



# warp and weft

Vol. XXVI, No. 5

May, 1973

## warp and weft

Published monthly (except July and August) by Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Subscription: \$4.50 per year.

Back Issues: 45¢ each plus 8¢ postage.

Editor: Russell E. Groff

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### A Word from the Editor

Eureka, our floor loom, the Oregon Trail Loom, is finally in production. We finished a display model and put it in the shop for display, and meanwhile are working on the others of a batch of 10 of the 46", 4 harness Jack-type looms.

I have a warp on it, and have been weaving on it, 46" wide, and am very, very, pleased with the action, and the way it works. As a result of our having it in the shop and on display for the past 10 days, we have received seven orders from persons who had indicated that they were interested. This in itself, is the most gratifying part, as we do feel that it is an outstanding loom, and we are so delighted that finally, we are able to get it into production. Numbers 2, 3 and 4 are about completed, and the next six to eight weeks should see the looms 5 through 10 completed, and available to fill the orders.

You know that once you undertake such a venture, you certainly do have worries until it actually gets into production. Seemed like all the moola was going out all the time, and none was coming back. Now, we can begin to see that this trend will be reversed somewhat.

Our first model loom had a few minor defects in it, which we pointed out to the excellent cabinet-maker, who is making these for us, and I believe that he has now eliminated all these defects in the #2, 3 and 4 looms, so I feel that everyone who ever purchases one of these looms should be very pleased with it.

And while it has quite a few refinements that many looms do not have, we are able to keep the price competitive, and not have to

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charge so much that it will be too costly to purchase.

Needless to say, you can imagine how pleased I feel at the response so far. We have much work yet to do, such as getting advertising brochures printed, solving some of the parts problems, but at long last, we can see that these hurdles will be eventually cleared.

Besides this, we also have been busy otherwise here at the shop. There were three conferences in approximately five weeks, which I attended, and it is a tremendous job to pack all the items, and take them to a conference, and bring them back and then unpack.

To my great surprise, at Denver, we found a customer who was interested in purchasing all the yarns we had left after the conference was over, and so we were able to dispose of them in Denver, and did not have to bring them back and put away.

And, I should have a few remarks about the two conferences. I felt that the Pacific Northwest Conference which was held in Vancouver, Canada was well organized and was a great success. There were many, many interesting pieces of weaving on display in both the guild booths and also in some of the other display rooms where demonstrations were taking place. It was well worth seeing, and you will see some photographs on the cover of Warp and Weft which will be some of the items on display there and in Denver.

And, we were pleased to learn that the next Pacific Northwest Conference will be held in Pullman, Washington at the new Coliseum which was recently completed at Washington State University.

The midwest conference was a week later at Denver, and it was a struggle to get back from Canada, pack all the yarns, and then drive to Denver in time. One of our good friends, who weaves some of the samples for us in Warp & Weft, Mr. Andy Anderson went with me, and helped with the driving, which was a great relief. The fashion show at Denver, as well as the one in Vancouver featured many, many beautiful fabrics. The tailoring on many of the pieces was outstanding, and I enjoyed seeing all of the garments. At Denver, there were about 350 individual entries, other than the guild exhibits, and I felt that these were some of the most outstanding pieces of weaving, one could expect to find anywhere. I took

about 50 individual pictures and have had some of them enlarged, and you will see them as covers in future Warp and Weft issues.

Janice, our daughter just left with a portion of one of her college classes for a trip to South America, Africa, and the Holy Lands. She will be gone for six weeks and believe it or not, she will earn nine college credits if she does complete all of her reading and writing after she returns from this trip. She was so tickled with her last grades for her classes in her Junior Year at College and she had seven A's. The first time ever, and did she ever turn the cartwheels with her exuberance. She will be a senior with one year of college to go when she returns from this trip. Janice started knitting in March, and from March until the time she started on this trip (June 22nd), she knitted five sweaters, and the last one had intricate animal patterns knitted throughout the sweater.

You can see that the month has been a busy one, so with this much chatter, it is time to get on with the sample.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

### **This Month's Book Review:**

This month, we want to tell you about a book which gives instructions for the introduction of weaving to children. It is entitled "SIMPLE WEAVING," and was written by Marthann Alexander.

All of the techniques that are given in this book have been used in the Indiana Public Schools, and have all been successful.

Each of the different techniques is well illustrated with photographs, and the author gives ideas and techniques for 17 different methods of weaving.

While relatively simple, some of the techniques would be thoroughly enjoyed by many. So, if you are an elementary school teacher, you might find the book a good source book of ideas.

The techniques that she illustrates and explains are HUNGARIAN WEAVING, Weaving on a Hosiery Box, FINGER WEAVING, Spool Weaving, THE SLOT LOOM; The T. D. or Tongue Depressor loom, WAFFLE WEAVING, Weaving on a flat loom, CARD WEAVING, Weaving on a Fruit Lug, WEAVING WITH LOOPERS, The Twine Rug, A SHAG RUG ON AN ORANGE CRATE, Ojibway Indian Bag

Loom, INKLE WEAVING, Cardboard Weaving, and finally, THREADING THE TWO HARNESS LOOM. A glossary of Weaving Terms, and A Color Harmony Suggestion complete the author's suggestions.

As I have said before, each of these sections is well illustrated with photographs.

TITLE: SIMPLE WEAVING

AUTHOR: Marthann Alexander

PUBLISHER: Taplinger Publishing Co., N.Y.

PRICE: \$3.75 plus postage

AVAILABLE: Directly from the publisher or from Robin & Russ if desired.

### **A Second Book Review**

It is not often that you have two books to review with exactly the same title, but our second book review has the same title as that of our first review. It is entitled "SIMPLE WEAVING," and was written by Grete Kroncke.

Originally written in Danish, this book has been translated into English.

This book too, is full of excellent photographs and drawings, and is I feel, a little more inspiring for the weaver who has a basic knowledge of weaving, and wants to experiment and learn more about off loom techniques.

The first section of the book is called LOOMS WITH A DIFFERENCE, and some of the looms explained and illustrated are The Card Loom, a Cigar Box Loom, the Bow Loom, a Cycle Wheel Loom, the Plank Loom, Ribbon Weaving and Darning on a rigid heddle, and weaving on a Stretcher Loom.

All of the techniques illustrated are a little more advanced than the techniques explained in the other book.

The last section of the book gives quite a few ideas of how to use string to make many different items. Complete suggestions, and directions are given for the use of cord, with glue, varnish and other materials. From this, she advances onto working on a weaving ring, doing different types of circular weaving, making baskets, and decorating with a weaving ring. She continues and explains basket weaving, the weaving of masks, lampshades, crossed weaving, and the making of wall decorations with different string techniques.

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# Raspberry and Pink Fizz

This is another tartan woven just with the same set-up as last month's sample, but in a different range of colors. Compare the two, and see how much difference a change of colors makes in a fabric.

## 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.

## THREADING DRAFT:

4	X	X	R	A	A	L	L	L	A	A	R	R	O	R	R	A	L	L	L	L	A	A	R
3	X	X	R	A	A	L	L	L	A	A	R	R	O	R	R	A	L	L	L	L	A	A	R
2	O	R	R	A	A	L	L	L	A	A	R	R	X	X	R	A	A	L	L	L	A	A	R
1	O	R	R	A	A	L	L	L	A	A	R	R	X	X	R	A	A	L	L	L	A	A	R

## KEY TO THREADS IN THE WARP

- R — Color #39, 2/18's ROSE PINK WORSTED
- A — Color #1, 2/18's ASHES OF ROSES
- L — Color #15, 2/18's LACQUER RED
- O — Black, English Tweed without flecks
- X — White, English Tweed without flecks

## WARP THREADS USED

There were five different colors of thread and two different textures of thread in the warp. Three of these were all of one texture in the 2/18's worsted, and there were two threads in the single ply homespun tweed type yarn.

- R — Color #39, 2/18's Rose Pink Worsted
- A — Color #1, 2/18's Ashes of Roses
- L — Color #15, 2/18's Lacquer Red Worsted

And, the other two threads used, both of the same texture, were the English Tweed yarn, without colored tweed flecks.

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

## WEFT THREADS USED

The same five threads were used in the weft as were used in the warp.

### ERROR IN LAST MONTH'S ISSUE

The tie-up as given in the last issue or the April issue was incorrect. Use the same tie-up as is given in this issue for both samples in the April and May Samples.

## 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 Lacquer Red and Ashes of Roses 2/18 worsted, and 11 oz. of Rose Pink. 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 Ashes of Roses, 11 oz. of Lacquer Red, and 10 oz. of Rose Pink 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

## Second Book Review

Continued from Page 3

These two books are complimentary to one another, and this one would be the more advanced techniques of the two. The ideas, illustrations, and techniques, make one want to try some of these types of weaving himself.

TITLE: SIMPLE WEAVING

AUTHOR: Grete Kroncke

PUBLISHER: VAN NOSTRAND REINHOLD CO.  
New York, New York

PRICE: \$2.95 in paper back edition

\$5.50 in the cloth edition

postage shipping charges extra

AVAILABLE: Direct from the publisher or  
from Robin & Russ Handweavers

## This Month's Cover Photograph

Last month's cover photograph showed some different methods of finishing and using card-weaving, and we thought that you might like to see how still another weaver used her card-weaving.

This young lady, I believe a member of the Fresno Weaver's Guild, was the chairman of the weaving conference held two years ago at Turlock, Calif.

Notice that she has used her card-weaving as shoulder straps, and as belt, and has combined it with a piece of tapestry weaving, to decorate a plain jersey dress. It is quite effective and might give you some more ideas as to what you can do with your narrow Card-weaving or Inkle Bands, and how they can be combined with other materials.

## Let's Stir The Weaving Pot

Have you been venturesome lately in your weaving? Have you tried that technique that you think about in the back of your mind, but have not yet put on the loom?

One of my hang-ups is or has been that I could not get enthused about Crackle Weaves. But, I decided to experiment, and with some inspiration from some samples woven for us by Phil Wilson, of Spokane, Washington, I decided to try a crackle weave, and see what I could come up with. Believe it or not, I liked it so well, that I now have our new loom set

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up with a 46" wide crackle weave for drapery or upholstery material. It is beautiful, and we will share it with you in a future Warp and Weft sample. And this was just one little stirring of the weaving caldron. I've been thinking more and more lately, of the many different things that could be done with card-weaving, and yet I have not acted on it.

Are you in the same situation? Have you tried that wall hanging that you've thought about? Or, perhaps you might have a dress fabric in mind in a clasped weft technique. Why not stir yourself, to do something completely different than what you normally do. I'm sure that most of you weavers are like I have been and am. You have many different thoughts and perhaps have planned a fabric in your mind, but have not tackled it. Now is the time, stir yourself, and do something about those thoughts you have. And do it in a different manner than you normally do. If you like heavy threads, try weaving a piece with fine threads. If you like beiges and browns and weave only with these, try a purple and raspberry and red, and come up with something different.

If you like shiny threads, try some dull ones; if you like smooth threads, force yourself to experiment with textures, and if you like geometric patterns, try one that is off-balanced.

What do you bet that when you have forced yourself to do that different project, you will have achieved something that is very satisfying to yourself.

Why not weave that colonial overshot bedspread you've always thought about or that bedspread in colors and textures instead of traditional.

Get out of that rut. Experiment. Learn, grow with your weaving, and you will always be pleased that you did. Yes, next month, I'm going to experiment and try weaving four narrow belts on a wider loom at one time. Have all four warps in completely different colors than you do normally, and use a pattern that you have passed up so many times.

If I've managed to stir any of you up, please let us hear from you and tell us your experience that we may share it with others.

Be bold, experiment, and do something different.

*Your Editor*



### 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.**

#### 7/1 BLEACHED THIRSTY LINEN

Available once again on 1½ lb. tubes, this thirsty linen is spun for absorbency and for softness. It has 2100 yards per lb., and is excellent wett on towels of all kinds. Also would be nice in table linens, mats, and particularly in drapery. It is \$4.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

#### ALPACA, ALPACA, ALPACA

This is a beautiful 6 ply, 100% pure alpaca, with about 1700 yards per lb. We have it in stock in limited amounts in 4 shades of natural grays, dark, medium, light, and very light gray, as well as a light yellow, a good orange, and a bright red. Price is good, as this is all \$6.00 per lb. Comes on cones or rather tubes of about 13 to 16 oz. each. Imported from England, this is a beautiful, soft, quality yarn. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 45 COLORS OF RUG WOOL OR TAPESTRY WOOL IN STOCK

Imported from England, this 2 ply yarn is a beautiful quality, with exciting colors. It comes on approximately 4 oz. tubes, and the price is \$1.75 per tube. About 175 yards per tube. Sample sheets on this now on hand, and if you'd like one, please let us hear from you. Two or three strands of this together should make beautiful rya or flossa rugs. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

#### HEAVY BEAUTIFUL WOOL BOUCLE

In exciting colors. I purchased 25 lbs. each of 11 beautiful colors of this in Scotland. Available on 7 to 8 oz. tubes, this yarn is \$4.80 per lb. I feel this is an outstanding quality yarn. Good fuchsia, begonia, celery, medium blue, yellow gold, charreuse, rust brown, gold and turquoise and light yellow, and dark turquoise. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### A SPECIAL SALE OF GOLD, AND KELLY GREEN COTTON, PERLE 3.

It has 1260 yards per lb., and we have it on sale at \$2.40 per lb. Just 2 colors, but what a price. About 50 lbs. of each available. While it lasts, \$2.40 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### YELLOW GOLD RAYON FRILL

This is another beautiful quality rayon frill. It should have about 2,000 to 2,400 yards per lb., but I haven't checked the yardage yet. Price is \$4.00 per lb. on cones of about 1¾ lbs. to 2 lbs. each. We will wind off 1/2 lb. spools if you wish, at \$2.00 per 1/2 lb. tube. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon, 97128.

#### OUTSTANDING AUSTRALIAN WOOL CARDS

A new stock of these well-made wool cards is due in here within the next week or two. Made of laminated plywood, 7 layers thick, with a curved back and no handle to interfere on the back, with wires set in a pad of cloth, and the cloth is covered with a layer of rubber. I think these are about the nicest hand wool cards I've seen. Price is \$17.50 plus shipping. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### A NEW SPINNING WHEEL FROM GERMANY

An excellent wheel, to spin either fine or heavy yarns. Comes in a kit form with assembly directions. I put ours together in 15 minutes. Made of Beech wood, this spinning wheel is from the famous KIRCHER Company that makes the small frame looms. Price is \$65.00 plus postage, and it can be sent via U.P.S. or via parcel post. A small, compact wheel, about the same size as the Norwegian Wheel we used to get. We have five on hand now. Spins very well. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### SEVEN PROJECTS IN ROSEPATH

Is once again in print. Price is \$3.00 per copy, plus postage. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

#### 20/2 MERCERIZED COTTON SALE OF 5 COLORS

This is imported from England, and we have it on cones. There is a good orange, a dark green, a space dyed green and yellow, a good purple, a Nile green, and a dark Nile green. On cones of varying sizes from about 12 oz. to 20 oz. in weight. From one of the best cotton companies in England. It is \$3.20 per lb., and is a savings of from \$2 to \$4 per lb., depending upon what quality American cotton you buy. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 3 COLORS IN 8 CUT RAYON CHENILLE

And it is available in skeins of about 6 oz. each. There is an orange rust, a champagne tint, and a creamy ecru. It has about 1000 yards per lb., and is \$4.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### LOOM PLANS

A complete set of loom plans for a good counter-balanced loom. Has complete details as to parts, all specifications, and instructions, and is \$5.50 per set. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### NATURAL BRUSHED MOHAIR: AND ALSO BLEACHED WHITE

We have a shipment of 1,000 lbs. of this enroute to us from England. It has about 1,000 yards per lb., is supposed to be on about 1 lb. cones, and will be 700 lbs. of natural, and 300 lbs. of bleached white. Price will be \$7.00 per lb. for the natural and \$8.00 per lb. for the white. Should be here in about three weeks. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

