

warp and weft

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Sept., 1964

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Editor: Russell E. Groff,

Assistant Editor: Robin Groff.

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SEPTEMBER, 1964

A Word from the Editor

Another summer vacation period from Warp and Weft has swiftly flown by. It has been a busy one for us, as we have woven three different samples for future Warp and Weft issues, and also, we have in progress four different projects for our multiple harness bulletin, Drafts and Designs.

We have been busy in many other ways also.

One of the ways we have kept busy was to put in a new book case for display of our some 100 to 150 different weaving books that we stock for sale to our customers. This was quite a job, and is a great improvement in the appearance inside our shop.

Also, there have been many, many new and different threads come in, and they have been carefully unpacked and stored upstairs in the mezzanine of our shop.

Janice had a wonderful summer, going to church camp one week, and then going to a private camp for two weeks. Robin has been busy helping out at the shop, canning cherries, making jelly and preserves, and with guests. Also, included in all of these activities was a short 4 day camping trip to Odell Lake here in Oregon.

Also, during this summer, our Portland Handweavers Guild has been busy working on plans for the weaving conference that we will hold in Portland, Oregon, next May 22nd and 23rd, 1965 at the Multnomah Hotel. We are inviting guilds from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia

Page 2

to participate and have a booth at the conference. To date, about 8 to 10 commercial yarn, book and weaving supply houses had indicated that they would like to have booths at this conference.

Another great accomplishment to us was the completion of the job of mailing out in all some 2,000 to 3,000 catalogues to our mailing list. We also kept busy making up some 1500 sample sheets of our new mercerized colored ramie, and other sample sheets, and trying to straighten up some 150 shelves which we use for storage of yarns.

You can see it has been a busy summer, but once again we are looking forward to the beginning of our fall activities, which keep us hopping. See you next month.

Russell E. Groff, Editor.

This Month's Cover

The cover this month is just a small portion of a very clever display of handwoven fabrics by the Mount Lassen Weavers Guild. This was displayed at the last Northern California Handweavers Conference.

Let me tell you about it.

First of all, the guild had a booth in a U shape, 10 feet wide and 10 feet deep. They decided to cover all of the walls of this booth with lengths of handwoven yardages of different kinds, keeping in mind the blending of colors, textures and patterns.

Then in the exact center of their exhibit was this "Collage" which they made of small pieces of all of the different fabrics which were used to cover the three walls of this booth. The collage was extremely well done, and the yardages were all effective, and I thought this was one of the most striking booths in this particular conference.

The Mount Lassen Weavers guild is made up of a group of weavers from all over Northeastern California, near Mt. Lassen.

Some of the members live as much as 75, 100, and 200 miles from the other members, and because of the snow, they are often unable to meet in the winter. Yet, they always come up with a clever display at the conferences, and seem to be composed of a group

of very clever weavers. I had the privilege of attending a one week workshop they had several years ago, and it was quite inspiring in work accomplished, in scenery surrounding the work site, and also in weavers who participated in the workshop. This was a self teaching workshop, where each weaver brought a loom threaded with different weaves which they were quite familiar with, and they in turn shared their knowledge with the other members of their guild. I think that this might be an excellent idea for some of the smaller groups to use, to help teach one another. Of course, the person who brought a loom with a special technique explained the technique to the group, and then all of the group tried to weave their own individual sample of that weave, that they might see how it worked. If your guild has a take charge member, I would suggest a workshop like this.

This Month's Book Review

The latest folio by Harriet Tidball is a very outstanding one entitled "CONTEMPORARY TAPESTRY." As most of the presentations of tapestry weaving seem to be very formalized and very method binding, this is a pleasant change from the staid and traditional to contemporary tapestry weaving.

There is an excellent discussion on the proper warp materials, the choice of weft materials, and then illustrations of about 12 different looms used for tapestry from the very simple to the complex. The explanation of each of these looms is quite thorough and interesting.

One page is devoted to the different tapestry tools; and then several pages are devoted to warping the tapestry loom. After these sections, there is the section on weaving tapestry, which seems very clear and concise.

After this comes one of the most important sections of the book, the section which discusses and explains the different tapestry techniques with line drawings of each. This section is very, very, clear and

easy to understand. There is then a section on finishing and hanging tapestries which also is well done.

The next section or the rest of the book is interesting as it tries to tell you how some tapestries are planned and designed. This section also covers some of the contemporary deviations that are used by hobby weavers for different tapestries to fill different needs.

Also included at the end of the monograph are some tapestry lessons presented by Eva Anttila, a very well known Finnish tapestry weaver, who has specialized in this type of weaving since 1920.

Sources of the tapestry frames and looms, dyes, yarns and warp threads are also given.

Title: CONTEMPORARY TAPESTRY.

Author: Harriet Tidball.

Price: \$5.00 plus 10 cents postage.

Available: Robin & Russ Handweavers.

DRAFTS & DESIGNS is a monthly bulletin with a large sample swatch for the multiple harness weaver. It features patterns of 5 to 8 harnesses with one 10 or 12 harness pattern a year also. Subscription is \$4.00 per year, and all subscriptions start with the September issue. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore.

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ICY-GOLD

An interesting "Canvas-Weave" that is excellent for drapery, for place-mats, and fabrics for decorative use.

Threading Draft

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

Warp

The warp thread is a size 20/2 MERCERIZED RAMIE in a color called Citron Lemon. This is the same size and type thread as a 20/2 linen.

Weft

Two threads were used in the weft. One was a 20/2 MERCERIZED RAMIE in a color called Antique Gold.

The second thread used in the weft is an extremely nice quality rayon boucle in natural with a silver twisted around the rayon boucle.

Reed Used

A 12 dent reed was used, and it was double sleyed, 2 ends per dent.

Threads Per Inch

This fabric has 24 threads per inch in the warp.

Treadling Sequence

1. Treadle No. 3, 20/2 Merc. Ramie, Antique Gold
2. Treadle No. 4, 20/2 Merc. Ramie, Antique Gold
3. Treadle No. 1, 20/2 Merc. Ramie, Antique Gold
4. Treadle No. 2, 20/2 Merc. Ramie, Antique Gold
5. Treadle No. 1, 20/2 Merc. Ramie, Antique Gold
6. Treadle No. 4, 20/2 Merc. Ramie, Antique Gold

7. Treadle No. 3, 20/2 Merc. Ramie, Antique Gold
8. Treadle No. 6, Nat. Rayon Boucle with silver
9. Treadle No. 5, Nat. Rayon Boucle with silver
10. Treadle No. 6, Nat. Rayon Boucle with silver

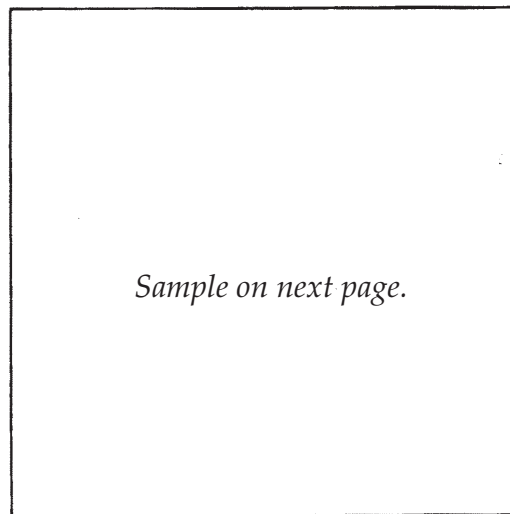
END OF ONE REPEAT, REPEAT OVER & OVER AS DESIRED.

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

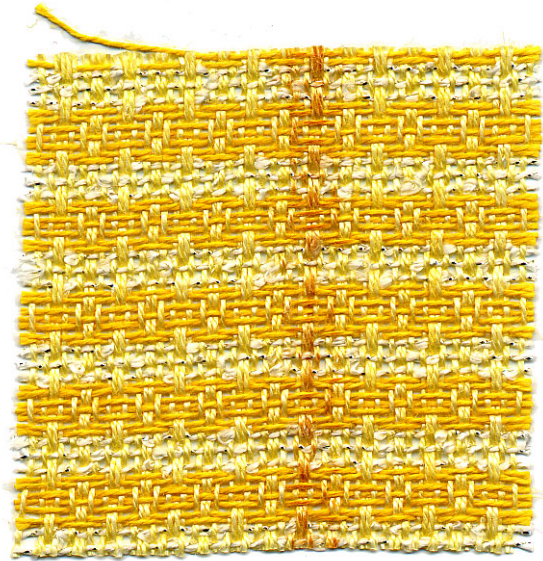
X—tie-up for Counter-balanced looms.
O—tie-up for Jack-type looms.

Sample:



Note About Treadling

By changing your tieup, you could make the treadling much more simple than it is. You could arrange the tie-up so that you would treadle 1,2,3,4,3,2,1 with the antique gold mercerized ramie, and then you could leave the other two the same as they are and treadle 6,5,6 with the rayon boucle with silver twist. This would make your weaving much faster.



More About This Fabric

First of all, this is the first time we have woven anything of the mercerized ramie, and we found it very easy to use, and very pleasing to work with. Also, the thing that I liked is that this mercerized ramie is about \$1.00 per lb. less in cost than regular linens and it is about \$3.00 per lb. less than a mercerized linen would be. Also, it has the same yardage per lb. as does your linen, and I myself feel that it is slightly easier to handle than linen. Also, I found that the mercerized ramie has much less fuzz than the unmercerized, and as a result, is easier to handle.

Also, I think that a light double beat is important in weaving such a fabric. If you beat with your shed open, change to the next treadle and open the shed, and then beat lightly again before throwing the shuttle, you will find that you have a much easier fabric to weave.

Another thing that I wanted to mention is that you will find it easier to weave with either ramie or linen if you do not fill the bobbins completely full. Fill the bobbin about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ full and level, and then wind only in the center of the bobbin, staying away from the ends. As linen, ramie, and mercerized linen and ramie are stiff or crisp, they sometimes tend to unwind off the bobbin and wrap around the pirn or rod which the bobbin is on and thus tangle and cause a delay in the weaving. I find that not filling the bobbin tends to eliminate most of this problem. Of course, if you use something other than a boat shuttle, you will have to make the adjustments to fit the kind of shuttle you use.

I might also mention that when we set-up the loom for the 40" wide material for the Warp and Weft samples, that we also wound an extra 6 yards of warp on the center of the beam, so that we have 6 yards of warp already threaded and drawn in for place-mats, after the wider piece is woven.

We are in the process of weaving these place-mats, and one that we have liked is where we used for weft a heavier size 10/2 linen, and used exactly the same treadling as in our sample. We used this 10/2 linen in natural, and it tones down the citron yel-

low color, and the weft thread is the dominant thread. You should try this in mats, dresser scarves, and in material for covering pillows, for kitchen curtains or drapery, and other decorative uses.

Cost and Facts About Threads Used

The mercerized ramie comes in 8 colors in size 20/2. It is \$5.00 per lb., or \$1.25 per 4 oz. spool. It has 3,000 yards per lb., or 750 yards per 4 oz. spool. We used two of these colors in this sample.

The natural rayon boucle with silver twist has 1900 yards per lb. It comes on cones of about 1½ lbs., or you can also get it on a ½ lb. spool of 950 yards. This is priced at \$2.80 per lb. or \$1.40 per ½ lb. spool.

A FREE SAMPLE SHEET OF THESE TWO ITEMS WILL BE SENT TO YOU UPON YOUR REQUEST.

Cost of the Fabric

We had a 10 yard warp, 40" wide, 24 threads per inch. This took 9600 yards of warp or 3 and 1/5 lbs. of thread for warp, and cost \$16.00. Thus, for the 10 yard warp, the cost was \$1.60 per yard.

From the 10 yard warp, we had slightly over 9 yards of finished fabric. It took exactly 1 lb. of the 20/2 Antique Gold Ramie for weft, and it also took 1 lb. 2 oz. of the rayon boucle with silver twist. Thus the weft cost for 9 yards was \$8.15. This made the weft cost per yard come to 90 to 91c each yard.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$1.60
WEFT COST PER YARD91
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$2.51

Thus, for an outstanding drapery, your cost is \$2.51 per yard for 40" wide material. This is probably as durable and long lasting a material as you would ever find for drapes, so you seem to receive full value for your expenses, to weave such a project.

Selvage For This Sample

I would suggest a selvage for this sample or pattern of 8 threads, threaded 2 per dent in the first 4 dents of your reed. I would suggest that you thread these 8 threads, 3,4,1,2,3,4,1,2. On the other edge, if you end the threading with 3,4,4,3 to balance, I would suggest that your selvage be threaded 2,1,4,3,2,1,4,3.

Definition of "Canvas Weave"

After looking up all I could find out about canvas weaves in about 6 different books, here is what I found out about this type of weave.

First of all, a canvas weave is one where normally the warp threads weave together in pairs. Usually the warp is a 2 ply thread and the weft can be almost anything.

In one book, Oesner and Dale, instead of Canvas Weave, this is called a lace or mock leno weave.

In the Scandinavian countries such a threading was used to make a piece of canvas with openings. This material was then used for the hand-huck weaves, and for certain types of embroidery.

Oesner & Dale mention that this weave is chiefly used for ladies' dress goods. They stated that the lace or open effect is also quite often heightened by making the goods with a plain back of a contrasting color, which shows through the openings in your lace weave. This would be 6 harnesses.

There seem to be two basic units to this weave which consists of 4 threads each. They are 3,4,4,3, for one unit and 2,1,1,2 for the other unit.

Thus, as there seem to be two units of four threads each, this type of pattern could also be written out on a profile draft if desired, and of course, you could repeat each unit as often as desired.

It was also mentioned that this lacy effect is quite often heightened or emphasized by having skips in your reed between units of the canvas weave.

You can also make many interesting 6 and 8 harness canvas weaves.

One book mentioned that the warp and weft in this is sometimes a combination of cotton and wool in the warp and cotton and wool in the weft. Then, the cotton is carbonized, which removes the cotton from the fabric, leaving an all lace, wool fabric.

I personally think that this is one group or class of weaves which should be used more by handweavers, and we hope that this will stimulate some interest in this type of weave.

I might also mention that we have another sample in progress right now for Warp and Weft, which is also a canvas weave threading and an entirely different effect is achieved. If we can finish it soon, we will probably use it in the October or November issue of Warp and Weft, that you might compare the two and see how the change of color in warp and weft is most effective in this type of weave.



"Face it, baby. You don't know the warp from the woof."

After reviewing a monograph on "Contemporary Tapestry" this month, we thought that you might enjoy this cartoon which recently appeared in one of our national magazines.

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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.

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The Exciting Book, "ADVENTURES IN STITCHES" is a must for the hand-weaver who likes to combine hand-weaving and stitchery. Complete directions for many, many stitches, extremely well illustrated, with many finished projects shown. Price is \$7.50 plus 20c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

TWO BEAUTIFUL, HEAVY, COLORED SILKS, are the 2 new colors in 1½/2 spun douppioni silk that have 1200 yards per lb. One color is a brassy green with black flecks and the other is rich turquoise with black flecks. Two ply, it can be used for warp or weft, and is reasonably priced at \$4.80 per lb., on 1 lb. cones. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

colors IN LOOP MOHAIR FROM HOLLAND. This is a heavy loop mohair, and can be used for knitting or weaving. Has about 600 yards per lb. It is \$4.00 per lb., and just limited amounts of each color are available. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore.

THE SETTS OF THE SCOTTISH TARTANS by Donald C. Stewart has just come in from Scotland. This outstanding book on tartans has the actual thread count and color gamps of some 260 different tartans, and a little information about the source and history of each. Price is \$13.25, and is a wonderful collection to the library of the serious weaver. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

WARP AND WEFT BINDERS: A 3 ring type binder is available and is printed with Warp & Weft on the cover. It is \$1.50 plus 10c postage. Will hold about 2 to 3 years of Warp and Weft issues. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

NAT. SPIRAL TWIST RAYON BOUCLE WITH SILVER. This is the same yarn that was so popular in the past with the unusual silver twist. On approximately 1¼ lb. tubes, it is the same price of \$2.80 per lb., and it is also available in black with silver twist. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

The Book, "THE JOY OF HANDWEAVING," by Osma Gallinger Tod is now available. This is the revised reprint of her earlier book and has been improved considerably. Price is \$7.95 plus 20c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

LOOP MOHAIR IN 7 BEAUTIFUL COLORS. This nice quality loop mohair has 1250 yards per lb., and comes in 7 colors. It is on cones of about 1 lb. each. Price is \$6.80 per lb. plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

6 COLORS OF 8 CUT RAYON CHENILLE. We also have a few colors in 12 cut rayon chenille. This is all on ½ lb. spools, and the colors are quite appealing. Price is \$3.50 per lb. and this chenille is on ½ lb. cones. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

NAVAJO WEAVING TODAY: An interesting little booklet with an explanation of the Navajo weaving in different parts of the country, and an explanation of where certain types are made, and explanations of the patterns used. Quite outstanding and interesting and priced reasonably at \$1.25. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

TURQUOISE SILK WITH BLACK FLECKS. This is a beautiful 2 ply, heavy, douppioni silk with 1200 yards per lb. Can be used for warp or weft. Price is \$4.80 per lb. on approximate one pound cones. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

CITRON CHARTREUSE WITH BLACK FLECKS. This silk is a heavy, 2 ply, chartreuse silk, with black flecks. It is also the same size as the turquoise with black. Can be used for either warp or weft. Has 1200 yards per lb., and comes on approximate one pound cones. Free samples of these two upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

25/2 LINEN IN NATURAL. This is slightly soiled on the outside of the tube, but it is a nice quality yarn at about ½ of what it normally would cost at \$2.40 per lb. On approximately 1½ lb. tubes. Superior quality, and has 3750 yards per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

FINE RAYON BOUCLE IN HEATHER GRAY: This is a close-out fine rayon boucle with 7300 yards per lb. It originally sold at \$3.50 per lb., and we are closing it out at 80c per lb. while it lasts. Light grey with sort of white flecks. A wonderful accent in all types of suiting, coat material, drapes and upholstery. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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