

# warp and weft

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May, 1964

## warp and weft

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by Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North  
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**Editor:** Russell E. Groff,

**Assistant Editor:** Robin Groff.

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### A Word from the Editor

This month past has been a pleasing one as well as sort of hectic. First I should tell you about some of the activities of Janice, our 11 year old daughter. Janice, for her 6th grade science fair project decided to do some natural dyeing, using such things as vegetables, etc.

She dyed some wool in 6 different colors, using grass, pecan hulls or shells, red beets, red cabbage, onion skins, and moss. She used a mordant to set the colors, and then she made up a chart and mounted all of her yarn samples. To our great surprise and pleasure, she won two gold ribbons with her science fair project. Then to carry this even further, she made a poster for the S.P.C.A., using the Orgami or Japanese paper folding for animals and fastened these to her poster. This was chosen as best in the 6th grade for the whole state of Oregon and she received a \$35.00 first prize check for an outstanding poster. You can be sure that we are very proud of her efforts, and had to share it with all of you.

The Northern California Handweavers Conference in San Jose, California was again a very outstanding conference, with many, many beautiful fabrics on exhibition. We were able to get about 30 pictures of some of the outstanding booths and individual pieces, so we will be sharing these with you on the cover of Warp and Weft in our future issues.

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Because of attending the two conferences and because of the 10 day workshop in Albany, Oregon, I've fallen behind about 20 days in getting out samples and issues of Warp and Weft. So, we hope that you will bear with us, as this issue, in particular, will be quite late. We will try and get back on schedule with the June issue again.

The mail has really stacked up in my two absences, and I'm just now beginning to see daylight, and our Warp and Weft bulletin should have been mailed to you some 5 days ago, so you can see how far behind we seem to be.

I mentioned that this was going to be a wool year in Warp and Weft, and it seems to be true. We have worked out many different samples, and most of them have been in wool, so we hope that you do not get too tired of these projects. Perhaps next year, we can put more emphasis on cotton and silk fabrics. We will try and do so, to get a wider variety of samples then.

Also, with our two months vacation from Warp and Weft and Drafts and Designs deadlines in July and August, we hope that it will give us a little more time for planning some of these projects for future issues of Warp and Weft.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

### This Month's Book Review

This month's book review is another of the series of Monographs put out by Harriet Tidball. This one is entitled "HAND-WOVEN SPECIALTIES, 62 Articles for the Handweaver to Make." This is her monograph number eleven. This monograph is quite interesting in that there are no patterns or threading drafts given, and no treadling directions, etc. What it does is give ideas for some 62 different small projects that might be useful to you in and around your home.



About 35 to 40 of these objects that are suggested for use in the home are illustrated by photographs. About 10 to 15 more are illustrated with diagrams and drawings, and so this is quite an interesting idea manual.

I like Mrs. Tidball's comments that many of the very well made and arty objects that we see in conferences and conventions and exhibitions just do not fit into our homes of today, and that therefore, we should make small useful articles that are beautiful, and which we would be proud to use in our homes.

Some of the many objects which she describes and suggests that we make are sofa throws and matching cushions, slip covers for pillows, pinwheel cushions, tray holders, golf club socks, ear cozies, umbrella covers, covered buttons and shoe bags, lingerie and jewelry cases, laundry bags, log carriers, saddle bags, a car caddy for many items for your car, various styles of bags, pot-holder mitt, hot dish pads, book-marks, typewriter covers, sachets, party candle holders, and many, many others are suggested. There are quite a few details given on some of these different objects, so that you have a good idea of where to start, even though the exact complete ideas are not entirely carried through. Perhaps you might be tired of making the same place-mats, or rugs, or skirts, and might like to make something different, small and yet practical. This monograph might be what you need to give you ideas for many, small projects for use by yourself in the home, for use in guild sales and for sale at bazaars and exhibitions, and other uses.

**TITLE:** HANDWOVEN SPECIALTIES,  
62 ARTICLES FOR THE HAND-  
WEAVER TO MAKE.

**AUTHOR:** Harriet Tidball.

**PRICE:** \$4.00 each, plus 10c postage.

**AVAILABLE:** Robin & Russ Handweavers.

## **This Month's Cover**

The cover this month was a portion of a display at the Northern California Handweavers Conference held last month in San Jose, California.

This is a portion of the display that was made by the Weaving Department of San Jose State College, in San Jose, California.

I think that this is an excellent idea for combining different techniques of weaving and making a useful room divider. Notice that the bottom of the display is a box in which you can put pots of live flowers and plants which are particularly outstanding. Then, fastened to this flower display base is the frame to hold your tapestry-type room divider. You could make this type of room divider very portable by putting castors or wheels on the bottom so that it could be moved around to different places. This was outstanding, as the flower box and tapestry display frame were painted black, and then banded with copper banding. This stood out because of the contrast in color from the black flower box and copper banding.

Then, the tapestry itself is interesting as it utilizes "god's eyes," which are fastened into or could be woven into the tapestry itself. It also utilizes the popular idea of using woods to divide the different areas of the room divider, and last but not least, it used very bright and vivid colors in different areas of weaving, to give life and color to a room divider as we have here. There were many different colors and textures used in these wall hangings, with a predominant one major color, and many shades and values of that color being used.

At the conference, there were two of these used, one at each end of the booth where all of the hand-woven fabrics made by students of the college weaving class were on display.

It certainly looks like the students in this weaving class are enjoying themselves with the variety of work that was on display.

Perhaps this is an idea that you might like to try in your home. I know that I would like to try it myself.

## MEANDERING FAWN

Our sample this month is an interesting 4 harness twill sample which would be excellent for sport coats, tailored suits, skirts, and also for women's coat material.

### Warp

A new line of homespun yarns is available in 15 colors, and our fabric is made this month of 3 of these colors. Two colors were used in the warp. They were:

- F—Fawn, Homespun Yarn.
- T—Tan, Homespun Yarn.

### Weft

The weft yarn was a light grey homespun yarn, which I would myself almost call a heather grey homespun yarn.

### Reed Used

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

### Threading Draft

4	F				T
3		F			T
2			F		T
1				F	T

### Key to Colors in the Warp

- F—fawn colored, or very, very light beige homespun yarn.
- T—tan colored homespun yarn which has more than a touch of brown in it.

### Treadling

The treadling on this sample was quite simple and easy, as only one thread, the light heather grey homespun was used in the weft.

- Treadle # 1—light grey
- Treadle # 2—light grey
- Treadle # 3—light grey
- Treadle # 4—light grey
- Treadle # 3—light grey
- Treadle # 2—light grey

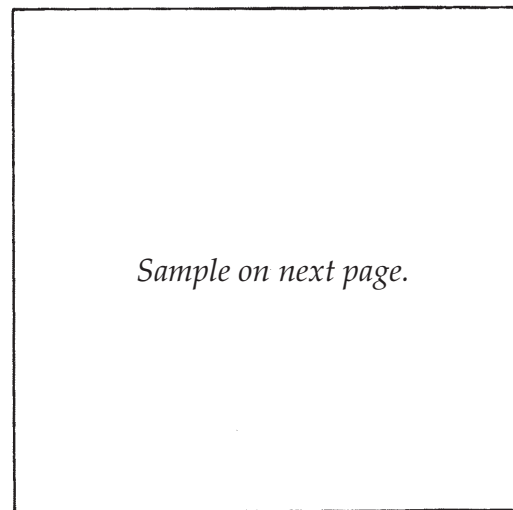
End of one repeat. Repeat over and over as desired.

### Tie-Up Draft:

4	X	X	O	O	X	O
3	X	O	O	X	O	X
2	O	O	X	X	X	O
1	O	X	X	O	O	X
		1	2	3	4	5
						6
					A	B

- X—tie-up for Counter-balanced looms.
- O—tie-up for Jack-type looms.

### Sample:



### More About This Sample

I think that this month's sample has been long overdue, as I believe that this is the first time that we have used a homespun, single ply yarn for both warp and weft.

There are 15 exciting colors available in this homespun yarn with about 8 of them being what I call heather colors. A FREE SAMPLE SHEET OF THESE COLORS AND YARNS MAY BE HAD BY WRITING TO ROBIN AND RUSS AND ASKING FOR A HOMESPUN SAMPLE SHEET.

This yarn is constantly available and is a little nicer quality and a little finer homespun yarn than most of them that are available on the market. It comes on 1/2 lb. tubes or spools, and is a single ply yarn. It has been spun so that it can be used for both warp and weft.



These yarns come spun in oil, so to get the true colors, when the fabric is finished you should wash it to remove the oil.

Here is what the manufacturer suggests to wash and finish this fabric after you have woven it.

For a soft, lovely fabric, this type of yarn has to be washed properly. We suggest that you wash the finished fabric in about 90 degree water with Ivory Snow or with Lux flakes. If your water is hard, add a small amount of Calgon with your soap.

Immerse the fabric and let it soak for about three minutes without any agitation.

Then hand wash for about five minutes, gently washing the fabric. A gentle washing will help to make it softer, and a harsh washing such as you would receive in a washing machine would tend to make the fabric harsh and stiff to the touch.

After washing, rinse in 90 degree water until rinse water stays clear. Then gently squeeze the excess water out of it, and allow to drip dry in the air. Then before you are ready to make it up, we suggest that you use a steam iron, and with a medium heat, steam press this fabric.

Most persons interested in weaving material for suits or sport coats will or should set up this homespun yarn about 33" wide on the loom. This should give you a finished fabric of 30" when through weaving. Most tailors want 27" fabric, so you can see that this would be satisfactory. In a plain weave, it will take about 1/2 pound of material for the warp and weft for one yard of material. It will take slightly over 1/2 for warp, and a little less for your weft. Thus, you should have 2 yards of 30" material (both warp and weft) from one pound of the homespun yarn.

This homespun is a little finer than many that you find on the market having 3600 yards per lb. There are two beautiful green heathers and one in a light aqua also.

We suggest that you do not draw this homespun through your heddles when winding the warp on the beam of your loom. Only put it through the heddles after you have wound it on the loom. This would help keep the yarn smoother and not weaken it.

We would like to suggest in a plain weave that you have 24 threads per inch in the warp and also 24 threads per inch in the weft. In a plain weave, you get a nice firm fabric if you weave it this way. A twill weave as our sample is, tends to be looser than a plain weave, so you should have a few more shots per inch in the weft, if you are doing a twill weave.

We are in the process of making up some 3,000 sample sheets of these 15 colors of homespun. The colors as shown on the sample sheet are the true colors, as the yarn for our samples has been washed and scoured.

## Cost of Our Sample

We had a 10 yard warp, at 24 per inch, and 40" wide for samples for this month's issue. This took one pound and seven ounces of tan and one pound and seven ounces of the fawn colored homespun. At \$6.80 per pound, this took two pounds and 14 ounces for a 10 yard warp, 40" wide. Thus the warp cost \$19.55 or in cost per yard of 40" width, it came to \$1.95 per yard.

In the weft, we used 2 lbs. 6 oz. of the light grey weft. At \$6.80 per lb., the weft cost came to \$16.15. Breaking it down to cost per yard for 9 yards of finished fabric, we find the weft cost was \$1.80 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD, 40" wide - \$1.95  
WEFT COST PER YARD, 40" wide - \$1.80

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FABRIC COST PER YARD - \$3.75

On a 33" wide set-up, you would find the warp would cost \$1.45 per yard and the weft would cost about \$1.35 per yard. Thus, your 30" finished fabric would cost about \$2.75 per yard or \$2.80 per yard.

## Keep Your Fabric Wide On The Loom

On this sample, we had very little draw-in in the weaving, mainly because of the addition of 8 threads of cotton for a selvage. We used a 10/3 cotton, and wound 8 ends on one spool. This was threaded through the heddles and reed, and then the spool was brought back over the back beam and down around the warp beam one time, and then allowed to hang down from the warp beam. This gave us a much nicer edge, kept the fabric from pulling in so much, and practically eliminated broken edge threads. Most of the broken warp threads (about 6 in 10 yards) were caused by knots in the warp.

## An Interesting Idea For A Dress Project

One of our customers, Mrs. Geraldine Wood of Tulsa, Oklahoma made some very interesting dress yardage that I wanted to tell you about. She used the Lily's 50/3 Fine Weave Cotton in Cherry Color along with our 7/2 silk in Scarlet Red in both warp and weft. She alternated her 2 threads in the warp, and also did the same in the weft, using a 16 dent reed, 2 ends per dent or 32 threads per inch. She threaded this to a straight twill threading, and also treadled it in a straight twill, alternating the same two threads 50/3 cotton and 7/2 douppioni silk in the weft. She had this product sylmerized when she wove it. This is something similiar to having it scotch-guarded. This made an excellent weight for dress materials and Mrs. Wood states that is a perfect weight for a suit for their climate in Oklahoma. It is very interesting to see how the 50/3 cotton works with the 7/2 silk. It would also work as equally well with the 6/2 silks we now have. I think this is so nice that we will try and feature a similiar sample in one of our forthcoming issues of Warp and Weft.

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## Tie and Dye

TIE-AND-DYE, as a present day craft is the title of our 2nd book review this month. To the experimental weaver, I think this is an exciting book to read and study. This book is not written necessarily for the weaver, but it is written by Anne Maile to stimulate interest in the tie and dye technique as a hand-craft in itself.

This book is profusely and well illustrated, and I think it is these illustrations that make this an exciting and outstanding book.

A short historical background on tie-dyeing is given and is very interesting.

Complete, step by step directions for the process of tie-dyeing are next given, and these are concise and easy to understand.

A listing of the equipment that is necessary, and directions for many, many different methods of tie-dyeing are carefully explained.

There are directions for how to obtain different tie-dye effects with binding, with folding, with sewing or tritik, with cords and ropes, pleating, ruching, chevron spiral folding method, and by dyeing the backgrounds. These are all very thoroughly explained and illustrated.

There is also a chapter upon using several of these different techniques in one design and a good thorough section on the dyeing process itself. Explanations of the different dyes available and uses of these dyes for different materials are explained. The source of most of these dyes are also given, and this is probably a great help.

I myself think this is an outstanding book and well worth adding to your weaving library.

TITLE: TIE and DYE, as a present day craft.

AUTHOR: Anne Maile.

PUBLISHER: Mills & Boon Ltd.

PRICE: \$6.50 plus 15c postage.

AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ Handweavers.



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**2 HARNESS, 14" TABLE LOOM.** Very well made and easy to set up and weave upon. Complete instructions and planned projects included. Includes 15 flat steel heddles per inch, removable beater, sley hook, clamp, 2 flat hardwood shuttles. \$29.95 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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**15 COLORS IN HOMESPUN WOOL YARN.** A good single ply wool yarn for warp or weft. 3600 yards per lb. Free sample sheet upon request. \$6.80 per lb. Available on ½ lb. spools. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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**NATURAL FLAKE COTTON WITH SILVER TWIST.** This is a nice quality cotton with a silver metallic twist, and would be excellent for use in drapes, upholstery, mats, and other items. It is available on ½ lb. spools, at \$2.80 per lb., or \$1.40 per ½ lb. spool. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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**HEAVY, 2 PLY SILKS WITH BROWN AND BLACK INJECTED FLECKS.** We have 3 different colors available in this silk which can be used for warp or weft. It has 1350 yards per lb. It is available in natural with brown flecks, natural with black flecks, or natural with black and brown flecks. \$4.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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**HEAVY, NATURAL, 14 CORD LINEN.** A superior quality linen, available on 1 lb. tubes. \$2.40 per lb. and excellent for those heavy mats that you want to lie flat. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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**7" OVAL, BAMBOO RING WITH 12 Small Brass Rings,** for bag handles. These are nicely made oval rings, and are very popular for all types of bags at present. \$1.25 plus 10c postage. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

**WARP AND WEFT BINDERS.** These binders are a hard cover with the name printed on one cover, and three rings for easy addition of the individual issues. They are \$1.50 a set plus 10c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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**7/1 BLEACHED THIRSTY LINEN.** This is an excellent bleached white linen for use as weft in towels. Very, very absorbent and this is imported from Scotland. It has 2100 yards per pound, and is reasonable in price at \$2.40 per lb. It comes on tubes of about 1½ lbs. each. Use as weft on a 20/2 bleached white linen or ramie. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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**9 COLORS IN 6/2 SPUN DOUPLICATION SILK.** This is an excellent douppioni silk for warp or weft. It has 5,000 yards per lb., and comes on approximately one pound cones. Price is \$7.00 per lb., or \$2.00 per 4 oz. spool. The colors available are Blush Pink, Dark Turquoise, Antique Gold, Just Dark Brown, Kingly Royal Blue, Light Aqua Blue, Glacier Blue, Bleached White, California Gold, and Fuchsia. Available from: Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.  
Free samples of 6/2 silks upon request.

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**COLORS IN 20/2 RAMIE TO BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY.** It will be available in natural, bleached white, aqua blue, aqua green, light pink, turquoise, lemon yellow, and antique gold. It will be available on 1 lb. cones, and will be about \$5.00 per lb. Free samples will be sent upon request. It will be similar to Knox Linens, and is the best quality Ramie available. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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**UNDULATING WEFT EFFECTS:** This is an interesting study of honeycomb weaves, and is well presented and worth while. Most of it is for the 4 harness weaver and a wonderful study of this subject. Price is \$4.00 plus 10c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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