



warp and weft

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November, 1977

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Editor: Russell E. Groff

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A Word from the Editor

Just back from a buying trip to England, Switzerland, Belgium, and Italy, I hasten to tell you of some of the things that I did on this buying trip.

I was able to locate a manufacturer of fine threads for bobbin lace, and have ordered 11 sizes of Belgian Linen for bobbin lace, as well as three cottons. I have ordered size 20/2, 30/2, 40/2, 50/2, 60/2, 70/2, 80/2, 90/2, 100/2, 110/2 and 120/2 bobbin lace linen in a mercerized white linen. It is a beautiful quality, and will probably arrive in about two months.

And besides this, I was able to order some fine quality cotton in size 100/2, in size 120/2 and 150/2 cotton. This also, will be on 3,000 meter spools and will be here in about one month. These two items, I located in Belgium.

Then, I went to Italy, and one of the items that I ordered there, and which we will have in probably two to three months is a 5½" long plastic bobbin. We are having these made to order. We will also have a new line of the 7" plastic bobbins. Both of these will have an opening to go on your shuttle wire, a little larger than the current 7" plastic bobbins we have.

Incidentally, for the first time in my life, I had my pocket picked, and it was in Milan, Italy, on a train no less, getting ready to leave. I had been warned and warned, but a group of three men, each deliberately bumped me on the narrow aisle in the train, and it was the third one that got my wallet. They certainly worked well together as a team, and they did this just before the train left, so I had no way to report

it to the police. Luckily, most of the money I carry on such a trip was elsewhere, and they did get away with some Italian Lira, which I had just changed in the bank. And, about two hours later, the pullman conductor knocked on the door, and handed me a wallet, and asked if it was mine. The three men had walked around the end of the pullman car, taken the money out, and walked back and as they left the train, they threw the empty wallet into the last compartment on the train. So, I was lucky to get my credit cards and empty wallet back. They were well skilled and organized, and I wonder how many others have suffered the same fate that I did. Of course, I didn't even miss it until about 10 minutes later. I decided to go to the police, as I was told I had 20 minutes before the train left, and I got off the train, and looked back, and it was leaving, so I turned, ran back and jumped back on the train, as my suitcase was in the sleeper compartment.

Well, enough of that experience, and back to yarns. I visited two linen mills, and ordered about 2,000 lbs. of linen at each mill. I visited the ramie plant, and ordered five of the colors we were very low in, and now in two or three months, we will have a full stock of all 22 colors. It was the one thing that hadn't gone up in price, but of course last year, it had taken a tremendous rise in cost.

I had to locate a new source of our 2/18's worsted as the mill that had been doing this for us, is not going to bother with the small amount of business we give them. Lucky, I found a mill, and we have a trial lot of six colors of this on order, and some of the 2/18's and 2/12's worsted both on order. I suppose it will take two to three months to get this spun, and dyed, and put on cones for us, but we will have it eventually.

I did find a nice yarn which was 50 per cent silk and 50% polyester. It was a good buy, so I ordered almost 1500 lbs., and besides the white, we will have 10 colors in this with about 100 lbs. of a color.

There were very few novelties available this time though, so I did purchase some, and these will be shipped sometime after the first of the year.

Another thing was the fact that I was able to order eight new lots of berber wool, which seems so popular.

And I ordered some small lots of loop wools, but there just was not the choice of color and quality that there has been in the past.

And, I discovered a large lot of very nice quality silk, which is to be offered to us as soon as they finish an inventory, and I hope that I can afford to buy it. I don't know whether I'll be able to get it or not.

I was able to get reprinted for us, and they are on the way, some copies of THE HONITON LACE BOOK, by Devonia. And these will be less in price than before as they are now in paperback.

I visited several book publishers, and talked over various publications, but not much has come of this yet. Hope it might bear some fruit in the near future.

I found a few new publications which we have enroute to us, and will tell you more about these when they arrive.

I was about to locate about 15 of the antique, bone, bobbin lace bobbins with names on them, and I was actually able to find an antique bobbin lace bobbin winder from the early 1800's which I also purchased. Boy, has the price of these bobbin lace bobbins increased. I started buying these about eight or ten years ago, and they were about \$2.50 each. This year, they were about \$10.00 each, and I was lucky to obtain any.

I was also on this trip trying to make arrangements for the weaving tour I hope to lead to England and Switzerland next year, and as a result, I visited many interesting studios and schools. We may be able to arrange to stay at two of these textile schools for two or three days during our trip.

It was a busy, busy trip, and the only time I wasn't busy was Saturday and Sunday, when you couldn't do any business, and those days I rested and tried to recover from the previous week and prepare for the next week by writing letters, making appointments, making long distance calls, etc.

Well enough for this time, and back to the sample for this month.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Book Review or Rather Monograph Review

As many of you know, Harriet Tidball, when she was alive started a series of Monographs or studies of particular techniques. All of these monographs were out of print for a long time, but have now been republished. The present publishers intend to continue this series of individual studies of special techniques, and one was published last year, which I find most interesting. It is MONOGRAPH #30, and is entitled CREATIVE MONK'S BELT, and was written for the monograph publishers by Margaret B. Windeknecht.

This monograph explains the construction of the Monk's Belt weave, how it evolved, and gives many details about it.

There are good diagrams of how the weave is developed, and pictures of the finished fabrics.

There is an explanation of how you can do more than a 4 harness weave on a 4 harness loom, with the use of pick-up sticks, and thus you can weave an 8 harness weave in this pattern on a 4 harness loom.

The block principle of this weave is thoroughly explained, and she gives you complete details of drafting this weave in Opposites. Also, she has a section on weaving Monk's Belt on an 8 harness loom. There is an explanation of how you can weave block initials, or how you can combine single block, two block, and three-block floats in one pattern, and interesting diagrams of these are given.

And then, she gives a few details on the finishing of the fabrics woven on this weave to complete the monograph.

This monograph is \$5.50, and it can be purchased directly from the publisher or from Robin & Russ Handweavers.

TITLE: CREATIVE MONK'S BELT or Monograph #30.

AUTHOR: Margaret B. Windeknecht

PUBLISHERS: HTH Publishers,
Santa Ana, California

COST: \$5.50 plus postage

AVAILABLE: From either the publishers or from Robin & Russ Handweavers

WHITE DELIGHT

This beautiful drapery fabric features our Dralon novelty yarn, White Delight, in both warp and weft. It is washable, reversible, and very easy to weave.

THREADING DRAFT

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

KEY TO THREADS IN THREADING DRAFT

W = White Delight
 O = Cotton/Metallic Gold
 X = 12/2 Cotton, Natural

WARP USED

Three different yarns were used in the warp. The heavy, white thread is called White Delight, a Dralon novelty (man-made fiber). The rest of the warp is made up of 12/2 natural, unmercerized cotton and a natural cotton with a gold metallic twist.

WEFT USED

The same three threads that were used in the warp were also used as the weft. The White Delight was used as a single thread and the cotton with gold twist was used as one thread. The 12/2 natural, unmercerized cotton was wound three ends on the bobbin with one end of the cotton with gold twist, and these four ends were used as one.

REED USED

A 12 dent reed was used and it was sleyed in an irregular way. The 28 ends in one pattern repeat were sleyed into 22 dents in the following manner:

1. Cotton/metallic gold — one end
2. Skip this dent
3. Cotton/metallic gold — one end and 12/2 natural cotton — one end
4. Cotton/metallic gold — one end and 12/2 natural cotton — two ends
5. Cotton/metallic gold — one end

TIE-UP DRAFT

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

This is a tie-up for Jack type looms.

Sample



6. 12/2 natural cotton — one end
7. Skip this dent
8. Cotton/metallic gold — two ends and 12/2 natural cotton — one end
9. Skip this dent
10. Cotton/metallic gold — one end and 12/2 natural cotton — one end
11. 12/2 natural cotton — one end
12. Skip this dent
13. Cotton/metallic gold — two ends and 12/2 natural cotton — two ends
14. Skip this dent
15. Cotton/metallic gold — two ends and 12/2 natural cotton — one end
16. Skip this dent
17. Cotton/metallic gold — one end and 12/2 natural cotton — two ends

18. Skip this dent
19. Cotton/metallic gold — one end
20. White Delight — one end
21. Cotton/metallic gold — one end
22. White Delight — one end

These are the 22 dents involved in one pattern repeat. Seven dents have no ends in them, one dent has four. The threading draft was read from right to left.

TREADLING

In the weft we used three ends of the 12/2 natural cotton and one end of the cotton/-metallic twist all wound on one bobbin and used as one weft thread. This is abbreviated in the treadling directions as 3 cotton/1 gold. We also used one thread of the cotton/gold metallic independently, and this is listed as cotton/metallic gold in the treadling sequence. The third weft thread was White Delight which was just used as a single thread.

Treadle as follows:

1. Treadle B — 3 cotton/1 gold
2. Treadle 4 — 3 cotton/1 gold
3. Treadle B — 3 cotton/1 gold
4. Treadle A — White Delight
5. Treadle 2 — White Delight
6. Treadle A — White Delight
7. Treadle B — 3 cotton/1 gold
8. Treadle 4 — 3 cotton/1 gold
9. Treadle B — 3 cotton/1 gold
10. Treadle A — cotton/metallic gold
11. Treadle B — cotton/metallic gold
12. Treadle A — cotton/metallic gold
13. Treadle B — cotton/metallic gold
14. Treadle A — cotton/metallic gold

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

COST OF THE THREADS USED

The 12/2 cotton we used here is a very good buy at \$4.00 a pound. It is unmercerized and natural in color, with about 5,000 yards per pound. It comes on one pound cones.

The natural cotton with gold metallic twist has approximately 6,400 yards per pound, and comes on one pound cones at \$8.00 per pound.

The White Delight is a 2 ply Dralon, comes on 1 lb. 3 oz. cones with 475 to 500 yards per pound. The price is \$4.00 per pound.

COST OF THE FABRIC

In the warp we used 1 lb. 4 oz. of White Delight, costing \$5.00, 11 oz. of 12/2 cotton, costing \$2.75 and 13 oz. of cotton gold twist, costing \$6.50.

The weft took 1 lb. 6 oz. of White Delight which cost \$5.50, 1 lb. 12 oz. of the cotton with gold twist, costing \$14.00 and 2 lb. 5 oz. of 12/2 cotton, costing \$9.25.

So the total cost of the 14 yard warp was \$14.25 and the total cost of the weft was \$28.75.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$1.02
WEFT COST PER YARD	\$2.40
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$3.42

ABOUT THE FABRIC

This was a very easy fast fabric to weave. I used a fairly firm, even, double beat, but a single beat would work just as well.

The White Delight worked out fine for the warp. It fuzzed just a little coming through the heddles but did not present a problem. I put selvage cords of nylon on one side of the fabric as the cotton/metallic thread broke easily at the edge. On the left side, however, the White Delight provided a good strong selvage thread.

A major feature of this design is the irregular sleying of the reed. This, and the contrast in weft yarns gives the fabric its interesting structure, seen at its best held against the light. A customer of ours saw this being woven in the shop and decided she wanted some for her bedroom. I think this would make beautiful bedroom drapes. It would also work well in some kinds of living rooms or dining rooms, depending on the decor. It could be lined with a lightweight fabric which also lets some light through, in white or perhaps a pastel color.

The tie-up draft given here is a standard tie-up. Note that the treadling for this design only requires four of the treadles — treadles 1 and 3 are not used and of course these need not be tied up.

You can machine-wash this fabric in warm water, and tumble dry with a cool heat setting. The samples have not been washed. Press with cool iron if necessary.

From a 14 yard warp, we received 12 yards of finished fabric. It was just over 40 inches wide in the reed, and wove down to about 37 inches to 38 inches wide.

This Month's Cover Photograph

This piece was on display at the Northern California Handweavers Conference in Vallejo, California this year. It was woven by Winifred Tonkin, of the Trampornas Weavers Guild, and the title it had on it was "UNSPUN WOOL ROVING." We have published this picture with the little glass dangles hanging up and down, but you can see how it was woven if you turn it sideways.

It looks as though it was woven on some type of overshot threading, and then she probably used a single treadle tie-up for the wool roving, and a plain weave treadling for the rest of the background.

This could be done on a 4 harness loom, with the use of a pick-up stick for the unspun wool tops, or it could be done on an 8, 10, or 12 harness loom with a direct tie-up for each of the harnesses, and a tabby tie-up for background on two of the treadles.

In any event, it is most imaginative and most striking, and I think Winifred Tonkin is to be commended for her imagination and weaving ability.

Also, from what I can see of the glass beads and dangles, it looks as though they were probably sewed on afterwards.

It's interesting, and challenging, isn't it. I'd like to experiment with it after seeing this fabric and picture. We have many different colored tops and it would be quite exciting on a different colored background with the wool roving in a different color from the background.

Why don't you experiment and see what you can do?

This Month's Second Project

A Sheer, Casement Cloth in Plain Weave

WARP

Our warp is a 10/2 bleached white cotton, with 4200 yds. per lb.

WEFT

There are three threads used in the weft. The main one is a 10/1 bleached white linen, 3000 yards per lb. The second thread is white delight dralon boucle, same as used in this sample. The third is curlicue, a natural rayon boucle, with 300 yards per lb.

REED USED

A 15 dent reed is used with a special slewing of the reed.

- 2 per dent for 3 dents
- 3 empty dents
- 2 per dent for one dent
- 3 empty dents

THREADING

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

TIE-UP DRAFT

4			X	X		X
3		X	X		X	
2	X	X				X
1	X			X	X	
	1	2	3	4	A	B

TREADLING

1. Treadle A — 10/1 bleached linen
2. Treadle B — 10/1 bleached linen
3. Treadle A — 10/1 bleached linen
4. Treadle B — white dralon
5. Treadle A — 10/1 bleached linen
6. Treadle B — 10/1 bleached linen
7. Treadle A — 10/1 bleached linen
8. Treadle B — curlicue rayon boucle.

Repeat over and over.

These are sheer, open fabrics for use such as in bathrooms or kitchens where you want the light in, but do not want anyone to see in.

You use a firm, even beat, and do not beat too hard.

And if you wanted a little firmer fabric, then you could treadle 1,2,3,4,3,2,1 with the 10/1 bleached linen and A with the white dralon boucle, and then treadle 4,3,2,1,2,3,4 with the 10/1 bleached white linen, and B with the curlicue rayon boucle.

The 10/2 white cotton is \$4.25 per 1/2 lb. tube of 2100 yards, and the 10/1 bleached white linen while it lasts is \$4.00 per lb.

The dralon, white delight, and the curlicue rayon boucle are both \$4.00 per lb., and the curlicue is available on 1/2 lb. tubes, and the dralon comes on 1 lb. cones.

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.

AN 8 HARNESS OREGON TRAIL LOOM

We have just had finished our first 8 harness Oregon Trail Loom, and we are very pleased with the progress on this first one. We do hope to make one or two minor changes on the next ones, but they will be quite minor as this seems so satisfactory. Our first one is in Maple, and the 8 harness, 46" loom, with sectional warp beam, and large eye heddles is \$950.00. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

KNOTTY, KNOTTY, A MOST UNUSUAL 100% COTTON WITH AN UNUSUAL TWIST

Actually, this is a combination of two cotton threads. It looks like 2 natural cottons, and 2 beigy dark cotton thread twisted together in a knot effect. It has about 800 yards per lb., and is \$6.80 per lb. This one came from England and came to us on about 1 lb. cones. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

COMMERCIAL YARDAGE COUNTERS FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO MEASURE THREADS EXACTLY TO LENGTH.

I believe this is the best warp measurer available on the market, and it is expensive, but you get a very well made item. Measures in 1/8's of a yard, and up to 9999 yards. It has an instant reset, and you push a button and set it back to zero. Mostly all metal, all parts are replaceable if any are ever broken. It is accurate, and well worth the \$89.95 price-tag that it now bears. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

7 COLORS IN 2 PLY, 50% LINEN, 50% RAYON

Just in from the manufacturers, we have not had a chance to weave with this yet. It is a good warp or weft thread, and I would think 15 to 20 threads per inch. Price is \$6.00 per lb., and it comes on about 1 lb. to 1 lb. 4 oz. cones. A new sample sheet will be prepared and we will send out free samples of this on request. There are two different naturals, and 2 beiges, 2 browns and a gold color available. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HAITIAN COTTON IN ABOUT 20 COLORS

This is called Haitian Cotton, but it is actually a blend of cotton and rayon. It is slubby, and made to resemble the hand-spun haitian cotton we sometimes find. On about 1 lb. cones. the colors are exciting. We cannot always duplicate these colors, but we can get other colors and one manufacturer is saving these for us. Price is \$4.00 per pound, and just an approximation, approximately 800 yards per lb. for this slubby blended yarn. On about 1 pound cones, and priced at \$4.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HONITON LACE

By Devonia. We have a new stock of this book coming from England, where we had it reprinted. It is now in paperback, and price will be \$6.00 each, plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SWISS HANDMADE NECKLACES

Made of exotic woods like Zebrano, Palisander, Dunkel, Rosewood, and others, these new stock of necklaces will range in price from \$8.00 to \$16.00. These are some new ones that I just ordered in Switzerland a few weeks ago. Most unusual, and they make outstanding gifts. We will have about 50 to 60 new necklaces in by the time you receive this issue. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A NEW SAMPLE SHEET OF 12 DIFFERENT NATURAL OR NATURAL WHITE THREADS

Contains linen, rayon, dralon, cotton chenille, rayon chenille and cotton and rayon boucles. You will like these naturals. See our sample for this month for what we did with naturals. Free upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

STUDIES IN PRIMITIVE LOOMS

By H. Ling Roth. We at Robin & Russ had this book reprinted, because of the excellent drawings of many different kinds of primitive looms it shows. These are all on display at a museum in England, and the curator, H. Ling Roth, learned to weave on all of these, and then wrote this book. Price is \$5.95 plus postage. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville. Oregon 97128.

EYELASH, BRUSHED LOOP WOOL AND CELLULOSE THREAD IN SIX COLORS

75% wool with loops about every 5 to 7 inches, and these loops are brushed and resemble an eye-lash. There is a very light aqua, a light blue, light grey and light beige, gold, and pink. Free sample sheet upon request. Has about 900 yards per pound, on approx. 1 lb. cones, and the price is \$8.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SMOOTH FINE COTTON WITH A METALLIC TWIST

Actually two fine singles cottons, and a metallic thread are all twisted together into one thread to make this fine thread. It is a good warp thread, and has 6400 yards per pound, slightly heavier than 20/2 cotton. We've just used it as warp in some samples and it worked out beautifully. Has come to us on about 1 lb. cones at \$8.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

WEAVES AND PATTERN DRAFTING

I highly recommend this basic introduction to understanding weaves and drafts. A clear, concise text is accompanied by line drawings and photographs of finished fabric. Sections include: plain weaves, twills, overshot weaves, color and weave, and a very useful explanation and table of counts and suggested setts for typical fabrics. A very good book to have around your studio. By an English designer and teacher, John Tovey, this book sells for \$11.95. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128/

WHITE DELIGHT

A beautiful and very popular synthetic yarn that we have made for us in England. It is 100 per cent acrylic fiber, all white, and spun 2 ply, thick and thin. This is excellent yarn for upholstery, draperies, pillows, and many other uses. It comes on approximately 1 lb. cones, and sells for \$4.00 a pound. Washable and durable — a good buy. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon, 97128.

