



warp and weft

Vol. XX, No. 5

May, 1967

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.

Vol. XX, No. 5

May 1967

A Word from the Editor:

This is being written before I leave on the trip to the British Isles and Europe but when you receive it, we will be either in London, England or at a weaving workshop in Banbury, England. While I'm sitting here writing this, I'm mentally counting the days until I leave on this trip, while I know that Robin is dreading that time, as she will be running the shop by herself.

Surely am looking forward to this trip with a great deal of anticipation, and hope that I'm able to do what I want to, and that is find sources of various types of yarns that we can no longer get here in the U.S., or which are constantly available in some of the various countries of Europe.

We have had many suggestions from the readers of Warp and Weft, about places to visit, persons to try and get acquainted with and other such suggestions. I do appreciate these very much, and you can imagine how much more interesting this will make my trip if I can do this.

We hope that you will enjoy this Month's sample, and the June issue also, as these are both woven long before the usual time for each issue. We might have to send these out earlier than usual also, so we hope that we will be back on regular schedule starting with the September issue.

We have just received a shipment of some interesting yarn, somewhat similar to one we had several years ago. It is a jute and spun viscose combination in a very, very heavy boucle with about 350 to 400 yards per lb. It is available in some

9 different colors, and I purchased this as there always seems a need for extra heavy threads for mats. At first, thought we were going to ask \$4.00 per lb. for it, but discovered an error in the billings, so will have it at \$3.50 per lb., or \$1.00 per 4 oz. spool. It is so heavy that we cannot wind it on our regular winding machine, so have to wind it off onto cardboard spools with end caps on our regular bobbin winder.

And, we must mention that the different colors in the wool tweed yarns made of New Zealand wool have been most popular. We have about 15 colors in this now, and we find that it can be used as warp, as well as for weft, even though it is a single ply thread. Have made several beautiful samples of it, and will continue to experiment, as we will over a period of time, have new and different colors in the shop. This is not an item that we can duplicate the colors over and over again, but most lots that we do purchase have from 50 to 100 lbs. so they will last a good while.

Well, enough of this, and must get back to the sample description.

Russell E. Groff, Editor.

This Month's Cover

The cover photograph this month is a picture of one weaving guild's entry into the Southern California Handweavers conference several years ago. I thought you might like to see how well this guild displayed their samples in a beautiful frame type mounting, which set off their samples most attractively.

I thought this might be an idea for you to use in your individual guild exhibits at the next conference in which your guild participates.

Notice closely and you will see a sea shell at the lower left hand corner of each of the 20 fabric samples, and then the fabrics were woven with the individual's interpretation of the colors and texture of the various sea shells. I do not remember exactly what guild it was that had this presentation, but this was on display at San Diego several years ago.

This Month's Book Review:

This month, we'd like to tell you about a delightful little book which has just recently become available, and it is entitled "COPTIC WEAVES," and is a collection of notes on the pieces of Coptic Textiles in the Museums of the city of Liverpool, England. It was written by Margaret Seagroatt.

I notice that there is a great popularity today in the type of fabric known as a poncho, and from this little book of Coptic weaves, you can see how they can be woven today, and were woven in Egypt for their use and for the use of their rulers in Rome in the years of about 400 A.D. to about 950 A.D.

This is a very, very, interesting little manual explaining how the Copts were weaving communities in Egypt in these long ago years, and giving a most thorough explanation of how all of their fabrics were woven.

There are short sections explaining the textiles, garments, dyes, yarns, techniques, motifs and other pertinent facts of the weaving of that time.

What is more important, is that line drawings are in the book which explain in detail about 15 of the different techniques that were used in the fabrics of that age, and most of these are the tapestry techniques which can also be used in some of today's weavings.

The explanations of the various items listed above are interesting reading, and for a serious weaver, I think this book would be an inspiration.

Then, in the latter section of the book, there are 25 different plates in black and white photographs, with an accompanying explanation of each of these plates, telling of the number of threads per inch, and then with an explanation of the individual designs on each of these plates. This is not a hard bound book, but a type of hard-paper bound book, similar to the paper-backs of today, with the exception that excellent paper is used to show the plates, and explanations, and line drawings.

TITLE: COPTIC WEAVES.

AUTHOR: Margaret Seagroatt.

PRICE: \$2.25 plus 10c postage.

AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ Handweavers.

This Month's Second Project:

The 2nd project this month is a placemat which we will call "SHIMMER."

A 10 dent reed is used, and it is sleyed 2 ends per dent, or 20 threads per inch.

Threading Draft:

4	L	W	L	W	W	W
3	B	O	X	X	O	O
2	L	W	W	L	W	W
1	X	X	O	B	O	O

Key To Threads In The Warp:

W—White 20/2 Mercerized Ramie.

X—16/6 heavy white ramie, unmercerized.

L—20/2 bleached white linen.

O—16/2 bleached white, unmercerized ramie.

B—white rayon boucle.

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.

Warp:

There are 5 different threads in the warp, as listed herewith.

W—20/2 Merc. White Ramie.

X—16/6 heavy, 6 ply white ramie.

L—20/2 bleached white linen.

O—16/2 blea. white, unmercerized Ramie.

B—white rayon boucle.

Weft:

There are 4 different threads used in the weft, as listed herewith.

W—white 20/2 mercerized ramie.

O—16/2 white ramie wrapped with a supported silver metallic 1/64."

B—white rayon boucle.

(Continued on Page 6)

BLUSH PINK & NATURAL IN A RIB-LACE

An interesting weave that would be excellent for draperies, and which I feel would make excellent place-mats and table linens.

Threading Draft:

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

Key To Threads In The Warp:

X—10/2 Merc. Ramie, Eggshell Natural.

O—20/2 Merc. Ramie, Blush Pink.

Warp Threads:

Two different ramie threads were used in the warp. They were a 10/2 natural eggshell color in a mercerized ramie, and a 20/2 mercerized ramie in a blush pink color.

Weft Threads:

The same two threads that were used in the warp, were also used as weft threads.

Reed Used:

A 10 dent reed was used, with a special sleying of the reed as listed below.

Sleying Of The Ten Dent Reed

1st dent—2 thds. 10/2 eggshell natural

2nd dent—2 thds. 10/2 eggshell natural

3rd dent—1 thd. 10/2 eggshell natural

4th dent—2 thds. 10/2 eggshell natural

5th dent—2 thds. 10/2 eggshell natural

6th dent—empty, skip this dent

7th dent—3 thds. 20/2 blush pink

8th dent—3 thds. 20/2 blush pink

9th dent—3 thds. 20/2 blush pink

10th dent—empty, skip this dent

END OF ONE PATTERN REPEAT. Repeat

over and over for the full width of the loom.

Threads Per Inch

Because of the unusual sleying of the

reed, we have an average of 18 threads per inch in the warp.

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:



Treading Sequence:

1. Treadle No. 1, 10/2 eggshell natural
2. Treadle No. 2, 10/2 eggshell natural
3. Treadle No. 1, 10/2 eggshell natural
4. Treadle No. 2, 10/2 eggshell natural
5. Treadle No. 6, 20/2 blush pink
6. Treadle No. 2, 10/2 eggshell natural
7. Treadle No. 1, 10/2 eggshell natural
8. Treadle No. 2, 10/2 eggshell natural
9. Treadle No. 1, 10/2 eggshell natural
10. Treadle No. 5, 20/2 blush pink
11. Treadle No. 6, 20/2 blush pink
12. Treadle No. 5, 20/2 blush pink
13. Treadle No. 6, 20/2 blush pink
14. Treadle No. 5, 20/2 blush pink

END OF ONE PATTERN REPEAT. REPEAT OVER AND OVER.

More About This Fabric:

First of all, I want to mention that in this pattern, you should use a firm, even, tight, double beat.

Also, I notice a tremendous difference

in how closely the weft thread beats up in a 40" width, and a 14" width for placemats.

In the 40" width, it is much more open and lacy, and thus, I think this would be an excellent pattern for drapes. However, in the 14" width, as it does beat up much tighter, you will find it is excellent for mats. One more thing that I have not mentioned as often as I should, is that the looser you have your tension when weaving, usually the tighter you can pack in your weft thread. So, if you use this pattern for a tablecloth, weave with a loose tension, beat a little tighter than usual, and as a result, you should have a good table cloth.

Also, I would think that this would be beautiful drapery material in all white with a glossy and shiny rib, and then a dull, unmercerized area in between the ribs. Of course, you notice in our sample that the pink threads make the ribs, and the eggshell natural dominate in the areas in between the ribs.

This is a simple and easy pattern to thread, and I do think that much of it's success lies in the sleying of the reed. You could make this even different on the same set-up, by sleying 4 ends per dent in the places in this set-up, where we had either 2 or 3 threads per dent. And I can picture this sample woven in a wide variety of threads such as a combination of cotton and linen, in textured and smooth, and in shiny and dull threads. I think this is one pattern that many, many persons would enjoy experimenting with.

Alternate Treadlings:

While working out this sample on a warp, 10" wide on the loom, I worked out two other treadlings that I thought were quite interesting, so I will give these here for you to experiment with.

First Alternate Treading:

1. Treadle No. 1, 10/2 eggshell natural
2. Treadle No. 2, 10/2 eggshell natural
3. Treadle No. 1, 10/2 eggshell natural
4. Treadle No. 2, 10/2 eggshell natural
5. Treadle No. 3, 10/2 eggshell natural
6. Treadle No. 2, 10/2 eggshell natural
7. Treadle No. 1, 10/2 eggshell natural
8. Treadle No. 2, 10/2 eggshell natural
9. Treadle No. 1, 10/2 eggshell natural

10. Treadle No. 5, 20/2 blush pink
 11. Treadle No. 6, 20/2 blush pink
 12. Treadle No. 5, 20/2 blush pink
- END OF PATTERN REPEAT. REPEAT OVER AND OVER AS DESIRED.

Second Alternate Treading:

1. Treadle No. 1, 10/2 eggshell natural
 2. Treadle No. 4, 10/2 eggshell natural
 3. Treadle No. 1, 10/2 eggshell natural
 4. Treadle No. 2, 20/2 blush pink
 5. Treadle No. 3, 20/2 blush pink
 6. Treadle No. 2, 20/2 blush pink
 7. Treadle No. 3, 20/2 blush pink
 8. Treadle No. 2, 20/2 blush pink
 9. Treadle No. 1, 10/2 eggshell natural
 10. Treadle No. 4, 10/2 eggshell natural
 11. Treadle No. 1, 10/2 eggshell natural
 12. Treadle No. 5, 20/2 blush pink
 13. Treadle No. 6, 20/2 blush pink
 14. Treadle No. 5, 20/2 blush pink
- END OF PATTERN REPEAT. REPEAT OVER AND OVER AS DESIRED.

Cost Of The Threads Used:

The mercerized ramie is made from ramie that is grown in Florida, shipped to Japan, spun, dyed, and mercerized, and then shipped back to the U.S.

In the 20/2 mercerized ramie, we have mercerized natural, and mercerized white, and 8 colors. It comes on 1 lb. cones, and is \$5.00 per lb., which is less than most linens in the same size and colors by about \$1.00 per lb.

The size 10/2 ramie, comes only in the mercerized eggshell natural, and the mercerized, bleached white. At present the natural is \$3.80 per lb., and the white is \$4.00 per lb. This size comes on 1 lb. cones only.

In the 20/2, we quite often wind off 4 oz. spools for our customers. This has 750 yards per 4 oz. spool, and is \$1.25 per 4 oz. spool.

Cost Of The Fabric, 40" Wide

In a 10 yard warp, we used 2 lbs. 7 oz. of the eggshell natural, mercerized ramie, and 1 lb. 3½ oz. of the 20/2 mercerized blush pink. Thus, the total warp cost for 10 yards was \$15.47 or a total of \$1.58 per yard.

In the weft, we had 8 yards and 30" of finished material, when measured several days after it was taken off the

loom. For this 8 and 5/6 yards, it took 3 lbs. of 10/2 eggshell natural, and it took 1 lb. 2½ oz. of the 20/2 blush pink. Thus the total weft cost for 8-5/6 yards comes to \$20.18. Thus, the weft cost per yard is \$2.29 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD, 40"	
WIDE	\$1.58
WEFT COST PER YARD	\$2.29
<hr/>	
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$3.87

Plan For Place-Mats

1. Repeat pattern 14 times.....252 thds.
2. Repeat 1st 9 threads to
balance the pattern..... 09 thds.

WIDTH OF PLACE-MATS, 14½"	261 thds.
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In these place-mats, you can use any of the three different treading variations that we have given, and perhaps if you do a little experimenting yourself, you might come up with some variations that you like better than ours. TRY IT AND SEE.

This Month's Second Project:

(Continued from Page 3)

1. Treadle No. 6, 20/2 Merc. White Ramie
 2. Treadle No. 4, 16/2 ramie, white wound with 1/64 supported silver metallic.
 3. Treadle No. 6, 20/2 Merc. White Ramie
 4. Treadle No. 5, 20/2 Merc. White Ramie
 5. Treadle No. 2, white rayon boucle
 6. Treadle No. 5, 20/2 Merc. White Ramie
- END OF ONE PATTERN REPEAT. Repeat over and over as desired.

More About These Place-Mats:

Use a firm, even double beat on these for more body and durability in the place mats.

There are 3 shuttles used in the weft, but as there is no long skip without using one of these shuttles, you can just ignore the loop threads on the selvage edge. These should not present any problem.

With the use of a 10/ dent reed, you should have no problems with the slewing or weaving of this pattern.

These should be quite rich looking and

pleasing mats when finished, so there are no weaving troubles that I can see.

Also, note that all of the threads used in the warp or weft with the exception of the rayon boucle and the supported silver metallic are available on 4 oz. spools. The rayon boucle and supported silver are available on ½ lb. spools.

If you want to make these mats heavier, with more body, then use the 10/2 mercerized white ramie in the weft in place of the 20/2. Or you could even use the heavier 16/2 bleached white ramie in the weft instead of 10/2 or 10/2.

Cost Of Threads

Used In These Mats

The 20/2 Mercerized, Bleached White Ramie is available on 1 lb. spools at \$5.00 per lb., or on 4 oz. tubes at \$1.25 per 4 oz. tube. There are 3,000 yards per lb., or \$7.50 yards per 4 oz. tube.

The 16/6 heavy, 6 ply bleached white ramie is \$4.00 per lb., or \$1.00 per 4 oz. tube. It has 800 yards per pound, or 200 yards per 4 oz. tube.

The 20/2 bleached white linen comes on 1 lb. cones, with 3,000 yards per lb., and sells for \$5.10 per lb. It is also available on 2 oz. tubes at 68c per 2 oz. tube. Approx. 375 yds. per 2 oz. tube.

The 16/2 bleached white ramie has 2400 yards per lb., comes on approximately 1 lb. tubes at \$5.00 per lb. It is also available on 4 oz. tubes with 600 yards per tube, at \$1.25 per 4 oz.

The white rayon boucle comes on ½ lb. tubes with 800 yards per ½ lb. spool. The price on these is \$1.75 per ½ lb. spool.

In the weft, we used 2 of the threads used in the warp. The only addition in the weft is a 1/64" supported silver metallic, which is wrapped with the 16/2 white ramie, so that both of these act as one thread. This metallic comes on ½ lb. spool. It is \$2.50 per ½ lb. spool, but this price is not always constant, and sometime in the future, we anticipate that it will have to sell for about \$4.50 or \$5.00 per ½ lb. spool. While we can get the small close-out lots of this, it will sell at the \$2.50 price.

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These are all studies on the various subjects, and seem quite popular and well worth while. Postage is 10c extra on each, and if you order 3 or more, we will pay postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SPINNING MANUALS AVAILABLE ARE THESE FOUR

Since there is a great revival of interest in spinning we have been stocking these 4 manuals on hand-spinning.

- YOUR HANDSPINNING, by Davenport \$3.95
THE MAGIC OF SPINNING, Channing \$1.60
A GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL SPINNING \$1.00
COMPLETE GUIDE TO HAND-
SPINNING \$1.65

The most thorough of all of these is of course the Davenport one, which has been republished twice in the last two years. All in stock. Postage extra and is 10c per volume on any of these above. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

YARN DYEING MANUALS AVAILABLE ARE THESE LISTED BELOW

LICHENS FOR VEGETABLE DYEING by Eileen Bolton. Price is \$3.50 plus 15c pp.

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ed by Department of the Interior. Price is \$1.50 plus 10c pp.

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HEAVY JUTE AND SPUN

SPUN VISCOSE BOUCLE

This is extremely heavy yarn available in 9 colors with about 350 to 400 yards per lb. Most cones are about 1½ lbs. each, and the price is \$3.50 per lb. We can also wind off 4 oz. spools for you, but these are \$1.00 per 4 oz. spool. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

WOOD SLATS

14½" long. A new low price is available in these. There are 165 to 175 slats per bundle and these are \$1.50. Available in oak, Mahogany, Cherry and Oregon Fir. These slats make excellent place mats, lampshades, covers for wastebaskets, etc. Postage is about 20c per bundle. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NATURAL NUB RAYON

WITH GOLD & SILVER TWIST

This is a variegated gold & silver metallic twisted around a natural nub rayon. Nice for mats, drapes, etc. Has about 1600 yards per lb. Comes on 1-¼ lb. tubes. Price is \$3.20 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SPIRAL TWIST GOLD ON

NATURAL RAYON BOUCLE

This is a beautiful yarn, and has been long popular. Not always available. It has spiral gold twist on natural rayon boucle with about 1600 yards per lb. AVAILABLE ON ½ LB. TUBES. Price is \$1.60 per tube. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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WE HAVE two (2) kinds of wool cards available. One we import from Canada is fairly coarse, and are \$6.00 per pair, plus postage. One, we import from Sweden is fairly fine, and a little better made. Price is \$7.00 per pair, plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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