



# warp and weft

Vol. XIV, No. 7

September, 1961



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by Robin & Russ Handweavers, 632 Santa  
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Santa Barbara, California.

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Brown.

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## A Word from the Editor

Summer is flying and it is time to get back to the monthly publications and to our many other weaving projects.

We have been trying to decide for the past year if we should raise the price of Warp and Weft, and we are sorry to say so, but as of January 1st, it looks as though Warp and Weft will have to be increased in price to \$4.00 per year. There are many reasons for this, but the main ones are the increasing costs of the threads used in the samples, the minor increase in printing we had, the increase in the cost of mailing them, and also the fact that very little profit is shown on the books from Warp and Weft.

All of you who care to renew your subscription for one or two years at the current price of \$3.00 per year are welcome to do so.

I have hesitated in doing this, but there comes a time when such an increase is a necessity, and that time is almost here. We all know that we will lose some subscribers from this price increase, but there isn't much that we can do about this.

Our summer has been the usual busy one. Our bicycle trip from San Francisco to Santa Barbara became a reality about two weeks ago when Janice, Robin and I cycled 325 miles from San Francisco to San Luis Obispo. We took the train back the last 100 miles because of lack of time. We had a wonderful time getting acquainted with the California coastline from San Francisco south, and just wish we had had more time to continue the last 100 miles. Our 2nd week of summer vacation comes next week, and it will be a gold panning and camping expedition to Northern California, Washington and Oregon, and I thought we had better have Warp and Weft ready to mail by the time we return, so thus August 15th sees us getting it ready for the printer.

Also, believe it or not, we were able to get started at much of the weaving we had planned to do during this summer vacation period. We have 4 exciting Warp and Weft projects started and also 2 of our multiple harness samples started.

I think that you will like our projects, and I think that the one piece of 8 harness suiting material is one of the most beautiful pieces I have ever woven.

I was able to attend a weaving workshop for one week in Northern California and you will see several of the samples woven there is future projects.

Robin took a group of girl scouts to Yosemite for a week, and worked a week at day camp for Girl Scouts in Santa Barbara. Not to be excluded, Janice took in "Y" camp, day camp for Brownies and Bible School, so you can see that it has been a summer crammed full of activities.

RUSSELL E. GROFF, *Editor*

## **This Month's Cover**

The cover this month is a beautiful tapestry woven by Helga Miles of Lomita, California. The tapestry is called "the Egyptians." The actual size of it finished is 45"x 65".

It was woven on a two harness horizontal loom starting at the right edge of the tapestry, and working to the left:

The warp is a 4 ply cotton set at 9 threads per inch. The weft is different types of 100% wool, and also some metallic was used.

Miss Miles weaves these tapestries professionally and several of her pieces are on display in select craft and interior decoration shops in Los Angeles, California.

Miss Miles was born in Germany where she studied the craft for 3 years as an apprentice and worked several more years as a journeyman. She came to the United States in 1958 and just started her tapestry weaving just a short time ago.

This particular tapestry was displayed at the Southern California Handweavers Guild Annual Fashion Show and Exhibit a few months ago.

Let us hope that Miss Miles will share some of her future work with us that we might again use it for a cover for Warp and Weft.

If any of you are interested in having a tapestry woven to order or in purchasing one already made, I had better give the complete address. It is: HELGA MILES, 2028 Allbrook Street, Lomita, California.

## **Book Review**

The book we will review this month is an unusual one. It is titled, "PATTERNS ON A PLAIN WEAVE" and was written by Mrs. Charles Steedsman of Leamington, Ontario, Canada.

This particular book was written for the weaver who has just a 2 harness loom, and it is fascinating the variety of patterns that Mrs. Steedsman shows you that can be done on a simple two harness loom.

None of the copy is devoted to loom set-up, threading, etc., as so many writers seem to do. However, it starts right out trying to present a variety of patterns and textures, and to generally be able to produce articles not commonly associated with weaving on a two harness, 15" table loom. Everything in the book is of course applicable to the 4 harness loom.

The book is profusely illustrated with excellent photographs, drawings and sketches. There is a beginning chapter on color and texture which gives you some very interesting effects obtainable through colored warps and wefts. There are many projects pictured, with directions for each project.

There is a chapter devoted to open work and embroidery. Still another chapter tells of the use of pick-up sticks and more lace weaves.

Another chapter is devoted to Honeycomb weaves, still another chapter devoted to narrow fabrics such as belts and webbing. Then, there is a discussion of coloring the warp before you put it on, painting the warp, after on the loom, etc.

There are over 70 photographs, sketches and drawings, sometimes several on one page and about 65 projects woven and told about in the book.

If you have a two-harness loom and want to experiment with something out of the ordinary, I would recommend Mrs. Steedsman's book. It is available directly from her, and I believe the price is \$6.00. Write to:

Mrs. Nell Steedsman  
7 Georgia Avenue  
Leamington, Ontario, Canada

## GREEN GAZELLE

An interesting wool and silk combination for tailored suits, skirts, or for men's sport coats.

### THREADING DRAFT:

4	C	A	E	C	A	E
3	B	A	D	B	A	D
2	A	E	C	A	E	C
1	A	D	B	A	D	B

### NOTE ABOUT THE THREADING DRAFT:

There are 2 repeats of the pattern or 24 threads in the above threading draft. There are actually 12 threads in each pattern repeat, but I gave 2 repeats of this in the threading draft because it makes exactly 1" of Warp Thread. Thus if you weave a 32" width material, you will repeat the threading draft 32 times for your loom set-up.

### WARP:

For warp we used a 2/17's worsted yarn in 5 different colors. Here are the colors:

- A. 2/17's—Frost Green
- B. 2/17's—Spring Green
- C. 2/17's—Hunter's Green
- D. 2/17's—Jade Green
- E. 2/17's—Teal Blue

### WEFT:

In the weft, we used 3 colors of the 2/17's worsted, plus a silk tweed, the silk tweed having a medium dark colored fleck in it. Here are the threads used in the weft.

1. A 2/17's Oatmeal heather wool yarn and color No. 244 silk tweed were wound together on one bobbin and used as one thread.
2. A 2/17's Frost Green was used.
3. A 2/17's Teal Blue was used.

### REED USED:

A 12 dent reed was used, and it was double sleyed, 2 ends per dent or 24 threads per inch.

### TIE-UP DRAFT:

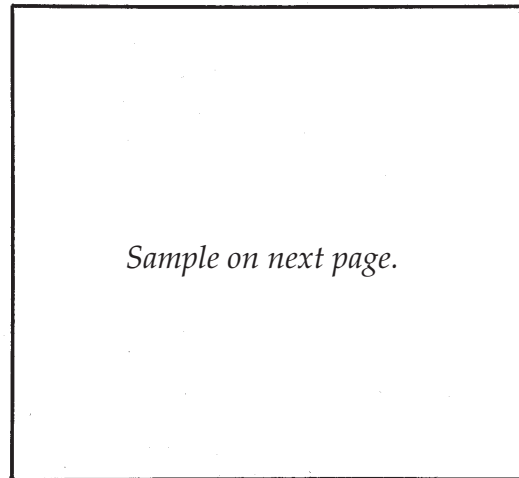
4	X	X	O	O
3	X	O	O	X
2	O	X	X	O
1	O	O	X	X
	1	2	3	4

X's are tie-up for counter-balanced loom.

O's are tie-ups for jack-type loom.

More about the tie-up is mentioned in the other information about the fabric.

### SAMPLE:



*Sample on next page.*

### TREADLING:

Treadle No. 1—Oatmeal 2/17's and silk tweed No. 244 wound together.

Treadle No. 2—Oatmeal 2/17's and silk tweed No. 244 wound together.

Treadle No. 3—2/17's Worsted—Frost Green.

Treadle No. 4—2/17's Worsted—Teal Blue.

End of One pattern—repeat over and over.

### MORE ABOUT THE SAMPLE:

First of all to give credit where credit is due. This sample was inspired by an upholstery material woven by Mrs. R. O. Harvey, a member of the Contemporary Handweavers of Texas. Ours is just a little differ-



ent than hers, but only in a slight change in color of 1 thread used.

Mrs. Harvey wove this material for upholstery, but we liked it so well, we thought it would make an excellent skirt or suit or sport coat material so we decided to show you the efforts of Mrs. Harvey in Warp and Weft. We will have a skirt made of this when taken off the loom, and if we have enough material left, we hope a short jacket can be made also. We put 25 yards of it on the loom.

If you will change the tie-up from the conventional tie-up for a 6 treadle loom to the one that we used, you will find that it is much easier to weave. I should say it is much faster to weave, as your treadle progression is just 1, 2, 3, 4 over and over. Of course you can keep the standard tie-up on your loom, and if you do, then the treading is 1, 5, 3, 6 or 1, A, 3, B if you prefer it that way. You can see how it would be easier to weave if you take a few minutes to change the tie-up.

I think that this material would work very well for upholstery, particularly if you wash it thoroughly and then steam press it, as this will make it firmer and bring the threads closer together.

Also, there are many other color combinations of yarn that would be just as striking if woven in this same set-up and manner for other uses. I think it would make nice drapes, as well as the other uses we have mentioned.

We also did some experimenting using 3 darker colored weft threads on the same set-up, and we also thought this was very striking, and set-off the warp threads to better advantage. However, our choice was the sample as we wove it first, and it is the sample that we present here.

#### **COST OF THE THREADS USED IN THIS PROJECT:**

The 2/17's Worsted is available in about

40 colors and it is \$6.80 per lb., or \$1.00 per 2 oz. skein in less than 1 lb. of a color.

The silk tweed is regularly priced at \$8.00 per lb., and can be had on about 4 oz. spools, at \$2.00 per spool.

#### **COST OF THE FABRIC:**

Not taking into account the colors, but just the actual number of yards of thread in the warp, for 40" width material, we find our warp cost comes to \$1.40 per yard. We used 4 lbs. 2 oz. of thread in the warp for a 20 yard warp.

In the weft, we used a silk tweed with the heather, and it took just 12 oz. of the silk tweed for weft, along with the wool. The weft cost per yard, came to \$1.67 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD .....	\$1.40
WEFT COST PER YARD .....	1.67
	<hr/>
FABRIC COST PER YARD .....	\$3.07

Of course, the figures here are not entirely accurate because there is a certain amount of loom loss of warp threads, and also because of change of colors in both the warp and weft.

However, I did overestimate on the warp and weft cost a little to compensate for this situation.

#### **A Place-Mat Project**

One of our most popular and interesting projects has been place-mats using a 10/2 cotton for the warp, in 5 shades or values of brown, from the darkest brown to the light beige and natural. For weft, we were able to use numerous different boucles and odds and ends in the weft, and make a very practical and saleable item. Here's how we did it.

Our warp was 10/2 cotton, set at 20 threads per inch. We planned the color movement of the warp threads in a 2"



band, and found this very satisfactory. We started with 4 threads of Seal Brown, 4 threads of Chocolate Brown, 4 threads of Date or Rust Brown, 4 threads of Aztec or medium beige, and 8 threads of natural, 4 threads of Aztec, 4 threads of Date Brown, 4 threads of Chocolate Brown and 4 threads of Seal Brown. This is 40 threads or 2" of warp. We had a warp 14" wide, so we had 7 repeats of this sequence in the warp. It was threaded on a straight 1, 2, 3, 4 twill and provided a very interesting shaded stripe in the warp.

Then in the weft, we normally used 3 shades of brown boucles. If possible use one with a gold twist, a natural and 2 browns or something similar. We used fairly heavy threads in the weft having about 2,000 to 1,500 yards per pound, and wound all 3 threads together on one bobbin. We also found that you can use in the weft, an aqua, a brown and a natural or white together with a great deal of success. If you can though, use one of these three threads with a gold metallic twisted around it.

This was a production project, and we wanted to weave them as fast as possible, so we planned it thoroughly in advance. We planned a fringed place-mat, quite heavy, and yet distinctive.

We cut some card-board strips, 1"x15" long, and by using these we were able to get the fringe exactly the same length each time.

You put in one piece of cardboard in the weft, weave 19" with your 3 rayon boucles wrapped together, put in one more cardboard and this was the end of that mat. Then changing the shed, we put in another cardboard strip to start the 2nd mat for a fringe on the beginning end of the mat, wove 19" and put in the 2nd cardboard strip for the fringe on the other end. Thus, we were able to take the finished piece of material off the loom with the cardboard still in it, and go to the sewing machine, stitch

across where the cardboard begins, on the end of one mat and the beginning of another, then cut the warp in the center of the two—1" cardboard strips and we had our fringe already trimmed to length.

Using this method that we have described we found it possible to weave the 19" mats very quickly and were able to do between 4 and 5 in one hour. With the hemming or stitching at the end of the mats, another cost factor, it was easy to do this, and so cut down the finishing time as well. Thus, you can weave an economical and yet very practical mat.

We used a 10 dent reed, 2 ends per dent and had 280 warp ends. We purchased ½ lb of each of the 5 shades of brown and natural used in the warp, and from this were able to get over 30 yards of warp 14" wide, from 2½ lbs. of 10/2 cotton. Many times, we were able to use left-overs in the weft, and by combining it in the weft, were able to make either 4 or 8 mats of one color combination and then were able to go on to other colors of weft odds and ends that had to be used.

Perhaps you might like to try this as we did, and see how practical these mats are.

## **A Second Book Review**

The new book put out by the Swedish I.C.A. publishing company, "FLEMISH WEAVING" is an excellent book on tapestry weaving. The text is given in both English and Swedish. The book begins telling about tapestry weaving in Sweden and continues on showing in photographs as well as words how to set-up the tapestry loom, and how to do the actual weaving. There are 17 beautiful color photographs and many black and white photographs included, but the most pleasing of all are the folded working pattern sheets which give all the details of the 17 color plates. If you are at all interested in tapestry, you will certainly enjoy this book.

TITLE: FLEMISH WEAVING.

AUTHOR: G. Ingers & E. Fischer.

PUBLISHER: I.C.A. Publishing Co.

AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ Handweavers.

PRICE: \$3.85 plus 14c pp.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

A classified advertising section will be tried out in Warp and Weft for a few months, to see if there is any interest or response. Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$4.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

**FOR SALE:** A Norwood Loom in excellent condition and seldom used. Also about 20 weaving books at 1/2 price of regular cost. For a list of books and information about the loom, write to: Mrs. Evelyn B. Hyde, 2901 Belmont Blvd., Nashville, Tennessee.

**THE HANDWEAVERS WORKBASKET** now stocks a complete and full range of Bernat colors in both the Fabri and Afghan yarns. Sample color cards, thirty cents, upon receipt of request. Grace D. Blum, THE HANDWEAVERS WORKBASKET, Box 691, R. R. 1, West Chicago, Illinois.

**SAMPLE LOOMS FOR SALE:** Two (2) Used, 8", 4 harness structo looms have just become available. These are in very good condition, and can be shipped via parcel post. The looms are equipped for ready warped spools and plain warp beams can be purchased separately if desired. 4 spools of ready warp accompany each loom. New, this loom and the spools would cost over \$40.00 and these are on sale at \$22.50 each, plus parcel post charges. First come, first served basis. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**ELECTRIC BOBBIN WINDERS,** with slightly tapered shaft, and foot rheostat control. Very well made. Leclerc bobbins and paper quills fit on it very well. \$23.50. Postage will be prepaid if payment accompanies order. Good strong motor, satisfaction guaranteed. Postage extra if payment does not accompany order. Delivery 10 days to 2 weeks. ROBIN & RUSS, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**BACK ISSUES OF MULTIPLE HARNESS BULLETIN.** 3 complete years of Drafts & Designs, our multiple harness bulletin with large 4"x4" sample swatch in each issue. Regularly \$4.00 per year, 3 complete years on special at \$9.00, postage prepaid by us. ROBIN & RUSS, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**SPIRAL TWIST RAYON & METALLIC:** This is available in natural with silver, and in about 15 colors with either gold or silver twist. Natural & Silver, \$2.80 per lb. Colors are all 2.50 per lb. Write for free samples. Excellent for mats, drapes, upholstery, etc. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

**BABY POMPADOUR YARNS:** This is a nice quality wool yarn with a rayon twist, for use in baby blankets, stoles, etc. Available in baby blue, pink, yellow, lavender, and white. 2,240 yards per lb. \$5.40 per lb., or 69c per 2 oz. skein. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**LONG NYLON STRIPS:** Once again available are the long nylon selvages for bags and rugs and place-mats (one of our customers has torn these strips into 4 narrower widths and used them in drapes). We have them on hand now in white, light blue, light pink, light green, lavender, pale yellow, and small amounts of 1 or 2 other colors. \$1.60 per lb. while it lasts. ROBIN & RUSS, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

**16/5 NATURAL LINEN:** A beautiful quality linen, with 960 yards per lb. It is 5 ply and is excellent for warp in heavy patio mats, rugs, etc. It is on about 3/4 to 1 lb. tubes and is \$3.20 per lb. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**NOVELTY BOUCLE,** a combination of Jute and rayon. On about 2 lb. cones. A very unusual thread. Free sample upon request. \$3.20 per lb. This is something we had about 4 years ago and this is the first since then we have been able to obtain it. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

**14/6 CORD LINEN:** This too is beautiful quality linen, with a good sheen, and it is on special at \$3.20 per lb. It has 700 yards per lb., and is excellent warp for mats, rugs, etc. ROBIN & RUSS, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**WOOL BOUCLE, WHITE:** This is a beautiful quality wool boucle and can be used for knitting as well as weaving. It has about 2,000 yards per lb., and is \$3.20 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**1/4" WIDE WOOD STRIPS:** These are available in 2 lengths, 14 1/2" and 20 1/2" lengths. 100 strips per bundle. \$1.00 per bundle for shorter length, and \$1.35 per bundle for longer length. Available in Madrone (reddish brown) and in Black Walnut. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

**LARGE SHAFT SWEDISH HAND WINDERS:** Just in. These take the regular 4" plastic bobbins, and do not require an adapter as the small shaft winder usually does. \$7.50 each plus postage. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**RAMIE DISH TOWELS FROM SWITZERLAND.** A new stock of these has just come in, and they are excellent buys at \$1.25 each. Available in white and red or white and blue. Will not shrink, stretch, rot, resists mildew, twice as strong when wet as when dry, very absorbent. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**COTTON FLAKE WITH GOLD TWIST:** Available in natural only, this is a very nice yarn, excellent in drapes and upholstery. It has approximately 1,400 yards per lb., is available on 1 lb. cones only and is \$3.75 per lb. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.



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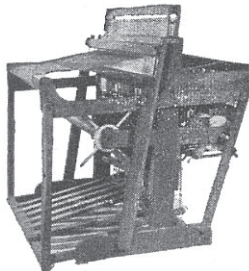
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