



warp and weft

Vol. XXX, No. 3

March, 1977

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Editor: Russell E. Groff

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A Word From The Editor

Well, one exciting thing that has been happening around here recently is that winter has finally arrived for us in Oregon, just in time for spring. As I write this, rain is pouring down just like it's supposed to do, and we are all so pleased to see it. The dry, sunny winter we have had so far was really enjoyable, but after threats of drought, some efforts to ration water, and expected power problems, we begin to realize how lucky we are to have the Oregon rain again. And the skiers are happy too.

Inside the shop, dry and warm, things have been going on as busy as always. I finally completed compiling our new catalog, and you can't imagine how happy I am that this task is over at last. I was working on it at home, my room piled high with photographs, catalogs, and various bits of information. The immense job of organizing so much information, updating everything and making sure nothing is left out and that it is all accurate, is so demanding, it requires concentration similar to writing a book. I took new photographs of some of our items, and am pleased with the way they turned out. I am looking forward to getting the catalogs back from the publishers to see how they look, and then we can start mailing them out at last.

The printer tells us that we will have our new catalogues as of the first of April, and we will have a price list printed then, and expect to start mailing these about April 5th. What a job it is, and this time, it is 80 pages.

This time, I tried to improve on the catalogue by having a double index. On the double index, one of the indexes refers to the page the description of the item is on, and the other index refers to the page that the photograph is on.

And, because the publishers are now changing prices on books so often, we did not put book prices in the catalogue, but will have a separate price list for the books, and a separate price list for the weaving accessories, and we will try and update these every three or four months.

We have two young married women who have been working for us, one for four years, and the other for five years. Both are excellent workers, and both have now told your editor that they are pregnant, and will work until May and then we will have to replace them. Now, we have started to look, and we hope that good replacements will not be too hard to come by, but it does take two or three months to train them with the 10001 details of our job. We've started interviewing already, and have talked to six different persons so far about same.

I would like to tell you about some of our recent arrivals at the store. We have just received some nice wool tweeds, single ply, in a range of about ten colors. There are some greys, two blues, two golds, and some other colors. We will get out a sample sheet with them as soon as we can. We will be selling them for \$4.80 a pound which, I think, is a good price as they are very attractive, good quality yarns. We were very pleased to get a shipment of new metallics, very like the English luminex yarns, but considerably cheaper. We have these in four colors, two blues, a pink and a gold, and will be able to offer them to you at \$3.50 for a 4 oz. spool. Do check our classified advertising on the back page as we have more details about these yarns, many of which will be available in limited amounts only. As more and more yarns come into the store, giving names to the different yarns and colors gets more and more difficult. Thinking of descriptive but unique names gets to be tough. Excuse us if some of them sound a little off.

Russ Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Cover Photograph

Of special interest to you spinners, this month's cover shows one picture of the Jacob breed of sheep. The particular attraction of this breed is the spotting in the fleece, which can vary quite a bit between individual animals, from almost all brown wool to nearly all white with light spotting. Attractively patterned yarn can be spun solely by using undyed and unbleached wool from one fleece.

At one time this breed was thought to be quite rare, but today the members of the Jacob Sheep Society can account for at least 3,000 sheep throughout Britain. The origin of the breed is believed to be the Middle East, brought to England via Spain.

The breed is named after the Biblical figure in the Book of Genesis. While Jacob worked as a shepherd for his father-in-law, it was agreed that his payment would be all the spotted sheep that were born in the flock. The Bible tells how Jacob increased the number of spotted sheep by the use of magic spotted wands, which may be a legend formed around what we now call selective breeding. It is probably with this wool that Jacob made the famous Coat of Many Colors for his favorite son, Joseph.

There are distinct strains of Jacob sheep, two-, four-, and six-horned, and a hornless strain, all with the distinctive brown and white patched fleece.

The commercial value of this fleece is inhibited by the dark patches, at least for dyeing purposes, and at one time the sheep were used purely as ornamental lawn mowers for country houses. Recent interest in home spinning and natural colors has given the Jacob sheep a new rise in popularity.

We at Robin and Russ are very pleased to have Jacob fleece available for you. One fleece

weighs between 3 and 8 lbs. and costs \$4.00 a pound, plus shipping. The staple length is 8-15 cm., and the quality is 44-55s.

The fleece color is very dark brown at birth in the dark patches, but fades to a lighter color in the wind and sun. There is a great difference in the amount of dark wool compared to white wool in some fleeces and the markings range from almost total brown wool to patched and even lightly spotted fleeces. Most of the Jacob have a white bridge to their faces with dark-haired patches on the cheeks sometimes including the eyes. Some flock fleeces are inclined to be "kempy" but by careful selection of the ram, succeeding generations can be improved to shear a good quality merino type of wool of good staple and fine quality.

The ewes are good mothers, and there is 180 per cent chance that the ewes will have twins rather than just one lamb.

The two horned Jacob are more docile than the four and six horned, and those with four and six horns tend to be more goaty in their manners.

The Jacob sheep is a very versatile animal, and will thrive under most conditions and managements and it is always attractive to see in the field.

Continued on page 6



Jacob Sheep

*Miss H. Hamilton
Melrose, Scotland*

BOW KNOTS

This is another of Jack Womersley's designs, and in this fine worsted will work fine as a dress fabric, or scarf. It would also work well as light-weight suit material or for decorative fabric such as draperies and pillows.

THREADING DRAFT

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

KEY TO THREADS IN THREADING DRAFT

O — 18/2 Worsted, Burgundy Red, #20
X — 18/2 Worsted, Silver Grey, #24

WARP USED

The warp was made up of size 18/2 worsted. We used this yarn in two colors, Burgundy Red #20 and Silver Grey #24.

WEFT USED

In the weft we used the same 18/2 worsted that we used in the warp. One of the colors we used was the same as in the warp, the Burgundy Red #20. The other color in the weft was different from that in the warp; Tempting Tan #18.

REED USED

We used a 15 dent reed and double sleyed it, or 2 per dent, giving us 30 ends to the inch.

WIDTH OF WARP AND LENGTH OF WARP

Our warp was 12 yards long, and 40" wide in the reed. When taken off the loom, we had 38" width, and about 10½ yards of finished fabric.

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TIE-UP DRAFT

4	O	O	O		O
3	O			O	O
2	O	O		O	O
1	O	O		O	
	1	2	3	4	A B

This is the tie-up for Jack-type looms.

Sample



TREADLING SEQUENCE

Treadle as follows:

1. Treadle #1 — 18/2 worsted, Burgundy
2. Treadle #2 — 18/2 worsted, Tan
3. Treadle #1 — 18/2 worsted, Burgundy
4. Treadle #2 — 18/2 worsted, Tan
5. Treadle #1 — 18/2 worsted, Burgundy
6. Treadle #3 — 18/2 worsted, Burgundy
7. Treadle #4 — 18/2 worsted, Tan
8. Treadle #3 — 18/2 worsted, Burgundy
9. Treadle #4 — 18/2 worsted, Tan
10. Treadle #3 — 18/2 worsted, Burgundy

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

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC

This is a pleasing, quite easy, and fast design to weave. The treadling sequence is easy to memorize, and thus it is easy to maintain a good rhythm while one is weaving.

We used a firm, even, double beat. You should beat once with the shed open, then change to the next shed and beat again. This tends to eliminate any problems you might have with the threads clinging in the warp, as is often the case with woolen spun or worsted yarns. This double beat helps insure that you have a clean shed each time you throw the shuttle.

A temple was used in this weaving. The threading draft is almost identical to one of the variations of huck weaves, and really, this sample is probably one of the many variations of a "HUCK" weave. The temple will help keep this wider when you weave, but even on certain weaves, the fabric will tend to weave narrower than with other weaves. Our warp was 40" wide, and after we took the fabric off the loom, and even after we used a temple, we found that this fabric came down to about 37½ to 38" in width. And, then, after weaving, and before making up into suiting or coat material, you should wash the fabric, allow to drip dry, and then steam press it. Thus, the fabric will then narrow still another inch with this washing process.

Our samples this month have not been washed. However, you should always wash your handwoven fabric before it is made up, and then steam press it.

You may like to try weaving this project in a size 12/2 worsted yarn, or even a heavier yarn, using the same sett or perhaps double slewing a 12 dent reed. In this weight worsted, the design would make up well as a dress. I can also see it as a woman's shirt and a scarf out of the same fabric. The back or wrong side of this fabric is different than what you see in the sample, and if you'd make a scarf, then you could feature both sides of the fabrics.

We have this worsted yarn especially spun and dyed for us in England, and it comes in a

good range of 39 colors for the 18/2 worsted, and 22 colors for the 12/2 worsted. You could not duplicate this design in the 12/2 worsted, as we do not have these two colors in the 12/2 size. However, you might like to use another color combination, and see the interesting effect you can achieve, and you can also make a heavier fabric than that of the 18/2 worsted.

This yarn is mothproofed, and the colors are washfast colors.

We are especially pleased with the versatility of this design. When we worked on this sample, we came up with many really nice treadling variations some of which totally altered the appearance of the fabric. We will feature a variation next month, using the same warp threads and threading, but with a different tie-up and treadling. The finished effect is quite different. This versatility enables you to weave two entirely different projects and only have to set the loom up once. Or you might like to design a project incorporating two entirely different treadling sequences. Since the sample for the next issue uses only two treadles, those of you with six treadles on your four harness loom could tie both this month's four treadle design and next month's two treadle design and so be able to use both these patterns in the same project. Lots of great possibilities here!

COST OF FABRIC

This 18/2 worsted comes on one half pound cones with 5,000 yards to the pound. It costs \$9.60 per pound.

We used 1 lb. 5¼ oz. of Silver Grey, #24 and 1 lb. 5¼ oz. of Burgundy Red, #20 for the warp. This comes to \$13.05 for each of the colors, so the 12 yard warp, 40 inches wide, cost \$26.10.

In the weft, we used 13 oz. of Tempting Tan, #18 at a cost of \$7.80, and 1 lb. 3½ oz. of Burgundy Red, #20 at a cost of \$11.70. Thus, the total weft cost was \$19.50.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$2.18
WEFT COST PER YARD	\$1.62
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$3.80

continued from page 3

Janice, our daughter, has been in Israel two times, and she states that you will see many of these in the fields there.

This Month's Book Review

I would like to tell you about a book that I feel is a must for anyone interested in tapestry techniques. MEXICAN TAPESTRY WEAVING by Joanne Hall contains a wealth of information; some standard techniques found in most Indian cultures, some techniques peculiar to the Mexican weavers, and some modern developments from traditional ideas. The author herself is an accomplished tapestry weaver, who has studied the work of the ancient Indian culture and has utilized its special characteristics for her own personal and very modern creations.

The author gives a brief history of weaving in Mexico; the most important aspect of which is the weaving developed from a fusion of the primitive systems native to Mexico (backstrap looms, natural dyes, the use of the spindle) and the introduction with the Spanish invaders of the Western systems (floor looms, synthetic dyes, and the spinning wheel). And perhaps the most interesting, Western pattern were introduced with the Spanish weaving techniques in an effort to make the Mexican weaving more salable in Europe, which were used together with the ancient Indian design sensibilities. And, of course, the Spanish introduced sheep to the American continent which largely replaced the use of cotton, due to its durability, warmth and comparative ease of production.

The author tells us that in the Aztec religion, spinners and weavers received special status, they received the honor of being sacrificed to the gods! But expert weavers were exempt from this honor, which gave them quite an incentive for excellent craftsmanship.

This book covers the methods of the primitive techniques but concentrates mainly on the tapestry loom and techniques in use today. The modern tapestry loom is a counterbalanced, usually two harness, floor loom at which the weaver stands, not sits. There is a deep working space between the overhead beater and the breast beam, and a wide shed is formed. The warp is kept extremely tight as this improves the quality of the weave.

Ms. Hall describes the loom and the warping method in detail, with photographs taken in the Mexican family factories. The description assumes knowledge of warping a floor loom and describes variations that may be of use to any weaver.

The largest portion of the book is devoted to the description of weaver controlled weft tapestry techniques. Large, clear diagrams accompany the text.

It is suggested that the beginner weaves a sampler, and a chapter is devoted to how to set one up, with an assortment of techniques to try.

Ms. Hall devotes a chapter to designing using the techniques previously introduced. There are photographs of modern tapestries, including many of the author's, and photographs taken around Mexico to illustrate sources of inspiration for design. The use of a cartoon is described, although many of the geometric patterns can be transferred from graph paper by counting threads.

The last sections of the book, and to me the most interesting, go into pattern types in great detail. These include photographs of tapestries, ceramics and architecture; whole, complicated designs drawn out to facilitate copying; and accompanying text describing the techniques and how they are commonly used. Some of these techniques are Piqueteados, (spots), Viciado (variations using diagonal lines), and Recorte (weaving curvilinear shapes and figures).

I wish I could explain more, but if this much interests you, you will have to read the book itself to find out just how much information is here. One nice thing about the book is that it is bound by a wire spiral — I'm sure you will appreciate this when it comes to working from the text. And the text and diagrams are well organized, so you won't have to go flipping through the book looking for the right figure number for the text you are reading. Great!

I definitely recommend this very practical book for all tapestry weavers; exciting design ideas and clear instructions for their execution.

TITLE: Mexican Tapestry Weaving
AUTHOR: Joanne Hall
COST: \$8.50 plus postage and insurance
PUBLISHER: J. Arvidson Press
AVAILABLE: Directly from publisher or from
Robin & Russ Handweavers

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.

8/2 BLEACHED WHITE SOFT TWIST COTTON

This used to be called drapery cotton because of the soft twist, and we seldom see it available anywhere on the market now. I purchased about 75 lbs. of this, and it is on about 1 lb. 8 oz. dytex tubes. Very nice quality, and a low, low price for cotton at 2.40 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128. Ideal for mats, drapes, tablecloths, etc.

1/2 PRICE SALE, on FIVE BOOKS

A good bargain on these 5 books while they last. We have limited amounts of all of these 5 books. When they are gone, they revert back to the original price.

1. SPRANG, by Peter Collingwood, \$12.50
Originally published at \$25.00
2. THE HISTORY OF NEEDLEWORK TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES, by Sylvia Groves \$4.98
Originally published at \$10.00
3. AMERICA'S QUILTS AND COVERLETS, by C. L. Safford & R. Bishop. \$10.00
Originally published at \$20.00.
4. A paperback edition of THE DICTIONARY OF NEEDLEWORK, by Caulfeild & Saward. Now \$2.98. This was printed to sell at \$3.95, and before than at \$7.95.
5. ANCIENT DYES FOR MODERN WEAVERS, by Palmy Weigle. Hardbound. \$4.50.
Originally published at \$8.95.

All available at Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HEDDLES

We have flat steel heddles in 7", 8", 9", 10" and 12" lengths at \$4.00 per hundred. We have wire heddles in 9", 10" and 12" lengths at \$2.95 per hundred. Remember that heddles are measured from the center of the top eye to the center of the bottom eye for the correct length, and not from tip to tip. We also have in stock corrective heddles which just snap in to save you lots of time correcting threading errors. These come in 6", 8", 9", 10" and 12" lengths. We sell them by the half dozen at \$1.75 or by the dozen at \$3.50. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

COLOR WHEELS

We have in stock the Harmony Selector, a tool for color understanding. It helps you find what color combinations you like and has an explanation of many color terms on the back together with suggestions about the use of color. The price is \$1.75, plus postage. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon.

SUNRISE GLOW

This is an unusual tape-like metallic thread, size 1/16, space-dyed with rose pink and yellow on a silver thread. It is supported with nylon and would be strong enough for warp and weft threads. Sold on 1/2 lb. spools at \$4.00 a spool. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams Street, 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.

A GREAT BUY IN METALLICS

We are pleased to be able to offer you a metallic yarn similar to the luminex from England, at a cost of about a third of the price of the English version. It is very, very sparkly and we have it in four colors: Aztec Gold, Powder Blue Sparkle, Pink Sparkle, and Sapphire Blue Sparkle. We will sell it wound on to 4 oz. spools at \$3.50 per spool. We have seen yarn like this selling in knitting shops for \$3.50 an ounce, so we feel that this is a very good offer we are making. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

100 PER CENT VISCOSE

An attractive yarn, size 15/2 with a slubby texture and space dyed in two different color combinations. One is in yellows and browns with a greenish tinge which we call Autumn in Oregon, and the other is beige, gold and brown, called Sahara. We have 100 lbs. of each of these and will sell them on 1/2 lb. or 1 lb. spools at \$6.00 per pound. Excellent for either warp or weft, sett at about 18 or 20 ends per inch, this yarn would make up well for drapes, upholstery, and many other uses. There are 3,800 yards to the pound. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft

533 NORTH ADAMS STREET
MCMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128

John Tovey's

WEAVES AND PATTERN DRAFTING

This is an excellent study for the serious weaver, with outstanding directions for understanding various weaves and pattern drafting.

\$11.95 plus shipping

ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS

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Paula Simmon's

RAISING SHEEP THE MODERN WAY

One of the most interesting and informative books you will ever find on this subject. Most interesting reading, even to those not interested in raising sheep. This soft-covered book is most outstanding.

\$5.95 plus shipping

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Fremont, Michigan 49412

16 HARNESS PATTERNS The Fanciest Twills Of All

Written and compiled by Irene Kl Wood of Minneapolis, Minnesota, this book has 150, 16 harness patterns, a photograph of each, and weaving directions.

\$8.95 plus shipping

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