

# warp and weft

Vol. XXX, No. 2

February, 1977

## warp and weft

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Editor: Russell E. Groff

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### A Word From The Editor

Have you ever written a new catalogue? I've been working on a new one for our shop for the past 3 months, but for the past month, I've been concentrating on it about 2½ to 3 days a week.

Ours is about ready to go to the printers and should be ready in about a month. I've taken many pictures for the changes in the catalogue, for a new cover, and for the many new and various accessories that we stock, and it has been a long, tedious task. You take a roll of 36 pictures, rush it to the developers and have it printed, and then after you see what did not turn out, you take another roll of pictures, until you have enough for your needs.

And the changes from one catalogue to another are unbelievable. I would venture that 75% of the material in the old catalogue had to be changed in this new one. It is quite a task to list all of the weaving books, check with all of the publishers to see if you have them all listed, put them in sequence, and then classify them, and then type up and get 80 pages ready for the printer to photograph. I have 73 pages done, and just 7 more to go, and hurrah, a major job will be finished. This is the 10th catalogue that I've compiled over the years, and they get more and more involved each time, and are a tremendous amount of work, but yet we find that about 35 to 40% of our business comes from these catalogues.

And has the price ever skyrocketed to mail these, and to have them printed. They cost about 35 to 40¢ each, to have 15,000 printed, and they cost individually, about 40¢ to 50¢ each to mail. It is really unbelievable how much they have gone up in cost.

Oh well, it is a task about done, except the

paying for it, and I guess that that will come with time.

And, believe it or not, we finally have just received a shipment of the Norwegian Spinning wheels. These were sent in November from Norway, and have just arrived today as I write this.

And from my trip last September and October to England and Switzerland, we have a shipment of about 1,000 pounds of ramie due in here on the 27th of February, and after that there will be another shipment of beautiful berber wools, loop and brushed wools, and some very nice heavy weight wool boucles. You can see from this that it was a very busy time for me on that business trip last October.

Also, during the past month, all of the girls in the shop have been involved in making new sample sheets for the two ply alpaca in 6 colors we have, and the new silks that we have also. Besides this, we have 6,000 new sample sheets due in from the printers in 2 days, and these will need all of the samples put on them. So, hectic is the word sometimes when you are in business.

And, after 4 years of effort, the one thing that I'm so pleased with is the fact that we will have Malin Selander here for a 2 week summer workshop this summer. She will be here for the 2nd and third weeks in July, and it will be a two week workshop for advanced weavers only. This will be most exciting, and I hope that I get to participate some, as I feel that she is one of the most outstanding designers of fabrics one can find anywhere.

It will be a busy time here those weeks in July, and we hope that some exciting designs will come out of this workshop for us to use in future issues of Warp and Weft or in Drafts and Designs.

We are most fortunate to have found a new employee who we have been having work on experiments of samples for Warp and Weft, and then weaving the samples to completion for us. This month's sample is one that was co—designed by your editor and by Gillian Barnes, the English girl that we now have working in the shop.

From this same sample gamp that she wove for this one, we have chosen another sample, which we will feature in a later issue of this 2 ply alpaca.

And, another important decision had to

made and that was to have no prices in this new catalogue. Prices are changing so fast on all items, that we will have a separate price list printed to go with this catalogue. Even the book prices are changing so fast that we have 2 or 3 changes every week, and just cannot keep up with them. So, the decision is to have a separate loom price list and accessory price list, and then to have a separate book price list, all to be included with the catalogue when we mail them out.

We also have enroute to us from England, a shipment of 4 colors of the luminex, the metallic boucle that we import from England. We were so pleased to be able to purchase a job lot of about 250 lbs. of this metallic from a jobber in England. This metallic usually wholesales at about \$25.00 per pound, plus shipping and duty, and it is a great pleasure to find a lot of this at about ¼ of the regular price. We will prepare a sample sheet of this soon, and you will be able to see the 4 colors that we have enroute to us.

And sometime in March, we hope to have a new publication shipped to us from England. It is a reprint of a publication which features primitive looms of all kinds, as well as ancient egyptian and greek looms. We are co-publishing this with an English publisher, and we will be the distributor for the United States and Canada.

Did we mention to you the problems about our excellent Oregon Trail Loom. The man who made these for us for 2½ years decided to quit and take another job, and so we had to search for about 3 months to find the right person to make these looms for us. We were so fortunate to eventually find just the right person to do this for us. His first loom that he made as a sample loom was improved over the old ones in the way of workmanship, and a few minor changes, and now ten (10) more of them are in progress and we hope to have the first of these in a week or two at the most. This lot of 10 are all being made of maple, and we are so delighted with the quality that goes into these looms. How fortunate we were to find someone who does such careful work, and was willing to make these looms to our specifications. Sometimes I think that we are just plain lucky to be able to make such contacts and find such outstanding workers. And this is not to take anything away from the man who used to make these for us, as

he did an outstanding job for us, and we were delighted with all of his efforts.

It has been a busy time, and yet, a most pleasant one for all of us here at the shop this past month.

Russell E. Groff *Editor*

### **Last Month's Cover Photograph**

Or the January, 1977 cover photograph of a beautiful woven belt. We have some information to tell you about this.

This belt or these belts were on display at the Southern California Conference in San Diego last year. This was woven by Mary M. Atwater, and is a part of the weaving she did. I believe that this particular piece was or is owned by the daughter of Mary Atwater, Mrs. Betty Biehl of Lavina, Montana, and was loaned to the guild along with several other pieces for one of the exhibits.

I might also mention that the Southern California Handweavers Guild has a large collection of the weavings, patterns and designs of Mary Atwater in their research room at the Southern California Handweavers Guild. If any of you ever have a chance to be in that area (Los Angeles), I would suggest that you contact one of the guild members, and arrange to go and see this permanent exhibit of her pieces of weaving and her own private collection and work.

We are indebted for this information from one of the Southern California Handweavers Guild members, Grayce L. Montrose.

### **This Month's Cover Photograph**

It has been a long, long time, since we featured a picture on the cover of Warp and Weft, of our shop. I know that we have not had a picture since we added on to the front of the shop, and had the back extended so we would have more storage.

(Continued on Page 5)

# PATTERN PERU

Alpaca from Peru, and a design reminiscent of her excellent textiles, this month's sample would make an attractive and warm blanket fabric, but it was designed for, and I think would do best as, a tailored sports jacket.

## TIE-UP DRAFT

4		○		○	○
3	○		○	○	
2		○	○		○
1	○	○		○	
	1	2	3	4	5

Note: This tie-up is for a jack-type loom.

## THREADING DRAFT

1		XX		X		XX		X
3		○○	○○	○ ○		○○	○○	○ ○
2	XX		XX	X	X	XX	XX	X X
1	○		○○		○○		○○	○

## KEY TO COLORS USED IN THREADING DRAFT

X = 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige  
 ○ = 100% Alpaca — Ace of Spades Black

## WARP

The warp was a 100% 2 ply Alpaca, made in Peru. We used two colors: Ace of Spades Black, and Fawn Beige.

## WEFT

The same two colors of the 100% Alpaca that were used in the warp were also used as weft. Each color was wound double on the bobbin.

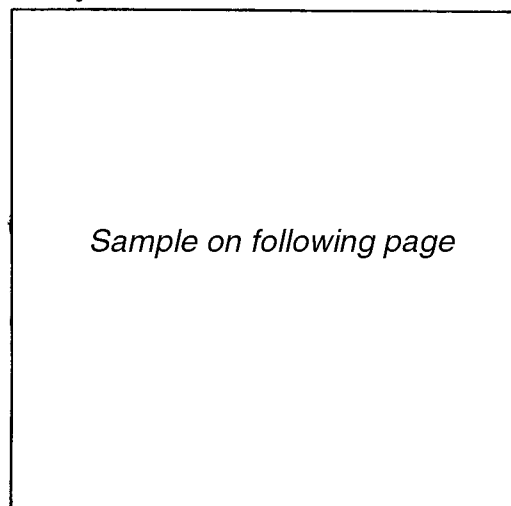
## REED

We used an 8 dent reed and sleyed it two per dent, making 16 ends per inch.

## TREADLING

1. Treadle #1 — 100% Alpaca — Black
2. Treadle #2 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
3. Treadle #3 — 100% Alpaca — Black
4. Treadle #4 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
5. Treadle #5 — 100% Alpaca — Black
6. Treadle #1 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
7. Treadle #2 — 100% Alpaca — Black
8. Treadle #3 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
9. Treadle #4 — 100% Alpaca — Black
10. Treadle #5 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
11. Treadle #4 — 100% Alpaca — Black
12. Treadle #3 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
13. Treadle #2 — 100% Alpaca — Black
14. Treadle #1 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
15. Treadle #2 — 100% Alpaca — Black
16. Treadle #3 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige

## Sample



17. Treadle #4 — 100% Alpaca — Black
18. Treadle #5 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
19. Treadle #4 — 100% Alpaca — Black
20. Treadle #3 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
21. Treadle #2 — 100% Alpaca — Black
22. Treadle #1 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
23. Treadle #5 — 100% Alpaca — Black
24. Treadle #4 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
25. Treadle #3 — 100% Alpaca — Black
26. Treadle #2 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
27. Treadle #1 — 100% Alpaca — Black
28. Treadle #5 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige
29. Treadle #1 — 100% Alpaca — Black
30. Treadle #5 — 100% Alpaca — Fawn Beige

This is the end of one complete pattern repeat. Repeat over and over as desired.



## About the Fabric

An enjoyable fabric to weave. The doubled weft helps it go fast, the treadling is an easy sequence to remember, and the shuttles alternate dark and light throughout the entire pattern, so it's easy to keep them in order. And if you do treadle out of sequence or throw the wrong color, the mistake stands out right away because the design is so distinct.

If you look at the threading and tie-up drafts, you will see that treadle #1 picks up all the dark threads, and treadle #5 all the light threads. So the dark weft pick on treadle #1 followed by a light weft pick on treadle #5 make the lines in between the pattern. It is a nice set up to experiment with, there are so many possibilities. Take a look at the other side of the sample. It is not quite completely reversible because of the long weft floats, but the design is just as effective as the right side and many interesting variations can be worked out just by experimenting with treadling sequences and color sequences.

I wish I could send you a sample of the loom along with the fabric. I wove this on our black walnut Oregon Trail, and I must say the black and beige alpaca looks so elegant with the wood, it's a shame to have to take it off the loom.

Be sure to feel the sample. Natural oils have been left in this yarn to add strength (I had no warp ends break), and it feels very good. It's great to work with. It gives your hands a lanolin treatment while you weave. This oil will wash out some, though. You should hand wash your finished fabric before making up. I expect it will shrink quite a bit, which is good because it needs to be firmer. The samples have not been washed. This oiliness makes the weft a little sticky to work with, but it wasn't a problem, and the warp threads didn't cling at all. I used a very firm, even, double beat, once with the shed open, and once again after changing the shed.

Our warp was 40" wide in the reed, and measures 38½" off the loom, so 1½" were taken up across the width. We put on 12 yards of warp, and ended up with 10 yards 21 inches of finished fabric, so 1 yard 15 inches were lost to loom and taken up in weaving. I measured the warp lost to loom, and it was about 30", so you see 21" of the warp was taken up in the weaving over the 12 yard warp.

This fabric would make attractive medium weight blanket material, for the car or to have around the house. As a sports coat, I think either a man or woman could wear this fabric, but there may be a little too much contrast here for many men; you might like to try a more subtle variation in some of the natural alpaca greys or browns.

## COST OF THE FABRIC

We have this alpaca in six natural shades; three browns, two greys and the black. It comes on cones of about 1 lb. each, with 1,700 yards to the pound. We sell it for \$6.00 per pound.

In the warp, we used 2 lbs. 12 oz. of Ace of Spades Black, and 2 lbs. 6 oz. of Fawn Beige. At \$6.00 per pound, the cost of the warp was \$30.75 for 12 yards.

In the weft, we used 2 lbs. 10 oz. of Ace of Spades Black and the same amount again of the Fawn Beige. 5 lbs. 4 oz. at \$6.00 per pound comes to \$31.50 for the cost of the weft.

WARP COST PER YARD (40" wide) . . . . .	\$2.56
WEFT COST PER YARD . . . . .	\$2.63

FABRIC COST PER YARD . . . . .	\$5.19
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## This Month's Cover Photograph

(Continued from Page 3)

And, as I had to take new photographs for the cover of Warp and Weft, I had an extra one printed so that we can show you where Warp and Weft comes from, and the studio that we and the bank are so proud to own.

As you can see from the photograph, the front is a display area for yarns, the middle is the work area for filling yarn orders and for displaying more yarns, and looms, and then the back portion is two levels for storage and for more display area for yarns. It is 15 years ago that we moved to Oregon from Santa Barbara, California, and even today I get the same thrill from seeing our shop that I did when I first saw it about three-quarters completed some 15 years ago. At that time when it was built, we thought we would never run out of room, and since then we have expanded it, and also we even have some warehouse storage for yarns, etc., that we do not have room for in the shop.

Hope that you don't mind our digression from the weaving for this month's cover.

## A TWO WEEK WORKSHOP THIS SUMMER

with

the well known Swedish author and weaver

### Malin Selander

**FOR ADVANCED WEAVERS ONLY ----- Not for beginners**

Malin Selander is the author of two books, *Handweaving Patterns from Sweden*, and *Swedish Handweaving*, as well as the three excellent sample swatch booklets entitled *Swedish Swatches, Yellow Series*; *Swedish Swatches, Blue Series*; and *Swedish Swatches, Red Series*. A new swatch folio *Swedish Swatches, Green Series* is in progress and will be available in the late fall of 1977. She has taught weaving in many, many places, Morocco, Sweden, Canada, and the U.S.A. for the past 20 years.

**Here are some details about the two week workshop, which is entitled *Design and Color*.**

This workshop is for the advanced weaver (senior level).

There will be lectures on design, color, and the importance of materials. There will also be experiments and weaving of samples in which techniques, materials and colors are coordinated into fabrics suited for various purposes. Some will be in the traditional vein, others will involve blendings of materials and color effects which are new. There will be opportunities to weave projects inspired by the experimental patterns. This workshop demands a good deal of technical skill and experience. Students will be expected to dress their own looms under direction and rotate on the looms, working independently to create their own designs.

A wide variety of yarn supplies will be available at the Robin and Russ Handweaving Studio. Students may wish to bring some of their own special yarns that they want to use in the creation of fabrics. Students may wish to bring a supply of small nature objects such as feathers, shells, grasses, pine cones, etc. Participants will also require paper, pencils, watercolor and acrylic paints. These items will be available from a store in McMinnville, or students may bring their own supplies if they wish.

**LIMITED PARTICIPATION, ONLY 15 STUDENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Price for the two week workshop will be \$150.00, plus any threads you might use from the supplies of Robin & Russ Handweavers.

Time of workshop will be Monday, July 12th, through Friday, July 22nd. Arrangements will be made for the students to work on their own in the evenings, or the July 17th and 18th weekend.

A \$50.00 (non-refundable) deposit is required with each registration, and the balance of \$100.00 has to be paid by July 1, 1977.

#### 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.

#### GOLD LUMINEX SHIMMERETTE, METALLIC BOUCLE

We have this on 4 oz. spools now, at \$3.50 per spool. This amount would normally cost about \$9.00 to \$10.00, but because we were able to purchase a job lot of this from a yarn broker in England, we can offer it at a greatly reduced price. It will have about 2,000 to 2,200 yards per 4 oz. tube of this. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### LITTLE BOY BLUE, LUMINEX, SHIMMERETTE, METALLIC BOUCLE

Still another beautiful metallic boucle. This also has about 2,000 to 2,200 yards per 4 oz. tube, and is on sale at a special price of \$3.50 per tube. A good buy, and it makes for very exciting accents in handwoven fabrics. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 2 PLY ALPACA IN SIX NATURAL COLORS

I should probably say five natural colors as we are about out of one. This is all a nice 2 ply Alpaca, good for Warp or Weft, has about 1600 yards per lb., and is \$6.00 per lb. The colors are Fawn Beige, Fallen Leaf Brown, Chestnut Brown, Confederate Gray, and Aces of Spades Black, and Steel Heather Grey. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### MARCH AND APRIL SALE

We are preparing two sample sheets with about 24 yarns on them, which we will have on sale for two months or while they last. Most of the items are 1/2 price or less. If you would like sample sheet of these, please send us a self-addressed envelope, and we will send you these sample sheets as soon as they are ready. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

**MINIATURE SUTTLE PINS. HURRAH.** After being unable to get these for about two years (the man's woodwork shop burned down), he is finally back in production, and we hope to have some of the miniature lapel shuttle pins in about one or two months. Do not know the price yet, but they should be under \$4.00 each, and we hope \$3.50 or less. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### PUTTING ON THE DOG, or SPINNING WITH DOG HAIR

Yes, this is a book about spinning with dog hair, and it has been so popular, it has been reprinted twice in 1976. Price is \$3.00 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### HANDSPINDLES

A new book by Bette Hochberg. This little booklet is a complete study on the various types of handspindles used throughout the centuries, and also gives good details and instruction for their use. Price \$3.95 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 2½ LEA, SLUBBY LINEN IN 15 COLORS

10 of these slubby linens are from Scotland, and five of the colors are from Switzerland. This linen is very nice on 10/2 linen warps, can be used as weft on 10/2 cotton warps, or other threads as warp. 10 of these colors are \$6.40 per lb., and the five brighter more vivid colors from Switzerland are \$6.80 per lb. 750 yards per lb. on about 1 lb. tubes. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 4 PLY ROUGH TEXTURED TUSSAH SILK

This fairly heavy 4 ply natural tussah silk has about 1200 yards per pound, and comes on about 1 lb. cones. It is \$8.00 per lb., and can be used for either warp or for weft. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 2 PLY SOFT TOUCH TEXTURED TUSSAH SILK

Another of the heavy, natural tussah silk threads imported from England. It, too, has approximately 1200 yards per pound, and is \$8.00 per lb. It is a 2 ply and is about the same weight as the 4 ply listed earlier. More of a natural color, than the 4 ply, which is creamy tan. Can be used for Warp or for Weft. Price was given above, and it came on about 1 lb. cones. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### TUSSAH SILK AND VISCOSE COMBINATION

This combination thread has more sheen, and is a 2 ply, that also can be used for warp or weft. It has approximately 1500 yards per pound, and is priced at \$6.00 per pound. It came to us on about one pound cones. We used it for warp at 16 ends per inch, 2 per dent in an 8 dent reed. Also we have this same thread in a single ply thread with 3,000 yards per pound, and in a single ply, it is mainly used as a weft thread on such warps as 20/2 natural Egyptian cotton and others. The single ply tussah silk and viscose is also \$6.00 per lb. Came to us on cones of about 2 to 3 lbs. each. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 1/32" SUPPORTED GOLD-METALLIC

On 1/2 pound spools. A good buy at \$4.00 per spool, we have about 30 lbs. of this.

#### 1/32" SUPPORTED SILVER METALLIC

On 1/2 lb. spools. A good buy at \$4.00 per spool, we have about 30 lbs. of the silver also. This is a nice quality supported metallic, and both gold and silver are reinforced with an end of 70 denier nylon, and both are on metal spools. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 1/16" VARIEGATED PINK, SILVER, AND CHARTREUSE METALLIC

On 1/2 lb. spools. We have 60 spools of this of very striking color blend of metallic. Most unusual, and should be very striking in many different fabrics. Price is \$4.00 per spool. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 24/2 MERCERIZED NATURAL DURENE COTTON

We are getting low on this, but have about 25 3 lb. cones left. An excellent bargain at \$3.20 per lb., when purchased by the cone. Cones vary from about 2 lbs. 12 oz. to 3 lbs. 2 oz. in weight. If you just want 1/2 lb. or 1 lb., and we wind it off, then it is \$2.00 per 1/2 lb. tube or \$4.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.



# The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft

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A most outstanding book for handweavers, with 261  
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## THE OREGON TRAIL LOOM

10 MAPLE, 46" Oregon Trail Looms in Progress will be  
available on about March 1, 1977. 1380 large eye  
heddles and choice of reed with each loom. \$650.00  
plus crating and shipping.

Write for more details.

ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS  
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