx	0	2
0	0	xx	xxx	xxxx	xx	0	1

(Handweaver's Pattern Book
Marguerite Davidson)

TIE-UP

	x	x	x		4
	x	x		x	3
x	x			x	2
x			x	x	1
1	2	3	4	A	B

This material as woven would be perfect for drapes, cushion-tops, and other articles in a summer cottage. For cool, airy curtains make a border the desired width using the heavy green thread, and weave the balance with lighter weight white cotton. This will give a heavy white stripe combined with a lighter weight stripe of white and the four shades of green.

TREADLE 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 Repeat

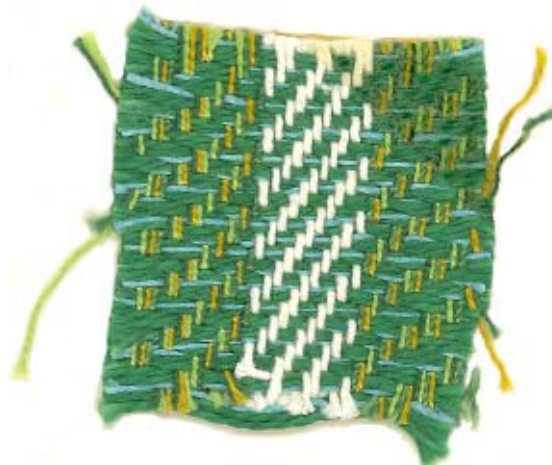
WARP THREADS 0 white carpet warp

WARP THREADS X Mercerized cotton
Dark green 20/2, Light green 15/2,
Medium green 10/2, Yellow green 15/2.
Rotate the four shades.

WEFT THREADS 2 strands Emerald green mercerized and 1 turquoise rayon wound on shuttle together.

SLEY Each pattern unit 2". White approximately 5/8". Green approximately 1 3/8".

SAMPLE



Sister Goodwea

"The way to be sure there is nothing wrong
Is to check each step as you go along."

SATIN WEAVE

We pointed out in an earlier issue of this series that 80% of all woven fabrics are done in plain weave, commercially speaking. Now we are ready to talk about the other 20%. Of these, 8% are known as the satin weave and are characterized by threads "floating" over other threads. If the floaters are of warp, the fabric is said to be warp face satin. If the weft threads form the floaters, the fabric is a weft face satin.

Commercially made warp face satin may have a great many warp threads or ends per inch, as it is necessary to have more warp than weft threads to form a warp face fabric. Because of the difficulty of handling so many threads and the tediousness of warping so large a number, hand weavers rarely make a fine warp face fabric, although there are lovely patterns for wool warp face scarves for winter wear.

A true satin material, comparable to a commercially made fabric, is a warp face satin with

at least fifty fine threads per inch in warp and twenty shots or rows per inch in weft, done on at least 8 harnesses but not woven in regular rotation. Weft face satin also requires at least 8 harnesses, has approximately 30 warp threads per inch and 45 to 60 shots per inch of weft, depending on the weight of the thread.

While hand woven satins are time consuming to weave, they are very satisfying in the finished result. Cotton, silk, wool, rayon or nylon may be used for the floating threads and the finished fabric is a handsome, long wearing material. Cotton faced satin is usually called sateen, wool faced satin is known as doeskin, and we are all familiar with the various grades of rayon and silk satin.

Often finding a handwoven upholstery to harmonize with French or other rather ornate furniture is something of a problem and the various satins as here described are an excellent solution for that

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SILAS SAITS:

problem. When a plain colored material is to be draped or hung in folds, or used in such a way that it will catch the light from different angles, there is nothing more satisfactory than a satin weave especially when woven of a lustrous thread.

Representative satin weave materials made from silk, rayon and acetate rayons are: brocade, brocattelle, cape or cloak fabric, cotton back sateen, coverings, curtain materials, damask, dress silk, duvetyn, fancies and novelties, furniture fabric, Jacquard fabrics of many types, runners, slipper satin, sport fabrics made of silk or man-made fibers, striping effects in some materials, table cloth and napkin material, tapestry, tie fabrics, upholstery fabrics. Cotton and linen yarns are used to make damask table cloths and napkins. Farmer's satin is a durable fabric of cotton and wool having a glossy surface resembling satin and is used especially for linings.

A magazine article states that Katharine Cornell has received a Swedish loom as a gift from an admirer. She has a loom in each of her homes and spends two or three hours daily weaving for relaxation.

* * * * *

A nation cannot grow rich by not producing, by not saving, by not being enterprising, by seeking only security and protection.

-- Walter Lippmann

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

It is rather early to be thinking about Christmas, but remember how the squirrels hoard their food against the time when it is needed. So ...

Don't throw away those heavy cardboard cones your thread comes on, and save your short pieces of gold, silver, tinsel and bright colored threads. Also your candle scraps. Later on we will tell you how to use them to make little Christmas trees for table decorations.

WHY DO YOU WEAVE?

Someone invariably asks, "Why go to the work and trouble of weaving?" There are probably as many reasons for weaving as there are looms and weavers. Which is yours?

As a hobby, there is nothing more fascinating. It combines the joy and satisfaction of creation with both mental and physical exercise, and you have something tangible to show for your efforts at the end of the day. It opens up numerous avenues of interest -- visits to art galleries and museums, books to read; even a common dish towel is more interesting when you notice how it is woven.

Do you want to express your love of beauty? If you cannot paint pictures with a brush, you can weave the colors of the sunset, the dainty laciness of the spider web and the sparkle of the snow. Weaving is a combination of all the arts. It has the color of painting, the three dimensional quality of sculpture and the rhythm of music.

Must you add to the family income, as so many need do through force of circumstances? Weaving articles for sale is a good source of profit. One weaver remarked that for the first time in her life she was earning money and enjoying her work.

Are you troubled and bored with life -- no longer young -- need something new to hold your interest? Then weave! Each step of weaving invites you to finish that one and start the next; you are planning a new project before this one is complete and soon forget yourself and find the hours slipping by. When family duties keep you home and you feel you must "get away from it all" you can go to the loom and weave on something bright and beautiful. It refreshes mind and body.

Have you been ordered to take special exercises? Doctors recognize the therapeutic value of weaving and it is being used in

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hospitals and sanitariums. It ranks in first place along with swimming (which is not always available).

Practically every muscle is used at the loom, nevertheless, many handicapped persons become very adept.

Even the blind, with a little aid in selecting colors, can weave.

Perhaps you want things you cannot buy? Luxurious metallics or rag carpets; lacy sheers or heavy upholstery; soft muted shades or strong brilliant color. You can weave any of them with pride and satisfaction expressing your own personality at the same time.

Or you may enjoy making gifts for loved ones. The possibilities here are endless. Soft wooly crib blankets for the baby; a peasant dirndle for the teen-ager; aprons, luncheon sets, pillow tops and all sorts of household articles for the homemaker; ties and scarves for the men.

But the best reason of all is to weave just because you want to weave!

A HELPFUL HINT

Even though the mesh bags in which you buy oranges, onions, etc., are not very beautiful, they make perfect containers for scraps of threads, spools, quills, bobbins, etc. Good hangers for these bags are made by cutting wire coat hangers about 5 inches from the twisted center portion, then bending the cut ends up at right angles. The mesh bags can be slipped onto these hooks and take up very little room on a closet rod. It is easy to see the contents of each bag without opening. After the bags have been washed they shrink too much to be used in this way but they do make good cleaning cloths.

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For the past several months we have discussed plain or "tabby" weave. Do you know where this term "tabby" originated? In silk or rayon weaving, plain weaving is often described as

"It's the cat's."

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