



warp and weft

Vol. XXVI, No. 4

April, 1973

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A Word from the Editor

Have you ever been swamped with 1001 things to do, and only 24 hours in the day to do them. That is what it seems like here in the shop of Robin & Russ, as so many things happen.

Our antique dobbie loom from England, 150 years old, arrived, and for three weekends, I worked on assembling it with two other weaving friends. However, I'm sorry to say, there seems to be some pieces missing, so, until I go to England to take that class again, I'm afraid it will sit here, partially assembled, until I can take pictures of the missing parts, and then I can have some made to complete the assembly of this loom.

And, two final shipments of yarn that I ordered last September from England and Scotland have finally arrived. Can you imagine some 40 plus boxes (large ones) of yarn in your basement, and you just don't have room to turn around. This was our problem, and, it has just about been solved. That meant the girls working in the shop had to rearrange many of the shelves to accommodate these new yarns, and some of them had to be packaged in plastic bags, so it was a great amount of work. We are now down to seven boxes yet to open, and at least, we can now walk downstairs and walk around without tripping or crawling over a box of yarn.

You know, I really was lucky on that trip to England last September. The price of wool was going up at that time quite drastically, and so I decided to purchase all the wool yarns I could. Since then, price of raw wool

has now increased 100%, so these yarns that I was able to purchase are extremely good buys in yarns.

Now, after I pay the shipping and duty and amount due on this last large shipment, I can breathe a sigh of relief, until I go overboard in ordering again this summer. I really do hope that I can control myself better, as I did go overboard last September.

Then, sandwiched in between these, was a conference in Richmond, California, that of the Northern California Handweavers. It was a tremendously large conference, with 1100 attending. I was quite busy, and never had time to look around, as I was occupied in my booth there all the time.

And then, on the way home, my car broke down, and so I took a bus home, leaving the broken down car and load of yarns in Corning, California. Then, two weeks later, I went down and retrieved it and the yarns, and just got back a couple of days ago.

And, along with this, we have been working with the cabinet maker, watching progress on our first loom, and trying to iron out all of the problems of production. The first model is about now finished, and we feel that Bill Butler, the excellent cabinet maker, will be able to produce at least one loom a week, after the first one is checked over for any possible defects, or necessary changes.

We hope to put a warp on it, and weave on it, and test it during the coming week, before I leave for two other conventions, one in Vancouver, Canada, and the other in Denver, Colorado. You can see that there is never a dull moment here.

I have also been working out arrangements with English publishers to do two books that were out of print, and most of these details have been ironed out. We will soon have an outstanding little book on bobbin lace, which used to be taught to the girl scouts in England. It is a project book, with 10 bobbin lace patterns, and the complete step by step procedure, and should be quite reasonably priced when it is published.

And the other is the spinning book, which will combine HANDWOOL COMBING, and HANDSPINNING IN EGYPT AND THE SUDAN. We should have both of these in here in two or three months.

We have been waiting to get another one published that was written here in the states, but the author of this has been delaying us, so don't know whether it will materialize or not.

Also, Warp and Weft has been delayed again. We wove 11 yards of fabric for the sample in Warp and Weft, and after it was all finished and woven, I decided that I did not like it, so we will not use it in Warp and Weft. That meant that I had to come up with some new ideas in a hurry, and this sample of an original tartan in this month's issue is one of the ideas that we did put into effect.

Well, enough of this for this time, and back to other portions of Warp and Weft.

This Month's Cover Photograph

This cover is a composite of three pictures from one of the Northern California Handweavers conferences.

As all of you know, we have published a book on card-weaving, and always, it has been in the back of my mind that I should have shown more ways of finishing card-weaving, more ways of using it, and more ways of varying it from the traditional method of weaving and coming up with new ideas. I think that you will see three interesting side-lights in this photograph, first, showing how your warp threads could be wrapped in a card-weaving belt, to finish it properly and make it more distinctive.

The second portion of the photograph shows how card-weaving can be utilized in bell pulls. You could perhaps use this idea for wind-chimes for your home, or for use as a room divider or as a wall hanging.

The third portion shows how you can make your card-weaving more interesting by letting your weft thread hang out on each side, or you can even insert more threads than your normal weft, and beat it tightly, and use it for various novel effects.

Hope that this might inspire you to do a bit of card-weaving, and perhaps change it, and make it more interesting or different, and yet functional.

This Month's Book Review

This month, I want to tell you about a book which has been long in print, but which now has been reprinted in a larger size, and much more convenient size print, so that it is easier

to read.

The book I'm talking about is "THE COMPLETE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NEEDLEWORK, by Th. de Dillmont. Over 1,000,000 copies of this book are in print in the smaller, more expensive edition, and now we have this new edition in larger, easier to read print, at less cost.

It really is almost impossible to tell you of all of the contents in this book, as it is so great and varies so much in scope.

There are sections in this book on Macrame, Tatting, Tapestry Weaving, Linen Work, Mending, Sewing, Lace, Knitting, Applique, Crewel, Embroidery, Needlepoint and Crochet. And each of these major sections are well explained, and some are indeed divided into 10 or 15 different sub-divisions within the major headings.

For instance, the section on Tapestry has 11 different sub-headings, with explanation of all of these sub-headings in clear and easy to understand language.

There are 787 pages in this book, and that is a lot for a book showing techniques of this type.

This is a new paperback edition, which now sells at \$4.95 plus postage and insurance, and over the past 15 to 30 years, I've had many persons refer me to this book, and state that it should be printed in larger, and easier to see text.

This book was originally published in France in French Text, and then it was published in many other countries of the world, in many different languages. It was published by the famous French thread company, DMC corporation to show how their threads can be used in many different ways.

Let me again emphasize that each section this book is so well done, that it goes into complete detail on each of the various subjects it covers, and I feel it is a good reference library for each of the subjects that it covers.

TITLE: THE COMPLETE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NEEDLEWORK

AUTHOR: Therese de Dillmont

PUBLISHER: Running Press, Inc., Phila., Pa.

PRICE: \$4.95 plus 41¢ pp. and ins.

AVAILABLE: From the publishers or from

Robin & Russ Handweavers

THE DRESS TARTAN BLUES

An original tartan designed by Robin & Russ, combining two different weights of wool in a tartan. A four harness twill which is made in the traditional method of weaving tartans, except for the combination of different threads in both the warp and weft.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

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

THREADING DRAFT:

4	X	X	B	G	G	A	A	A	G	G	B	B	O	B	B	G	G	A	A	A	G	G	B	B
3	X	X	B	G	G	A	A	A	G	G	B	B	O	B	B	G	G	A	A	A	G	G	B	B
2	O	B	B	G	G	A	A	A	G	G	B	B	X	X	B	G	G	A	A	A	G	G	B	B
1	O	B	B	G	G	A	A	A	G	G	B	B	X	X	B	G	G	A	A	A	G	G	B	B

Two repeats of the pattern. 46 threads in each repeat.

KEY TO THREADS IN THE WARP

- B — Color #36, Blue Green 2/18 Worsted
- G — Color #21, Horizon Blue 2/18 Worsted
- A — Color #6, Grenadier Blue 2/18 Worsted
- O — Black, English Tweed yarn without flecks
- X — White, English Tweed yarn without flecks

WARP THREADS USED

There were five different colors of thread in the warp. Three of them were the 2/18's worsted in these colors.

- B — Color #36, Blue Green 2/18 Worsted
- G — Color #21, Horizon Blue 2/18 Worsted
- A — Color #6, Grenadier Blue 2/18 Worsted

And, the other two threads used were the English tweed yarns as follows.

- O — Black, English Tweed yarn without colored tweed flecks.
- X — White, English Tweed yarn, without colored tweed flecks.

WEFT THREADS USED

The same five threads were used in the warp, were also used in the weft.

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SAMPLE:



REED USED

A 15 dent reed was used and it was double-sleyed, two ends per dent, except for the black and white homespun tweed yarn, which was one thread per dent.

MORE ABOUT THE PATTERN DRAFT

I might mention that there are 46 threads in one complete pattern repeat. However, we repeated it twice, as on the first repeat, the last threads are on harnesses 1 and 2, and on the second repeat, the last threads are on harnesses 3 and 4. Because of this, I was afraid it might be confusing to persons if we showed only one repeat.

TREADLING DRAFT

As in the threading, if you do two repeats, then it balances the pattern completely, and presents no problems. If you do just one repeat, you will find that colors which were on harnesses 1 and 2, in the second repeat, will appear on 3 and 4. YOU TREADLE THE TWILL THREADING, 1, 2, 3, 4, over and over, and you use the exact same sequence of colors in your treadling, as appears in the threading.

MORE ABOUT THE THREADS USED

The 2/18's worsted has 4800 yards per lb., comes on approximately 1/2 lb. tubes or cones, and it comes in 39 different colors.

The homespun type yarns in black and white, used in this sample, come on cones of 2 to 3 lbs. We will wind off a minimum of 4 oz. of a color if you wish. It has approximately 1800 yards per lb.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC

First of all, because of the two different sizes of thread used, the homespun and the two ply worsted sometimes create problems. The heavier yarn quite often tends to pucker, where they cross one another, and with fine threads and coarse threads combined, it can sometimes present problems.

As yet, we haven't washed and pressed this sample, but we are hoping that when we do, it will eliminate this problem. However, you normally don't know if this is a problem, until you do try to wash and clean the fabric, to see if this end result is the same.

This is more or less the same technique used to make some types of fabrics, the technique of having one thread shrink and thus causing the one that shrinks the least to pucker up. I believe that this is one method of making seersucker and other similar fabrics.

On this sample, you use a light beat, and do not beat too hard. I really feel that a double beat is fine, but they should be quite light in the beat.

We thought it would be fun to try a tartan with different weights or textures in both warp and in the weft. This is one of our results. We are weaving another now on the exact same set-up, but with greatly different contrast in threads and the colors of threads,

and we will show you in a future issue what the same setup with different colors does.

I think that weaving a tartan is one of the most satisfying pieces of weaving you can do. It does require a uniformity in beat to get an even tartan, so that it matches if made up into a fabric, and thus, I think there is great pride in the completion of such a fabric.

There were no major problems in the weaving of this fabric, and it is one that you should enjoy thoroughly.

COST OF THE THREADS

The homespun type tweed yarns in black and white are \$4.80 per lb.

The 2/18's worsteds have just recently undergone tremendous price increases and now sell for \$8.00 per lb., and I understand that when our next shipment comes in, it will go to \$9.60 per lb. However, that will not be for about three to four or perhaps even six months yet.

COST OF THE FABRIC

Our warp was 40" wide, and we had a warp length of 11½ yards. In the warp, it took 13 oz. of both Horizon Blue and Grenadier Blue 2/18 worsted, and 11 oz. of Blue Green. This comes to 2 lbs. and 5 oz. at \$8.00 per lb. or \$18.50. Then besides this, it took 12 oz. of the white and 4 oz. of the black homespun tweed type yarn, or 1 lb. total at \$4.80 per lb. So our total warp cost for 11½ yards was \$23.30, or the warp cost per yard comes to \$2.03 per yard.

In the weft, we had 2" less than 11 yards, so we will call it 11 yards of finished fabric. This took 12 oz. of Grenadier Blue, 11 oz. of Horizon Blue, and 10 oz. of Blue Green 2/18 worsted. Total worsted used in weft was 2 lbs. and 1 oz., at \$8.00 per lb. or \$16.50.

Besides this, we used 12 oz. of the white homespun tweed type yarn and 5 oz. of the black homespun tweed type yarn. This at \$4.80 per lb., cost \$5.10. Thus, the total weft cost for 11 yards of fabric was \$21.60, or the cost per yard was \$1.97 per yard.

TOTAL WARP COST PER YARD, 40" Wide	
.....	\$2.03
WEFT COST PER YARD	\$1.97
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$4.00

Some Loom Name Contest Winners

We were pleased to have about 75 persons respond to our loom name contest, for the loom that we are starting to manufacture.

We are pleased to tell you that we now have a display model available in the shop and that we hope that soon we will have about 10 models available.

The response to the loom contest was so pleasing, that we are sorry that you all cannot be a winner. However, a portion of the name we chose was suggested by three persons, so we have decided to award a \$25.00 gift certificate to each of the three who suggested a portion of the loom name.

The name that we have decided upon for what used to be the Walling loom, is now to be: **THE OREGON TRAIL LOOM**. Three persons suggested the name Oregon, so those three are the winners.

However, we do appreciate the efforts of the many who sent in suggestions and designs, so we have decided that we will send everyone who sent an entry, a copy of our book on Card-weaving, with our compliments.

Our thanks for your help on the contest, and we do appreciate all of the entries, and hope that sometime you might have a chance to see the loom, and perhaps try it out. It will be on permanent display at our shop, and we hope to have one here with a warp on it all the time, for anyone to try who desires to do so.

The three winners are:

1. Richard W. Stevens
1031 Crest Avenue
Pacific Grove, Calif. 93950
2. Mrs. Albert H. Leonard
127 Jefferson Road
Webster Groves, Missouri 63119
3. Herbert E. Fontenot
630 South Second Street
Eunice, Louisiana 70535

We will send a gift certificate to each of these three, and when they decide what it is they would like to have, we will send it to them via prepaid mail.

Projects That We Are Working On At The Robin & Russ Studio

We always are trying to locate new items for the handweavers convenience, or are trying to develop and improve some that are sometimes not available at present, and improve upon those that are available.

In the shop at present, one of these projects is the fact that we are trying to locate and produce a new, medium cost Warp Measurer for those who do sectional warping. We have finally located some nice counters and measuring wheels in Switzerland, and we do hope that within another month or two, we will be able to come up with a new and improved measuring device.

Another item that we have been unable to get delivery upon are ALL PURPOSE BOBBIN WINDERS. As a result, we have worked with a draftsman, and had to have him draw up plans, and now, we do hope to get price quotes on quantity and quality parts, so we can have our own ALL PURPOSE BOBBIN WINDERS made for us. As we have been unable to get delivery from the two suppliers for a period of several months, we do hope that we can come up with something soon, but we do not know if pricewise we can compete or not, so it will be after we get price quotes on all the necessary parts, that we will see if we can produce this item and have it available for immediate delivery.

And, along with our new loom, we are working on a new design for a tension box, similar to that which used to be produced by Bill Walling in North Hollywood, California.

We are also trying to have made to order for us some of the 7" plastic bobbins with end caps, similar to the 4" plastic ones that we have in stock. We did have some (500) made to order and they came from England. The last of these never did arrive, and we have finally made a new contact, and expect to have more of these plastic bobbins in a few months.

We are also hoping to be publishing the book "Dressing the Loom" in a short time, which gives the complete directions and photograph, using a warping machine, as is commonly used in Europe and Sweden.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$5.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

4 COLORS IN THICK COLORFUL ORLON BOUCLE FROM ENGLAND

This thread really is light weight, although fairly thick, and they are beautiful blends of beige, red, lavender, and yellow orange. You must see these to believe them, they are so beautiful. On cones of 12 to 16 oz. each, the price is \$6.80 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2½ LEA SLUB LINEN IN 11 COLORS

Imported from Scotland, these 11 colors are both sun-fast and wash-fast, and this slub linen is excellent in table linens, in upholstery, bag material and the like. 750 yards per lb., and it is almost impossible to find slub linens in this country anymore. We have it in natural at \$4.00 per lb., bleached white, at \$4.80 per lb., and colors at \$5.60 per lb. On about 1 lb. tubes. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/10's WORSTED YARNS FROM ENGLAND

These are some odd lots that we purchased with 5 to 20 lbs. of a color. There are 14 colors on hand, and it seems to be a beautiful yarn. A good price today, at \$4.00 per lb., for this smooth beautiful yarn. It should have about 2800 yards per lb. Remember, limited amounts of some of the colors. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5 FLAKE RAYONS OR SLUB RAYONS

The colors are bright red, orange red, hunter green, dark brown, and orange rust. It is \$3.50 per lb., and is still another import from England. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THE PRIMARY STRUCTURE OF FABRICS

By Emery, is an outstanding book for the technical weaver. Outstanding pictures and text, and details. Considered in the class of the book on Textiles of Ancient Peru. Price is \$20.00 plus pp and ins. for this large book. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

CARDED WOOL TOPS IN 20 COLORS

The beautiful quality wool in these is from Switzerland and from England. It is ready to spin, to weave with, to put in pillows, and a multitude of uses. Comes in approximately 1 lb. bags, and the price is \$4.80 per lb. while it lasts. Our next shipment will be much higher, because of the tremendous increase in price of wool. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

PINK SUPPORTED LUREX WITH SUPPORTING PINK THREAD

This very nice quality lurex comes on 2 oz. tubes, at \$1.50 per tube. This is the 1/64 size, and the pink supporting thread makes it very attractive. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

46 COLORS IN ENGLISH TAPESTRY AND RUG WOOL

Just in, this comes on 4 oz. tubes of 175 yards per tube, and is \$1.75 per tube. Beautiful colors, an excellent for rya, and flossa rugs, for use in tapestry and wall hangings, and excellent weft in bag material, and good for overshop patterns in large bold styles. We've prepared a new sample sheet of these colors. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

LARGE LOOP WOOL IN BLEACHED WHITE AND IN NATURAL

It has been hard to find this, but I located a lot in England of about 200 lbs. and we had some bleached, and the rest left in the natural. Price is \$6.80 per lb., and this is a beautiful yarn, and has a multitude of uses. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

WOOL BOUCLES FROM ENGLAND IN 6 RICH COLORS

This is an outstanding buy at \$4.00 per lb., and these yarns come on about 8 to 10 oz. tubes. Colors are Fuschia, Magenta, Forest Green, Burma Gold, Burnt Orange, and a rich Aqua Blue. Also, believe that we have several other colors unopened yet. You will find that wool of this type is now selling at anywhere from \$8.00 to \$15.00 per lb. or more. OUR PRICE \$4.00 PER LB. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

8/5 LINEN RUG WARP

This comes on approximately 8 to 10 oz. tubes, and just came in from Sweden. Price is \$4.80 per lb., and it has 450 yards per lb. It is excellent for warp or weft. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THREE FLAKE WOOLS FROM ENGLAND

Part of our 42 cartons that just came in, this flake wool varies from thick to thin, without any heavy nubs. Three colors unpacked so far are celery green, old gold, and a light orange color. This should be excellent in suiting, coat, upholstery, and drapery. \$4.00 per lb. and about 50 lbs. of each color. I believe we will have one or two more colors when all boxes are unpacked. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

NATURAL RYAGARN AND IRAGARN

On 1/2 lb. cones. This beautiful wool yarn is made in England normally for companies in Sweden for use in their famous rya and flossa rugs. We have it in the natural, on 1/2 lb. cones at \$5.60 per lb. Makes the most beautiful flossa and rya rugs, and has many, many other uses. Fairly heavy, the ryagarn has 550 yards per lb., and the iragarn has 275 yards per lb. Can be used for warp or weft, and dyes beautifully also. You'll be delighted in the appearance of this yarn. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

WHITE, 3 PLY SISAL LAID TWINE

This comes on 5 lb. balls, and is \$4.00 per ball plus shipping. Seems to be very popular in Macrame, plus it would be excellent in Rya and Flossa Rugs, as the thread between the knots. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft
 533 NORTH ADAMS STREET
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A basic source for modern designs. Contains concise directions for weaving almost any overshot threading, in 24 different methods and 32 woven swatches.

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