

W A R P a n d W e f t

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April, 1972



warp and weft

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A Word from the Editor:

The sample this month does bring back many memories, as the thirsty linen used to be one of our most popular linens. However, because of rising production costs, and labor costs, eventually the linen business here in the United States was no longer profitable, and thus the many linens from Salem Linen Mills and Davis Cordage Company were eventually discontinued. They were a great loss, as the quality of the linen was excellent, and much of it was grown here in Oregon in the Willamette Valley.

I can remember coming to Oregon on a lecture tour with Marguerite Davison, the author of a *HANDWEAVERS PATTERN BOOK*, and on that trip, we saw many fields of the flax in blossom with the whole field of flax a solid mass of light to medium blue. At that time, we visited the linen mill here in Oregon and watched the linen thread being produced here. I'm sorry to say that it is a thing of the past though now, as quite a few years ago, a bad storm, and a fire resulted in the loss of most of the linen mill and equipment therein. Much of the pioneering in the handweaving end of this business was done by one of the weaving instructors at Oregon State University, Joan Patterson, and it was she who took Marguerite Davison and I to visit the linen mill. That was a long, long time ago, and there have been many, many changes in our business since then.

Enough of reminiscing, and back to the present. Our last order that I made last summer has finally come in, and we have received all the yarns that I did order on the trip, except for a lot of 600 lbs. of a three ply natural tussah silk, which we have just heard, is on the way to us, and should be in here sometime soon. This will be a beautiful thread to work with, as it is a textured or almost a slubby

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three ply silk that should be fun to work with. And as silk is so scarce in this country now, it will be pleasing to have this nice quality silk thread in stock.

One of the threads that just came in is one that intrigues me, and which I want to experiment with. It is a natural black color of a combination of Alpaca, Mohair and Wool. It is 35% Alpaca, 40% Mohair, and 25% wool, and I want to do some experimenting with it for sport coat material.

And another thread that just came in, and which we haven't had a chance to experiment with is a light tan, single ply, fine camel hair yarn, which can be used for warp or weft. And really, I'd like to try a combination of these two in a fabric, so don't be surprised if you don't see them in a fabric in Warp and Weft soon.

The business has grown, as many of you know, and the transition or growth period has been a trying one. It has resulted in my being irregular in getting out the monthly issues of Warp and Weft, but I truly do feel that most of the problems of growing are about solved, and that is the first thing I want to improve upon. To try and get a uniform and regular mailing date, instead of being so haphazard as I seem to have been this past year. I hope that all of you do bear with me in this situation, and I feel that it will be solved by the first issue in the fall, the September issue. Meanwhile, your editor has been trying to do too much, and I've spread myself pretty thin, and you know the results.

I'm just back from the Southern California Handweavers Conference in Palm Springs, and it was a very nice conference. I myself, enjoyed a thorough check of all of the fabrics on display in the guild booths, and eventually, I hope to have a few pictures on the cover of Warp and Weft. Unfortunately, I did lose the first roll of film that I took, so I cannot show you some of the details that I had hoped to. When packing up my booth, I believe that I inadvertently threw away a box which had this roll of film in it, and at the time I didn't realize it.

Also, in two weeks, I'll be attending the Northern California Handweavers Conference, so I hope to take some more pictures there for covers for Warp and Weft.

Enough chatter this time, and back to the sample.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Cover Photograph

This month's cover photograph does feature two most beautiful wall hangings. They both were woven by Mrs. Frederick (Nyna) Grill, of Portland, Oregon.

Notice how sheer these two hangings are. If I remember correctly, the warp was a fine 25/1 natural grey linen that we had here for several years in the shop. I do not know for sure what she used for the inlay patterns in these, but believe that it was mostly wool thread.

These two hangings were woven with a special place in mind, and I think that they are each in a door. There, they allow the light to come through and show off the beautiful hangings, and yet they stop those from outside being able to see in.

Nyna Grill has woven for many years at the Arts and Crafts society weaving classes in Portland, and is now, I believe, an assistant teacher to the weaving instructor, Mrs. Laurie Herrick. I was so taken with these when I saw them that I asked Mrs. Grill if she would have a picture of them taken so that we could share her efforts with the subscribers of Warp and Weft.

Also, the picture we used as a cover on the February, 1972 issue was another piece woven by this talented weaver.

This Month's Second Project

For our second project, we want to give you the plans for another woven belt, one of the items so popular today.

A 10-dent reed is used, and it was sleyed four ends per dent.

WARP:

18/2 worsted in five colors, and in sequence, you have 16 threads each of these colors from the left to the center of the belt, and from the center to the right, you reverse and have the same five colors, 16 threads of each color.

- A. 16 threads of #12, Light Avocado
- B. 16 threads of #25, Olive Green
- C. 16 threads of #30, Hot Mustard
- D. 16 threads of #2, Dark Avocado
- E. 16 threads of #5, Forrest Green
- E. 16 threads of #5, Forrest Green
- D. 16 threads of #2 Dark Avocado.
- C. 16 threads of #30, Hot Mustard

B. 16 threads of #25, Olive Green

A. 16 threads of #12, Light Avocado

This is the complete repeat for a 4" width, and you thread one to four for the first 80 threads of A, B, C, D and E. Then at the center, reverse and thread 4, 3, 2, 1 for the 80 threads of E, D, C, B and A. This gives you two threads together in the exact center, both on #4 harnesses.

Then, to make an interesting ribbed effect in the weft, use a standard tie-up and treadle six shots in each pattern repeat. You want to treadle 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, over and over for the length of the belt. And for weft, I used a fine rug yarn, called ryagarn, in a color #160, a sort of Khaki Drab color.

And for a second belt on the same warp, if you use the same treadling and use color #152, a sort of Hunter or Dark Green, it looks entirely different than the first one.

And on the third belt, I tried a different treadling, treadling 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 6, 5, 6, and repeat over and over. On the third belt, we used a brighter colored ryagarn, color #186. It is almost a chartreuse, but not quite and tends towards the avocado color.

You need approximately two yards of warp for each belt if for a girl, and probably 2½ yards of warp if for a boy. The eight inches of warp on each end is left unwoven, and then after you take them off the loom, you braid in a two braid, eight threads and eight threads, each color braided together, and this gives you an interesting braid. Then at the end of this braid, about four inches long, tie a knot in each 16 threads. The finished woven length for the girl's belt should be about 50" allowing enough for a proper tie, and if for the boy, I would perhaps weave an extra 10 inches.

Remember, the warp we used was 2/18's worsted, and you could also use 2/20's worsted on the same set if you wished.

It takes less than one 3½ oz. skein of the ryagarn for weft in each belt.

And on these belts, you want to use a firm, even, tight, double beat. Because of the sett of 40 threads per inch, the warp tends to stick a little, and if you beat, change the shed, and beat again and then throw the shuttle, you will have no problems.

Continued on Page 6

THIRSTY LINEN TOWELS

Our sample this month is of a fabric that used to be available about 15 years ago, but because the yarns were not available for this length of time, not many of these towels were woven.

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

WARP:

Our warp is a size 10/2 bleached white thirsty linen from Scotland. It comes on about 1 lb. cones and has about 1500 yards per lb.

WEFT:

The weft in our sample is a size 7/2 bleached white thirsty linen. It can be used for either warp or weft, but as I was planning samples for large bath towels, I decided to make our sample a little heavier by using the heavier of our two thirsty linens for weft.

REED USED:

Our reed was an eight dent reed, and it was double sleyed, two ends per dent, or 16 threads per inch.

TREADLING SEQUENCE:

The treadling sequence is exactly the same as is the threading sequence in this sample. There are 18 shots in one complete pattern repeat. Repeat over and over as desired.

Treadle 4, 3, 4, 1, 2, 1, 4, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1. Then repeat over and over.

Also, on a thirsty linen such as this, it is important, I feel, to expose as many of the warp threads and weft threads as you can, and so there are other variations of treadling sequences that you can use. I suggest that you try some experimenting with your different treadle combinations to see what you can come with. You can work out one treadling sequence where you have a small sequence of about six threads which will give you an overall texture and a nice exposure of both warp and weft threads.

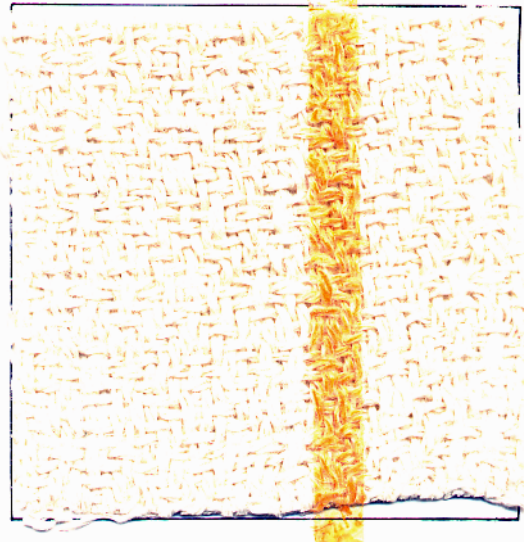
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TIE-UP DRAFT:

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 FABRIC:

Thirsty linen used to be made by the Salem Linen Mills here in Oregon, and it was very popular with the weavers for many years. Then, when they (Salem Linen Mills) went out of the handweaving business for linens, then this thread has not been available since in this weight, for about 15 years. I've had numerous requests over the years for more of this thread, and have been searching on my trips to Europe to try and find this linen again. And, to my great pleasure, last year, I was successful, and was able to have it spun to order for us in Scotland. It just came in several months ago, between dock strikes and this is the first chance I've had to really tell you about it.

We had it spun in the same two sizes as Salem Linen Mills used to make it. It comes in 10/2 with 1500 yards per pound, and 7/2 with 1050 yards per lb. And to me, the greatest pleasure of all, was to be able to get it at quite a reasonable price and to be able to sell it for \$4.00 per lb. This is just 50¢ per lb. more than it was 15 years ago. It comes on approximately 1 lb. tubes, and is easy to handle. Because it has a softer twist than some linens for more absorbency, it does seem to have more lint when you weave it. However, this is a line linen, which is the best quality linen available, and I think it is as good or possibly even better than that manufactured by Salem Linen Mills.

There were no problems in the weaving of this sample. Very few knots, and as a result, it was quite easy to weave.

Even more important, after you wash the finished fabric two or three times, it becomes quite soft, is very absorbent, and is ideal for dish towels, dish cloths, face towels, and also the large man-size bath towels.

For a draft for this thread, I chose one that I felt would bring as much of the warp thread to the surface as it did the weft thread. And as a result, the draft is a combination of what I call a one spot huck, and a rosepath threading draft. Both are used in conjunction with one another.

And if any of you have the old, old copies of Warp and Weft available, you might look in the November, 1951 issue and see the two spot huck weave that I used for a sample featuring the thirsty linen. This was four years before I took over the publication of Warp and Weft, or almost 20 years ago.

You can tell from this, that I'm now getting old and grey in this business, but every bit of it has been rewarding to me, and I've enjoyed it.

Try this thirsty linen, and see how you like it.

Also, there is the possibility that I might somehow be able to get some of this thirsty linen dyed to order, and eventually, if possible, I hope to have it available in about four different colors.

Another thing that I wanted to mention, is that this thirsty linen will work very well in conjunction with the 16/2 Swiss Ramie that we do stock in 21 colors. You can use the 16/2 Ramie for warp at 20 or 24 threads per inch, in a color, and then use either the 7/2 or the 10/2 thirsty linen for weft, and have colored towels, instead of a solid white one. The 16/2 Ramie is even more absorbent than linen is, and it is actually stronger when wet than when dry, so it too, is ideal for use in such towels as these.

In the past there used to be a line of these very nice towels put out by a company which was called "Blockhouse Linens," and they made these towels and sold them in many exclusive shops throughout the country.

The large bath towels were usually about 30" wide, and about 50 to 55" long, and I've used some and found them to be most pleasing and satisfactory as bath towels. And the size for kitchen towels is about 20" x 30" or for a slightly larger one, you will find that 24" x 36" is a good size.

You know the tendency in hand-weaving lately has been more and more towards yardage, and it really is a good feeling to do a project somewhat different, as this one is. If you do try it, I hope that you will enjoy the results as much as I have.

COST OF THE THREADS USED:

1. The 10/2 thirsty linen comes on about 1 lb. tubes, and is \$4.00 per lb., and has approximately 1500 yards per lb.
2. The 7/2 thirsty linen comes on about 1 lb. tubes, and is \$4.00 per pound, and has 1050 yards per lb.

COST OF A LARGE SIZE BATH TOWEL

On a large size towel, about 36" x 54", it takes slightly over 1/2 lb. of linen for warp, and slightly less of the 7/2 for weft. Thus, the cost of one towel, not counting loom waste, etc., would be around \$4.50 to \$5.00 for the extra large size bath towel.

For the 27" x 45" size, it would be about 1/4 less, and on down, according to size.

Second Project (Continued from Page 3)

My belt came out to be about 3 1/4" wide when finished from the 4" wide warp. I just had one of the girls try one of them on, and if you have a 26" waist, the 50 to 52" length

is correct. If you have a larger waist, you must allow for it accordingly.

And there is quite a bit of take-up of the warp, because you are having the warp set so close, and a heavier yarn for the weft.

Another method of design is to make a loop on each shot of your weft. Put a dowel along the edge of your selvage, and go around the dowel with your weft thread and pull tight. Then beat. Then pull out the dowel and put it on the other selvage edge. In this way, you will have an even, uniform, fancy loop, and this in itself will sometimes make an extra nice decorated belt.

As they say on TV, "Try it, you'll like it."



Drawing in Pattern for Towels at Linen Mill

I thought you might be interested in seeing a pattern being drawn in the harnesses at the

linen mill where our thirsty linen is made. Here, they are also preparing to weave towel-
ing on a power loom instead of a hand loom.

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6/4 NATURAL GREY SWISS LINEN

Just in from Switzerland, a new stock of 500 lbs. of this linen. It is on tubes of about 1 lb. 1 oz. each, and is excellent for Macrame, for rug warp in many rugs, and other uses. It is natural grey (quite dark) in color, and is \$4.00 per lb. Has 450 yards per lb. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3 BEAUTIFUL VARIEGATED LOOP MOHAIRS FROM IRELAND STILL AVAILABLE

This is a beautiful heather blend in these three color combinations. One is blue-green, another red-rose, and the third is a darker blue-brown black combination in this large loop mohair. Has about 750 yards per lb. Available on about 9 oz. tubes, and a very reasonable price of \$4.00 per lb. We had 6 colors, but the other 3 colors were smaller lots which sold very quickly. Our most popular thread at present, because of quality and price. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

DANDELION FUZZ

is in stock again. This beautiful brushed mohair from Ireland of light green and silvery grey natural combination has been the most popular of the five colors we had, because of devaluation of the American dollar, it is now \$7.60 per lb., but it has about 1,000 yards per lb. Comes on cones of about 1½ lbs. each, and we can wind off 1/2 lb. tubes for you if you wish. We will have four more colors come in the latter part of April or the first of May. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

CREATIVE CRAFTS WITH WOOL AND FLAX

by Mollie Duncan is in stock. She is the New Zealander who wrote the book, Spin Your Own Wool, and Dye It and Weave It. This is a continuation of this book, and tells of her many uses of her handspun yarns. Price \$4.25 plus 41¢ pp. and ins. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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DYES FROM PLANTS

by Joyce Lloyd has been reprinted in a hard-bound edition. It, too, is \$3.95 per copy plus 21¢ postage. Sold this in the paperback edition for many years, and it is nice to see it in this hard-bound edition. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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by Eirian Short is one of the overlooked Macrame books. Full of photographs, and excellent directions, it has many, many different macrame projects illustrated. Hardbound, it is \$7.95 plus 41¢ postage. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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BOBBIN LACE LINEN IN STOCK

We now have on hand 10 different sizes. 35/2, 40/2, 50/2, 60/2, 70/2, 80/2, 100/2, 110/2, 120/2, and 140/2. Prices are from 60¢ to \$2.95 per spool, depending upon the size of the spools. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BEAUTIFUL HEAVY ENGLISH WOOL BOUCLE

This heavy wool boucle is from Scotland, and has come to us on about 12 oz. tubes. Seems to be very well liked and popular. Price is reasonable for wool boucle in colors at \$4.00 per lb. Colors are not regular stock items, but we have a range of 10 to 15 colors all the time. One of the girls who works for us knitted a beautiful men's scarf out of this, and another one knitted a very nice belt. Many, many other uses. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

CAMEL HAIR YARN, Single ply, Fine.

On about 1 lb. cones, you should be able to use this for warp and weft. Should make nice light weight coat material for women's coats, or men's sport coats. The price \$6.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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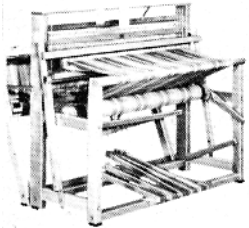
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